

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 25th August 2020

7.00pm

Online Zoom Meeting

CC Members Present: - Shona Presly, Jan Chalmers, David Clare, John Pirie, Lloyd Duncan, Alastair Massey, Simon Kilkerr, Nicola Currie and Yvonne Oliver

Apologies: - Jeff Goodhall, Stuart Singer, James Milton and Willie Sinclair

Members of Public: - Andrew McCartney, Gordon Duncan, Gary Oliver and Michael Stephenson

Councillors: Cllr Hassan and Cllr Gifford

Police: None

Aberdeenshire Council: Ian Jackson Meldrum Academy

Minutes of February 2020

Proposed: Yvonne Oliver

Seconded: David Clare

Shona opened the meeting by reminding everyone that point 2 on the Agenda “Declarations of Interest” will continue to be a standard item on every agenda.

Shona also advised it had been brought to her attention by two members of the public that a video recording of an online community council meeting was taken by a committee member in May 2020 without consent from the community council members or members of the public who were present. Shona stated she would like to make it clear that recordings of any kind are not permitted to take place by anyone without consent and that it is only the chair or the secretary permitted to take recordings. This is stated within our scheme of establishment. Shona stated she wished to advise everyone this has happened, it is not acceptable and that the recording has been deleted.

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the previous minutes.

Jan advised she spoke to Ian Daniels who has confirmed the pavement that was lifted beside Morris’s has now been put back and that he has registered the speed hump at the crossing in the square as a defect.

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan went through the items on the statement of outstanding business and the following was discussed:

Jan advised Ian Daniels has stated he has looked at the wall at the Old Manse of Bourtie and he is now satisfied it is not a danger to traffic so this can now be marked as complete on our statement. Ian said he felt the wall on Mill Road is still an issue but we need to ascertain ownership of this wall before proceeding any further. Jan will look into ownership.

ACTION JAN

Jan confirmed Ian Daniels stated we can still put in an official request for a traffic survey to be done in the square with a view to a pedestrian crossing from the chemist across the square. He did state there may not be a budget for this going forward. The majority of community council members voted in favour of sending this request to Aberdeenshire Council. Jan will now send this request.

Andrew McCartney asked if we could request the survey is not carried out during school holiday periods.

ACTION JAN

Jan read out the issues that have been raised regarding fire safety and general safety at Meldrum Academy. Ian Jackson responded by saying Robertson's manage the lets, the janitor on duty meets the group leader and goes through fire safety including where the nearest exit is if the fire alarm sounds.

He also advised the main door is now locked at all times during school hours and everyone arriving at the school requires to be buzzed in by a member of staff. After school the doors are still locked and the janitor on duty meets the let holder at the door. Ian advised these are both new procedures that began due to covid however will now be normal practice going forward.

Jan advised that she has been the let holder many times at the academy and has never been met by a janitor nor had fire safety etc explained to her. Ian Jackson is going to raise this issue with Robertson's again and report back to this community council.

ACTION IAN JACKSON

Police Report

None

Members of the public

Shona began by thanking Michael Stephenson for the letter he sent to all community council members. She then advised that this community council discussed the Meldrum House application at length on numerous occasions last year prior to making our representation. Shona advised we looked at things like safety, connectivity, tree removal, the historical importance, the environmental study at the time. Michael Stephenson replied that he appreciated this community council cannot do anything now however he feels we were misled.

The issue of access to the estate at present was mentioned and John Pirie as well as Cllr Hassan advised they had received emails from the access officer today advising a formal letter is being sent to Meldrum House Estate regarding this after being checked over by Aberdeenshire Council legal team.

Michael Stephenson also raised a concern there is no footpath from the Balgove crossroads to the bus stop on the A947. Cllr Hassan asked if Mr Stephenson was attending the online Formartine Area Committee meeting as he could bring this point there for discussion.

Nicola Currie said she has been approached by a Daviot resident who is looking for a dog waste bin to be placed at Daviot Estate. Nicola advised there is one at the village entrance only. Jan said she would send Jennifer Senior's contact details to Nicola.

ACTION JAN

Secretarial Report

Jan read out the following:

- The first Orchard Meeting was held back in March. It was well attended with someone who lives in Meldrum, willing to take on the chair role and co ordinate the group. Nothing further has happened with this due to covid.
- I attended a Town Centre Regeneration meeting organised by Cllr Johnston and forwarded you all some notes from that meeting to read through. Cllr Johnston is arranging a second meeting for this group in the near future.

