

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 22nd October 2019

7.30pm

New Sports Pavilion, Pleasure Park, Oldmeldrum

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

Apologies: - None

Members of Public: - Kaye Cowie, Valerie Tennant, Diane Gardiner, Karen Forbes, Jill Sleigh

Councillors: Cllr Hassan, Cllr Johnston and Cllr Gifford

Police: PC Donald

Minutes of September 2019

Proposed: David Clare

Seconded: Nicola Currie

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the previous minutes. Shona advised she would like to reiterate the main points of protocol during meetings that she went over at the last meeting. The main points are - Please speak through the chair by raising your hand and if a person fails to do this the chair may have to warn them or ask them to leave the meeting.

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan went through the statement of outstanding business and advised there wasn't much moving forward on any item currently sitting in this list. Jan stated she would work on the list and try and get some answers before the next meeting.

Police Report

PC Donald identified the following issues in the last month:

- There was a small cannabis plant found in Oldmeldrum
- There was a theft of money from Meldrum Academy
- There was two RTA's on the A947 – both were due to careless driving
- There was a breach of bail conditions in Oldmeldrum

Pc Donald went on to inform us there are bogus workmen moving through all our villages and to be alert at all times for these people. He also advised to check lights on all vehicles and to watch out for fuel tank thefts as the nights turn darker.

Shona informed Pc Donald she had been approached by a member of the public regarding an awkwardly parked black van in Rosebank since April. She gave the registration plate to Pc Donald who said he would look into this.

ACTION PC DONALD

Nick stated he felt the speed camera that was placed by the police was in the wrong place as it was sited just after a corner and missing people speeding. Pc Donald advised they currently only have one speed camera working but will ask for it to be placed back in Daviot further up the road and away from the corner.

ACTION PC DONALD

Nick also stated there are still lots of overtaking and speeding on the Rothie Road corner beside Daviot Estate turn off and it is getting worse. Pc Donald stated he would go back to his traffic colleagues and ask for more assistance here.

ACTION PC DONALD

Members of the public

Shona stated she has been approached by a member of the public about dog fouling in the town again. Shona asked if there is anything she can tell this person to do about this. Kaye advised to take photographic evidence and then report it to the dog warden.

Kaye stated she has been approached by four members of the public regarding work being done in the conservation area without planning permission. She advised she has spoken to Cllr Hassan about this and he is going to investigate it further. Kaye also asked if Aberdeenshire Council could think about producing a leaflet for Estate Agents to hand to anyone to purchase a house in a conservation area advising work that can and cannot be done on the house. Cllr Gifford stated Aberdeenshire Council have already done this.

Kevin stated the trees on Millburn Road badly need cut back and Jan agreed to write to Landscape Services about this.

ACTION JAN

Stuart advised the barrier outside the church hall is in need of repair. Jan agreed to look into this.

ACTION JAN

Diane Gardiner stated she was concerned about the bus times in Daviot. Cllr Hassan advised a new survey opens online on 28th October and Yvonne advised the next bus forum meeting is on 4th December in Meldrum Academy.

Treasurers Report

Willie stated the bank balance as at 22nd October is £9,671.71 which includes the Queen's 90th Birthday money and the money ringfenced for defibrillators which is £2,101.00. Karen Forbes asked if there was any money to replace a bench in Davot. Willie agreed to get a price for a new bench and will liaise with Karen and then report back to all members.

ACTION WILLIE

Secretarial Report

Jan advised the Future Vision document was sent for printing on 18th October and we had received an invitation to attend an evening at Daviot Hall on 14th Nov to hear about the new Formartine Rural Partnership.

Jan also advised we have received confirmation we have been awarded the full amount of £4,602 from the Developer Obligations Team for our finger post signage.

Jan confirmed she has ordered 4 new sets of pads for our defibs from SP Services

There was a discussion held around the defibrillators that are in the area. There are currently 4 that Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot Community Council look after sited at Oldmeldrum Golf Club, Meldrum Academy, Meldrum Square and Daviot Village Hall. The residents of Daviot Estate have fundraised and managed to purchase another defib which they have sited on Daviot Estate. The estate residents are now asking if the community council will add this new defib to the ones we look after to make five. The residents confirmed they will add the money they currently have left over from their fundraising to our pot of money (ringfenced for defibs only) as well as continue to fundraise with this money also being added to the pot.

