

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 25th February 2020

7.30pm

New Sports Pavilion, Pleasure Park, Oldmeldrum

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

Apologies: - Lloyd Duncan, Stuart Singer, James Milton, Nicola Currie and Cllr Gifford

Members of Public: - Kaye Cowie, Gordon Miles and Marjorie Miles

Councillors: Cllr Hassan and Cllr Johnston

Police: None

Aberdeenshire Council: Ian Daniels

Meldrum Paths Group: Gary Oliver and Ian Milton

Minutes of January 2020

Proposed: Simon Kilkerr

Seconded: David Clare

Shona opened the meeting by advising a new point will be on every agenda going forward. This is point 2 “Declarations of Interest for any item on this agenda” Shona advised Ann Overton, Solicitor for Aberdeenshire Council suggested to every Community Council who attended the Council’s training night to add this to their agenda for every meeting.

Cllr Johnston commented that this is good practice and also encouraged each member to declare their interest at this point as well as again just before the item begins to be discussed.

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the previous minutes.

Jan advised she had confirmation from Local Review Body this Community Council would be informed if an appeal was lodged by Scotia Homes for Chapelpark. She also advised Alan Davidson from the Planning Department confirmed he took this community council’s representation for Chapelpark as an objection and that she had forwarded the recent correspondence regarding drainage from Scotia Homes to Episcopal Church as requested by the members.

Cllr Hassan stated the lease between Making Meldrum Better and Aberdeenshire Council for the Town Hall began on 15th December 2010 and it is a 40 year lease. He advised Aberdeenshire Council are responsible for keeping the building wind and water tight and Making Meldrum Better are responsible for the internal part of the building. Cllr Hassan confirmed the Daviot Hall grit bin is not an Aberdeenshire Council grit bin and he also confirmed that landscape services are responsible for the cutting of grass at the NRC roundabout as well as the ongoing situation with moles in that area.

James advised Jan he would be emailing the members who are on the coat of arms sub group some information in the next couple of weeks.

Shona advised she has spoken to Robin Philip about starting a new business group. He will speak to some businesses and report back any information to Shona.

Ian Daniels, Principal Roads Engineer and Gary Oliver and Ian Milton, Meldrum Paths Group on Future Vision Booklet

Jan introduced each item separately from the booklet that the members would like Ian Daniels and the Paths Group to comment on. A discussion was held around each item as follows:

Design of the square and speed -

Ian Daniels thinks the road markings in the square works as it keeps the speed low.

Crossing in the square -

He advised there is a new system in place which allows the council to decide which towns qualify for a crossing. We would need to put an official request in, there would then be a traffic count and whichever town scores highest will get the funding allocated to complete the crossing.

Kaye and Jeff both stated they were told last time it was looked at there wasn't enough meterage to put a crossing in and Ian Daniels agreed our crossing if allocated might have to go so far up Urquhart Road it wouldn't be used.

Cllr Johnston suggested the CC now needs to look at a long term plan for the square as a whole.

Meldrum Meg Way -

Ian Milton said this has had a lot of support from the council but they need more funding and in their view our document is priceless as they can use it to unlock funding and get a big push forward on the path. They said they are hoping the CC can speak out for them to help this process by speaking to Cllrs and MSP's too.

Daviot Estate –

Willie said they have managed to join up new paths as have received some more grant money. He advised there is just the middle section of the beech walk to do. Nick said he might be able to offer some ideas and help so Willie and Nick will discuss this

Tor Ecosse Path –

The question was asked if DO was paid over for these sites. Ian Daniels will check this and also if there is any enforcement can be done through the section 75 agreement to get this pavement finished.

Speeding on the B9001 –

Ian Daniels said there is a problem with speeding however said there no plans to do anything on that stretch of road just now as there are not enough frontages there. He did suggest the wall could be taken down to allow a clearer view in conjunction with the landowner. Nick and Ian Daniels are going to discuss further and Nick will find out who the landowner is.

Kaye Cowie advised the paint has worn away on the speed hump at the crossing in the square and also when the work was carried out for the new electrical car charging points part of the pavement was lifted beside Morris's and this hasn't been put back. This is a requirement for the partially sighted and it's on the safe route for children to walk on to attend Church. Ian Daniels said he would arrange for both of these items to be completed.

ACTION IAN DANIELS

Shona advised Aberdeenshire Council are working on the exterior of the Town Hall but this work has stopped. Cllr Johnston stated he would ask for an update from the Head of Service on this for our next meeting.

ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan went through the statement of outstanding business and advised a number of items appear to be moving on and will hopefully have some more answers in the next couple of months. Jan will update the statement again and send out to all members with the next agenda.