- I attended the Community Impact Assessment Discussion Forum for Ward 8 last night. Very interesting meeting re covid impact and all cllrs were there.
- Proposed Changes to Pre-Application Consultation Requirements in Planning consultation closed 6th November. We have been asked for 2 members to attend this online meeting in October. I have replied and said 2 members will be there and to forward details when they are available.
- Kaye Cowie reported broken glass all over Baker Street car park and in front of Greengates etc to the Cllrs and asked for the road sweeper to be sent to Meldrum to clear this up. Cllr Johnston arranged for this to be done.
- We have been advised Chapelpark has gained planning via delegated grant and I emailed out the 4 conditions attached to this previously.
- I was asked by 2 members of the public to add Meldrum House Planning to our agenda this evening however after discussion with the planning department the chair and I were advised this will be being heard at committee on 1st September and our cc is outwith the time frame to make further representation.
- Scotland Loves Local campaign live until Christmas - The Scotland Loves Local campaign is a national initiative designed to encourage Scots to go back to their roots, think local first and support their local high streets safely and in line with public health guidelines. There is a branding toolkit that posters and info can be printed from as well as things to post on social media. As we don't have a business group wanted to prose the cc backs this and if everyone is in agreement I will email the toolkit to the business's in Meldrum and Daviot for them to display and get involved in if they wish
- New defib at Bourtie update – nothing as yet

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications from March to August 2020.

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Hassan advised there will now be a priority list for both the waste and roads sections within Aberdeenshire Council. He stated he has been assured gully emptying will be high on this list.

Cllr Hassan said he has no update from Sallie Antill on the weeds growing through the drains that Jan has been reporting since August 2019. Cllr Hassan said Sallie has said she hasn't received any email from Jan regarding this. Jan advised she has plenty in her emails that she can provide info on. Cllr Hassan asked Jan to email him the details.

ACTION JAN

Cllr Gifford advised there was a budget meeting on 18th March and since then Aberdeenshire Council now has a 60million shortfall from now until March 2022 due to Covid. He also asked for communities to help Aberdeenshire Council as much as they can with things to try and help get us through this difficult period.

Community Council Forum

Shona said she received the minutes from the last CC Forum and the top three items discussed were:

Food parcels

Grass Cutting and

Community Resilience Fund

MAIG

Andrew McCartney emailed the following report to all members prior to the meeting:

MAIG Report to MB&D CC 25th August 2020

Our usual summer programme to brighten up the town has been severely limited by the Covid 19 situation and the decision by Aberdeenshire Council not to supply plants to the communities throughout the region.

Nevertheless, we have been able to contribute a floral display in Market Square and judging by the feedback on our Facebook page has been greatly

admired by the residents of the town. This year's limited display has resulted in our income from sponsorship virtually dry up. We were able to retain many of the Begonia Tubers from last years displays and the other plants on display we have had to purchase.

Without the usual sponsorship and our outlay for purchasing plants, compost etc we ask if the CC would consider sponsoring this year's displays in Market Square.?

At this stage in the pandemic it is uncertain what our programme will be for the festive season. Certainly, we will go ahead with erecting the Christmas Illuminations although a number of the illuminations from last year require attention and because of our restricted income we took the decision not to have them repaired until we are sure we have sufficient funds. At this stage it is unlikely that we will be organising the usual public switch on event.

Aberdeenshire Councils' decision not to supply communities with summer and winter plants for this year hopefully is a one off decision and we take this opportunity to ask that our local elected members give their full support to restoring and the continuation of supplying plants to communities throughout the region.

With the restriction imposed because of the pandemic and given that MAIG has endeavored to brighten up the centre of the town, it is most apparent and disheartening that the council appear to have completely withdrawn from street cleaning and gulley emptying throughout the town and it's immediate surrounds.

Throughout every street kerb weed control has been non-existent, is there any reason why at the very least a mechanical sweeper has not been assigned to keep our street clean and weed free.

Andrew McCartney asked if this community council would consider sponsoring this year's display in the square as they have had to buy their own plants this year. Andrew was advised we have received £200 for Meldrum and £100 for Daviot from Formartine area office which is from the cancelled Formartine in Bloom competition and we would like to offer this £200 to MAIG and the £100 to plants in Daviot. Andrew McCartney was very appreciative of this and thanked the community council for their donation. Jan will ask Willie to write the cheques and she will post them.

ACTION JAN

Andrew McCartney asked the Cllrs present if they can give an assurance of plants being provided by Aberdeenshire Council next year. Both cllrs

present stated they couldn't guarantee this however everything will be looked at and community might have to buy their own plants through sponsorship going forward.

Heritage Society

Alistair commented the Heritage Society were contacted by the Mutch family in Canada asking for help to trace their relations. They passed it to the library and they managed to trace the family. Alistair said the Library did a fantastic job.

DAIG

Nicola advised the group will be having a meeting very shortly.