All members present agreed this was a good idea and to go ahead. Jan asked if anyone from Daviot was willing to check the two Daviot defibrillators on a monthly basis and update the online system. Nicola agreed to do this and Jan will show Nicola how it works once the fifth defib is added to the system.

ACTION JAN/NICOLA

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications October.

Shona then asked for any declarations of interest from any member for Meldrum House Estates. Kevin declared an interest as he is a relative of one of the directors and left the room. Kevin also declared in interest in the next item to be discussed which was the Glebe as he is a neighbouring land owner. No other member declared an interest for Meldrum House.

A long discussion was held around the Meldrum House Estates application with the following points being brought up by members –

- No real objection to houses being built on Meldrum House land however it was felt by some members some smaller houses would be welcome in the town
- Some members would like to see connectivity to the existing path network
- Some members were concerned about the flora and fauna on the site and what would happen there

Lloyd asked if the contribution to build affordable housing elsewhere is agreed prior to planning consent being granted. Cllr Johnston stated this will be agreed and then documented in the Section 75 agreement and Cllr Gifford commented any houses built from these contributions will be done so after a housing needs assessment.

Shona then asked if anyone other than Kevin had an interest to declare in the Glebe prior to starting the discussion on it. No other member declared an interest.

A discussion was then held around the Glebe planning application as the community council had received further new information from Claymore Homes regarding their application. It was felt by some members that it was a necessity to have pavements on both sides of the road within the development and this is currently not showing on the plans. Lloyd suggested Jan and Shona go through our original objection and the new information we have to check the changes and then report back to the rest of the members at the next meeting. Jan and Shona agreed to do this.

ACTION JAN/SHONA

Reports from Elected members

Cllr Hassan advised the Planning Enforcement Team visited Urquhart Road yesterday after members of the public complained about work being carried out in the conservation area that shouldn't be allowed. He also commented that both Elaine Brown (Formartine Area Manager) and Claire Young (Formartine Committee Officer) are now both back to work.

Cllr Johnston wanted to remind members as well as members of the public that council meetings are usually broadcast online and he encouraged us to watch them.

James stated he reported the Town Hall clock had stopped working 8 weeks ago and Jan advised she had done the same with no response. Cllr Hassan said he would investigate this. **ACTION CLLR HASSAN**

Karen Forbes stated she has spoken to Matthew Watt, Greenspace Officer with regards to identifying sites in Daviot that could be used for wildflower planting etc. There were five potential sites identified but Matthew has decided to put forward two for consideration.

Cllr Johnston asked us all to consider an orchard when thinking about this. He advised Udney has one and it is well supported by the community and works very well. Cllr Johnston advised he has all the information we would need to set one up and he would be willing to offer assistance with this. A couple of sites were mentioned in Oldmeldrum as potential orchards namely – the potential extension to the Pleasure Park from Newbarns if planning for both bid options is granted, the area of grass next to Westbank Care Home and the area next to the Petanque court. Nicola also mentioned the bottom area of Daviot park as a possible site in Daviot for an orchard.

Stuart wished to commend the work the Woodland Trust has done at Den Wood Walk.

Jan advised Andrew McCartney has asked her to ask the members if they would consider contributing to a maintenance pot for the War Memorial Lights repairs. He said he was also going to ask MAIG and The British Legion to contribute too. There wasn't a clear answer given by the committee on this one and Jan will ask Andrew if the other organisations have agreed to contribute. **ACTION JAN**

Alistair mentioned the plaque outside Morris's isn't looking too good and wondered who would be responsible for its maintenance. James advised it was originally purchased by the Heritage Society. Cllr Johnston explained Aberdeenshire Council wouldn't have a responsibility for maintenance of these plaques.

MAIG

Andrew emailed through the following report -

Following our successful application for grant funding from Vattenfall and the Formartine Area committee to replace the diesel tractor with an eco-Electric Utility platform vehicle, now that funding is in place the order has been placed with the suppliers, it is expected that delivery will be in the region of 28 to 30 weeks. By going green MAIG will be playing their part in some small measure to help Aberdeen shire Council's Sustainability Charter Action Programme which seeks to be a carbon neutral organization in the short to medium term i.e. 2020 and for the whole of Aberdeenshire to be carbon neutral in the medium to long term i.e. 2030.