Police Report

None

Secretarial Report

Jan read out the following:

- Willie asked me to find out more about brown tourist signs. Ian Daniels has advised there is a certain criteria to be met with Visit Scotland before any brown signs are organised. Business need to be Visit Scotland accredited before they even start the process too.
- The Orchard idea is progressing well with 14 people keen already. I am walking round with olly Deeming and Cllr Johnston tomorrow morning and the first meeting is scheduled for 4th March.
- I reported pot holes in the following places – 2 on colpy road, 2 on Urquhart road, 1 beside hoodles, 1 on the Balgove road as well as 2 cases of fly tipping around Bourtie. The paint has been removed already.
- Jim Beaton has agreed to take a defibrillator at his egg business in Bourtie. We currently have some money ringfenced for defibs. The current cost of one is high depending on security needed. Replacement batteries cost £250 each inc vat. We may need to look at funding opportunities or holding a fundraiser ourselves to add to this fund. Gordon Duncan suggested looking at British Heart Foundation for the price of a defibrillator and Jan will look into this.
- Claymore has advised they will be on the agenda at the FAC on 24th March. They have provided copies of their new site plan which I have forwarded to all members.
- Scotia Homes has advised they have no update as yet but will let us know as soon as they do.

- Graeme Webster from Parcock Quarry wanted me to let you know his agent has emailed the LDP team asking their bid be allocated now the SDP has confirmed they are looking for more houses to be allocated to this LDP. He wanted to say he is very appreciative of the CC's support towards his development and is hopeful it will be allocated now.

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications for February. He advised Formartine Area Committee met on 21st January where the refurbishment of the old sports pavilion in Meldrum Pleasure Park was agreed and they met again on 11th February where 2 refusals of Local Review Body in our area were discussed – namely Whitemyres and Chapelhouses

Members of the public

None

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Johnston advised Aberdeenshire Council has set this year's Council Tax and there is a 4.84% increase. The Scottish Government hasn't yet confirmed the amount of money they will be allocating to Aberdeenshire Council yet.

Cllr Johnston also advised the proposed LDP will be going up for approval at full council on 5th March and advised us to allocate time at a meeting to go through the LDP once again and make representation if we wish. He advised us to think on three things when we are looking through the LDP which are

1. Say the word object if we want to object
2. Say the words like and support if this is what we feel
3. Say what our parameters are if we feel strongly about something.

He also advised referring to our Future Vision booklet in our representation.

Some of Cllr Hassan's report had already been covered in the Matters Arising and planning report. However, he further advised that on the 10th February the Schools Participation Forum, a group comprised of school pupils from across Aberdeenshire met with Councillors to discuss what they would like to see in the forthcoming budget.

He also attended Meldrum Library this afternoon who hosted a public

engagement event on the service.

The next meeting of Formartine Area Committee will be on the 3rd March, with the Council's Budget meeting two days later on the 5th March.

Treasurers Report

Willie stated the bank balance as at 28th January 2020 is £9671.71 which includes all earmarked funds. Willie also advised a second account has been opened for VE day funds and the signatories are the same as the first account.

Community Council Forum

Shona and Jan attended the recent meeting where there was a presentation from Ann Overton on the Scheme of Establishment updates. There was also a VE day celebration update from all community councils. It was also noted speeding is still a big issue so was requested a representative from the police and roads department are invited to a future forum meeting.

Daviot Community Trust

Willie advised the group had a meeting on Thursday 20th February. The wind has brought down 3 trees but they have managed to move these with the help of a contractor.

Formartine Rural Partnership

Cllr Johnston advised the applications are now open for grants of up to £500

AOCB

Shona advised Jan, David, Yvonne and herself attended the CC training night at Meldrum Academy and it was a good and informative evening. Shona advised the night was split into three sections. The first being a talk on the role of office bearers, next was a talk from Darren Ross on Planning and lastly was a talk from Adam Sime on Developer Obligations. All council representatives said they would be available at any time for questions or to attend one of our meetings if we feel the

need. The presentation slides were also emailed to Jan who forwarded to all members.

Shona advised the VE committee has put in a written request asking for the money from the Queen's 90th birthday to be donated to their group to help with the running of the event.

Jan and Willie both declared interests at this point and left the room to allow the discussion to take place.

A discussion was held with the outcome being Kaye withdrawing the VE committee's request.

Shona stated she has approached Robin Falconer to take on the editor role of our magazine and he will let us know if this is something he is interested in soon.

Shona asked if we are using our website and Facebook pages enough. Cllr Johnston said he and Richard Elliot look after the website and he feels its run well with people sending in items on a regular basis. As James runs the Facebook page Shona will speak to James direct about it.

ACTION SHONA

Jan asked all members if they have received the email she sent about the removal of our BT phone box. The members confirmed they had and a discussion stated on this topic. The outcome was Jan had to write to Elaine Brown including the following points –

The sheltered housing complex is in close proximity and elderly people might still need to use the phone box in an emergency

There is only the one phone box in Meldrum

There have been 61 calls from the phone box in the last year which the members felt was a reasonable usage

There is poor signal in some parts of Meldrum

ACTION JAN

Jan read out an email from Nicola Currie asking for our support with her rural partnership grant application for new play equipment in Daviot. All members present agreed with this proposal. Jan and Shona will write a letter of support.

ACTION JAN/SHONA

Willie also mentioned he would apply for this grant for the new bench in Daviot and all members present agreed with this.

Date and time of next meeting

24th March 2020 at 7.30pm in the New Sports Pavilion, Oldmeldrum