Meldrum Paths Group

Gary advised the paths group set up an online meeting with Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot Community Council, Inverurie Community Council and the Uryside Group to discuss Meldrum Meg Way on 7th July. Gary gave a brief overview of the current status there and it is as follows: Meldrum Paths Group are still working on Meldrum Meg Way however still have some hurdles to overcome. They have engaged with local MSPs on active travel and they will keep going until they get a cycle/walkway there. They have also asked Aberdeenshire Council for an update on the Malcolm Allan objection for the 40 foot path they need to provide.

Meldrum Paths Group also had a meeting with Daviot Community Trust on 21st July to engage with them on the Future Vision survey results. They are proposing a link on the lethenty road network. There will be a follow up meeting in September with these two groups.

Gary advised they are engaging with Udney Community Trust to try and develop a link between Daviot, Meldrum and Pitmedden and they are also looking to develop loop paths around Meldrum. They are working with the Heritage Society to look at old pathways and right of ways.

Gary then stated they have set up a sub group to look at E Bikes and they have a meeting with the Huntly Partnership to discuss this further however they do not think this will be deliverable this year.

Gary confirmed Meldrum Paths Group have strimmed Barra Hill once again and have been doing a weekly litter pick in Blankets wood. The Paths Group are currently looking for a solution to deliver the maintenance of the Redhouse track. In previous years they have received

labour and use of equipment from the Stephens however they are not providing that this year so the Paths Group are actively looking at other options to allow this path to be maintained for the public.

The Paths Group are in the final stages of getting their survey on active travel ready. They are hoping this will be something to back up the Future Vision document.

They are also working with Aberdeenshire Council Greenspace Team on a voluntary basis and will continue to do this. They have been involved with raking grass and repairing benches in the pleasure park etc

Shona asked if Lovers Lane would be classed as a loop path. Gary advised it is. They are looking for smaller loop routes like this as well as larger loop paths that take an hour to an hour and a half to complete. Shona asked if landowners of these paths they wish to get involved with could be invited to the Path Group meetings and Gary answered yes this wouldn't be a problem.

Shona asked how the printing of the path booklet was going. Gary replied Aberdeenshire Council did it last time and it is on the Path Group agenda to do again. They are looking into doing it digitally this time.

AOCB

The status of the Town Hall was mentioned and it was agreed Jan would email Cllr Johnston for an update as he is currently requesting info from the Council Estates Team on this.

ACTION JAN

The erection of the new finger post signage in Meldrum Square was mentioned and it was agreed Jan would email Nick to see about setting up a time for him to come and look at the work that needs done.

ACTION JAN

Shona advised we have now added our name under our new logo as suggested by Stuart via email. She said we could ask Stuart for more info on his friendly oldmeldrum idea at the next meeting if he is in attendance.

Shona suggested we invite Richard Elliott to our next community council meeting to discuss the website in more detail. Shona will contact Richard and ask if he is willing to attend.

ACTION SHONA

Shona advised the members that herself and Jan, along with Willie, will look into the Queens Birthday money and the Defib money fully and will report back their findings at the next cc meeting.

ACTION SHONA/JAN/WILLIE

John Pirie asked for clarification on the following two points:

Firstly if this community council can include the number of members voting for and against something when we make representations and secondly if a community council member writes a letter of representation do they require to declare an interest and not take part in discussions nor the vote.

Jan and Shona will ask Formartine Area Office for clarification on these two points and report back at the next cc meeting.

ACTION SHONA/JAN

Shona made the suggestion this community council offer a sum of money to our secretary each year at the AGM. All members present agreed with this and Jan was asked if she would accept this offer at this year's AGM in October. Jan thanked the members very much for this offer but declined to accept any money. It was asked if we should write this in our constitution to make it official going forward. Jan and Shona will check this with Formartine Area Office and report back at the next cc meeting.

ACTION SHONA/JAN

Gary Oliver asked if this community council would consider paying for the new signs that Meldrum Paths Group have erected at Barra Hill. The total cost is £167.95. It was asked if they have approached anyone else for help with the costs. Gary replied the Stephens who own the land cannot help and they haven't asked anyone else. A vote was taken and the majority of members present voted to support this and pay the full £167.95 as it is a very well used path in the community.

Gary also confirmed they had received a donation from Meldrum Kirk Session recently however this is allocated elsewhere.

Jan will ask Willie to write a cheque and she will post it. **ACTION JAN**

Gary also asked if we knew if the land for allotments discussed back in 2016 and 2017 is still available. Jan advised it is and it is owned by Aberdeenshire Council.

Date and time of next meeting

22nd September 2020 at 7.00pm online via Zoom