

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 25th June 2019

7.30pm

New Sports Pavilion, Pleasure Park, Oldmeldrum

CC Members Present: - Shona Presly, Jan Chalmers David Clare, Willie Sinclair, Simon Kilkerr, John Pirie, James Milton, Jeff Goodhall, Alastair Massey, Nick Forbes, Stuart Singer, Yvonne Oliver

Apologies: - Von Webster, Lloyd Duncan, Kevin Douglas, Cllr Gifford and Cllr Adam

Members of Public: - Andrew McCartney, Kaye Cowie, Irene Dunbar, Nicola Currie, Karen Forbes, Ray Allen, Kath Allen, Gordon Miles, Marjorie Miles, Rosie Muat

Aberdeenshire Council: Samantha Rawlins

Councillors: Cllr Hassan and Cllr Johnston

Police: None

Minutes of May 2019

Proposed: Simon Kilkerr

Seconded: Yvonne Oliver

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the previous minutes. She advised she had received the following from Kat Laasko in Waste Services regarding Oldmeldrum's cleaning schedule:

Oldmeldrum is swept generally once in every 8 weeks by two different sweepers (a big and a little one) and was apparently last done over the last couple of weeks.

Sweeping is weather dependent so we can't always stick to a strict 8 week rule or give specific dates.

Litter patrol (a person with a barrow) also covers Meldrum every other day and at weekends.

Jan also confirmed she has requested a deep clean of the town just prior to the judging on 9th August. She is currently awaiting a response with a date.

James confirmed the following members have volunteered to be part of the Coat of Arms committee – James, Alistair, Shona, Nick and Von.

Andrew McCartney stated MAIG were going to be killing some of the weeds in the town as they are still waiting on the council to send people to do this however he was informed they cannot as they do not have the correct certificates etc. Kaye Cowie asked how much this certificate costs and Cllr Johnston stated he was unsure but would find out.

ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON

Stuart said the banners were still on the fence at the roundabout beside NRC. Nick asked if we could just take them down however Cllr Hassan said he would make sure these were taken down. It was agreed that Cllr Hassan would do this.

ACTION CLLR HASSAN

John stated he has noticed there are moles back beside the Bruce Stone. He also asked if Jan could amend the date for the heritage time capsule from 21st June to 12th June.

ACTION JAN

Police Report

A lengthy police report for Formartine was emailed to Jan. It was agreed Jan would email this out to all members to read.

ACTION JAN

Karen Forbes said there are serious issues with speeding at the Daviot junction on the Rothienorman road. She advised there has been two recent occasions where she has been driving to the speed limit and been overtaken on this part of the road dangerously. She was asking if the police could take a look at this junction. Jan will ask PC Donald.

ACTION JAN

Samantha Rawlins stated the new Inspector for Formartine is asking people to dial 101 and report everything as the more reports they get will perhaps mean they can start to do something about the issues being raised. Samantha asked if Daviot has seen the police pod yet which allows residents to go in and speak to the police. Karen Forbes said they hadn't so Samantha will ask if Daviot can be on the list for this.

ACTION SAMANTHA RAWLINS

Cllr Johnston added that all dangerous driving should be reported to 101 and Kaye Cowie reminded everyone to make sure they get an incident report number if calling to report something.

Members of the public

Kaye Cowie advised she reported a large pot hole on Mill Road and was glad to see this has now been patched. Kaye also stated she reported the speed hump on South Road and said she noticed the road will be closed on 13th July for one day for these essential repairs. She was pleased with the speedy response to her complaint.

Kaye asked why some towns had received large amounts of money from the Town Centre Improvement Grant and some towns didn't. Cllr Johnston explained there was a very short time frame to get an application in so it was decided by the members present we would attempt to have a couple of projects lined up with costings ready to be applied for should the occasion arise again. It was decided to put this onto the August agenda for further discussion and all members were asked to think on any projects prior to the next meeting.

**ACTION JAN/ALL
MEMBERS**

Andrew McCartney said the hedge at Kirk Brae, opposite the Redgarth, badly needs cut back and wondered if someone from the community council could ask the owners to do this. Jan agreed to do this.

ACTION JAN

Andrew McCartney also asked when the uplighters at the Town Hall will be fixed. Cllr Hassan stated the Council will be undertaking this after the summer months.

Karen Forbes stated there is a bench in Daviot that is completely rotten and badly needs replaced and wondered where she could try and access money for this. Councillors and members will have a think about this and report any information back to Karen.

**ACTION ALL MEMBERS
AND COUNCILLORS**

Marjorie Miles stated the path and stream that runs along the back of Benview Gardens is completely overgrown and in an awful state. Marjorie asked if the community council could write to Meldrum House Trustees and ask them to do something about this. James suggested writing to their solicitor which is Stewart and Watson. Jan agreed to do this.