The Group recently purchased a steel container to house all the Christmas Lights and associated equipment. This was necessary as the summer heat experienced in the small Polytunnel was damaging the lights.

All the necessary applications and documentation have been submitted to the Police and Aberdeenshire Council for the community switch on which will take place on Sunday 1st December starting at 3 pm.

Group volunteers are currently involved in removing the summer displays which entails removing and storing the Begonia tubers, waste plants to the recycling site at Inverurie, storing the old compost for recycling for next year's programme and washing and storing the containers baskets etc.

The Group held a hospitality evening in the British Legion to thank the many volunteers who have assisted throughout the year. It was also an opportunity to display the trophy and awards secured by the group in the "Keep Scotland Beautiful" & the Formartine in Bloom competitions. It is proposed that the awards will be displayed in various shops during the course of the year. Member of the Group attended the Formartine Partnership's meeting in the Beaton Hall last week. The event was planned to give feedback from the various participating organisations ideas on how the Formartine in Bloom competition could be improved and expanded. A number of issues were raised and it was felt that it had been a useful meeting.

Application for funding and estimates has been submitted to the DO officer in Banchory to restore and upgrade the building known as the Bank Washhouse situated in the Legion car park. To date there has been no response from the DO officer.

The Group continue to give assistance restoring and improving the site of the French Sailor. Apparently, the original site had a mast located behind the statue. It is planned to restore the mast and prices have been sought. The likely cost is in the region of £480. It is planned to raise funds to complete this feature.

One of the banks of four lights at the War Memorial had developed a fault and has been replaced under warranty. There is however the cost of Electricians time. It is unlikely that the lighting of the War Memorial will entail any excessive costs over time. However, MAIG propose that a maintenance fund of £150 ringfenced and held by the CC for any eventuality should be set up with an initial £50 contribution from MAIG, The British Legion & the Community council and to be topped up as and when necessary. It should be noted that the Parish Church pay for the energy used costs.

Andrew also wanted the following brought up –

- The Hedge on Kirkbrae as it's still causing severe problems with cars getting past.
- The town hall storm water gutters. The square gutter coming down at the right hand corner (paper shoppe pavement) is broken at the very top resulting in storm water forcing pedestrians out on to the road to avoid getting soaked .

Jan agreed to look at both of these and try and proceed further with them.

ACTION JAN

Daviot Community Trust

Willie advised the group has had to stop work on the path due to wet land but they will start again when weather permits. He also said there will be a stovies night in Daviot pub to fundraise for the group.

Heritage Society

Alistair advised they had a meeting on 5th October and that the wording for the sailor mannie plaque has been agreed and submitted.

DAIG

Nicola advised the group is working towards the Christmas Lights Switch on. It is on 30th November from 4pm.

Bus Forum

Yvonne stated the next bus forum meeting is on 4th December in Meldrum Academy

AOCB

Kaye informed the members about the VE Day celebrations that are being organised in the town. She confirmed there will be an afternoon tea on the Friday Afternoon with children's activities in the evening, a showcase of activities as well as a VE dance at night and the Sunday will bring the churches together for a joint service followed by a BBQ. Kaye advised there will also be official business throughout the three days and more information would be coming out after the New Year.

Nick mentioned he is a member of the Inverurie Business Group which has now expanded to include Meldrum, Kemnay and Kintore. The group meets monthly on a Thursday.

Karen asked if there was any feedback on our objection to Woodland Gardens planning application. Jan advised we don't usually get feedback from the planning team when we object. Cllr Hassan advised to keep an eye on the Council website.

Kaye stated the 35 buses are still meeting in the square and bringing traffic to a standstill. She advised she took pictures and emailed to Roddy Aitken and Susan Watt. Cllr Johnston asked for the councillors to be copied into correspondence like this in future.

Kaye asked when the electrical car charging points were going to be finished in Baker Street car park. All councillors stated they were unsure as the issue is currently lying with SSE.

Date and time of next meeting

28th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the New Sports Pavilion, Oldmeldrum