ACTION JAN

Treasurers Report

It was reported the Bank Balance as at 25th June is £5952.90. Willie stated we are still waiting on the developer obligation money to come in for the war memorial lighting. He also asked if members agreed with him organising a small voucher to give to Eileen Arthur for checking our accounts. All members present agreed. **ACTION WILLIE**

It was noted the accounts were distributed to all members prior to the AGM via email and as there were no queries asked at the AGM surrounding the accounts, these were taken as approved by the members present.

Secretarial Report

See attached.

Reports from Elected members

Cllr Hassan read the following report –

This is the response I have received from the Roads Department regarding issues raised at the previous MBDCC Meeting:

- There are surface issues currently on Balcairn Road and Mill Road, are the department aware of these? – **Yes, they will keep filling category 1 defects and will carry out permanent patching later in the year.**
- There are concerns around the drainage of the Chapel Park area – beside the planning application site. – **Will look into this**
- Why are there currently “pipes” in Baker Street Car Park? – **Presuming this is ducting for the Electric Car Charger installation, SSE tracking to provide power.**
- Weeds are getting out of hand, with particularly the pavement in front of the shops in the square “a disgrace”. **The weed treatment for streets started on the 20th May a team are working their way around the Formartine area spraying all paved surfaces in settlements owned by Aberdeenshire Council.**
- Could it be arranged for verge cutting to take place a week or so in advance of the 9th August this year, when the Scotland in Bloom judges are

visiting? Rural grass cut will start on the 17th June and will take approximately one month to complete. The contractor will cut all major routes then go on to cut the side roads.

Other updates: 5th June – as advised at the last meeting, I welcomed Andrew McCartney to Council HQ to receive a recognition ceremony for his volunteer work in the Meldrum area.

6th June – Communities Committee Amongst the reports we discussed were the annual report on the Fire & Rescue Service. Notable stats included: Accidental dwelling fires in 2018/19 were at a five year low (only one in Ward 8 !!), however deliberate fires, non domestic & secondary fires and False Alarms were at a five year high (there were 20 false alarms in ward 8 last year – the majority of these appear to be in the Fraserburgh & Westhill areas). We were also asked to comment on the Council's Review of Policing in the last year – special mention was made on their use of social media, and the massive plus that has been the improved communication & more regular attendance of officers at Community Council meetings providing feedback on local police initiatives and happenings. The Council's view on what we see as priorities for the Police to consider are: Road Safety & Policing, Tackling inequalities (such as alcohol), protection of vulnerable people & an aim to reduce anti-social behaviour across Aberdeenshire. There was also an update on the Live Life Aberdeenshire roll-out, with an increase in Library usage being noted (despite a national decrease for the same period), and much praise for the staff members and overall customer service. This appears to be working well, and LLA has made a good start.

11th June – Formartine Area Committee, nothing planning-wise relevant to Meldrum, Bourtie, Daviot – but we did give comment on the Council's Recycling policy & procedures ahead of a report going to Infrastructure Services Committee.

17th June – A947 Working Group Among the points discussed was mention of a recent signage declutter in the Newmachar/Meldrum/Fyvie section of the road, all signs are regularly reviewed. The cost to the Council for collisions in the years 2013-17 was £24M, which works out at roughly 5% of the Council's spend on all roads in the shire. It is noted there are trees on approx. 87% of the route currently, it is perhaps worthy of discussion to look into things like crash barriers.

24th June – attended the “Armed Forces Day” event at Council Headquarters, Woodhill House. This was held indoors due to the terrible weather but we were able to welcome many current and veteran members of

the armed forces to a reception hosted by the Deputy Provost. An excellent event with many good speeches made by some of the guests.

Coming up: Thursday 27th June – Full Council & also Meldrum Academy Achievement event in the evening Tuesday 2nd July – Formartine Area Committee (final meeting pre-summer recess) Wednesday 3rd July – meeting with Education officers to discuss early years 1140 provision in the Meldrum cluster area.

Cllr Johnston advised the Infrastructure Services Committee have been discussing the waste procedures and all concerns have been looked at. It will however come back to the Infrastructure services Committee once again as the smaller items still need some work.

Cllr Johnston also spoke about the new car parking charges but advised Meldrum will not be being charged for parking and the discs will still be enforceable.

Cllr Johnston advised the council has started investigations into the decimalisation of street parking. Aberdeenshire Council would be responsible for the running of this and would employ traffic wardens to issue fines if necessary. Willie asked where the money from these fines would go and Cllr Johnston replied this money could be used for a number of things.

Kaye asked Cllr Johnston why the electrical car points were allowed to be left sitting half finished for weeks. She reported cars are being abandoned in the Baker Street Car park and just shows how valuable those 4 spaces really are. Cllr Johnston replied this should be fixed very soon as they are just waiting for the power units to arrive. Cllr Johnston asked if we thought it might be worthwhile to extend the disc parking system to the Baker Street car park. Kaye stated the building of the hub was meant to sort the issue with cars needing to park for long periods. Jeff asked if the bike rack was really being used a lot and if not could it be removed and another couple of spaces allocated.

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications for June and also a report on the CC Forum for the A96 Dualling that he and Jan both attended that morning.

Future Vison

There has been no update so Jan and Shona agreed to keep chasing Rod Gunson.

ACTION JAN/SHONA

MAIG

Andrew reported they are now putting out the remainder of the flowers and it has been a slow process this year as the weather has been holding them up. He advised the date for judging is 9th August and asked if there was a date for the deep clean yet. Jan advised she is awaiting this and will let Andrew know as soon as she hears anything. **ACTION JAN**
He also advised of the group's next litter pick which is 3rd August starting at 9.45am at the Meadows Vets Centre.

Finally he said he was delighted to accept the award for volunteer work in the Meldrum area but wished to state it is very much a team effort at MAIG and he is only one of many who continue to make Meldrum look beautiful.

Daviot Community Trust

Willie reported the group had a very successful opening of the maintenance facility and that they have now started work on the new path and this is progressing well.

Karen Forbes stated she felt the strimming that Daviot Community Trust did at Beech Walk was a bit excessive as they have cut back all wild flowers etc. Willie said he would pass these comments back to the trust.

ACTION WILLIE

Heritage Society

John reported the time capsule is now in place. Alistair commented the search for the sailor statue's origins goes on and he is currently waiting on a reply from Aberdeen University.

DAIG

Nicola reported they are continuing to fundraise for their new play equipment.

Community Planning Group

Jan reported the community planning group meeting was held on 29th May. Amanda Roe asked for all members to go away and think about how this group can be more proactive and this will be discussed at the next meeting in August.

Bus Forum

Jan and Kaye attended this meeting and reported there is a new Bains route from Meldrum to Alford and that a lot of people were requesting both earlier and later buses to Inverurie. Karen Forbes asked if it could go past Daviot en route to Inverurie and Jan said she would ask Bains and Susan Watt.

ACTION JAN

Kaye also commented the 35 stagecoach buses have been meeting in the square again and holding up traffic as well as emergency vehicles being unable to get past but she has spoken to Susan Watt and she will look into this.

ACTION SUSAN WATT

Finally Kaye reported there are still some buses coming through the square when they shouldn't be and again Susan will look into this.

ACTION SUSAN WATT

Safety Group

Kaye asked if this group still had funding for the "safe drive stay alive" workshops. Samantha Rawlins advised there is no funding for this or the group anymore but will keep trying to find funding to resurrect it. She also advised the police are now looking at doing the "safe drive stay alive" workshops.

AOCB

Stuart reported an incident at Denwood where a dog was attacked by another dog and subsequently died. He asked if there is anywhere this can be reported. The councillors and Samantha all advised to call the police.

Stuart also asked if this community council will need another meeting after hearing Cala's report on 9th July. Cllr Johnston advised this may well be the case depending on when their planning application goes in. He also advised we can ask for an extension for 14 days to 21 days for making representations if we feel we require this.

Kaye asked when the £20,000 developer obligation money that was taken from our pot to help Gas Street/King Street will be returned to our pot. No one knew the answer so Jan agreed to contact Amanda Roe about this in the first instance.

ACTION JAN

Kaye also queried the cost to the council for the Green Dog Walkers Scheme. Again Jan will ask area office this.

ACTION JAN

Nick stated the biggest problem in Daviot is speeding and asked if the bollard beside Wellbrae Terrace could be removed. Cllr Johnston advised roads have said there is no need to move it. David stated Ian Daniels had said it is illegal as it is too close to Wellbrae Terrace and that it would be removed. Cllr Johnston said this issue would be raised at the next ward meeting and David said he would see if he could find any paperwork about it.

ACTION DAVID

Willie asked if the 20mph sign could be repainted on the road. Cllr Johnston advised the council no longer paint speed limits on roads.

Karen Forbes stated Whiteford has a speed check when entering the village and wondered if it was permanent. Cllr Johnston said he was unsure as this is not in our area.

He did comment however that the police have 2 mobile checkers they move around various locations as do Aberdeenshire Council. Karen asked if we got funding for one would we be allowed to put it up permanently. Cllr Johnston advised this wouldn't be allowed just now as it doesn't currently meet the council needs.

Samantha commented the next police and partner surgery is on 30th August in Balmedie from 4pm-6pm. There will be representative's there from housing, roads etc.

Irene asked if a list of each member of the community council as well as which area they represent can be placed on the website and in the notice board. Jan agreed to organise this.

ACTION JAN

Date and time of next meeting

27th August 2019 at 7.30pm in the New Sports Pavilion, Oldmeldrum