

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 28th January 2020

7.30pm

New Sports Pavilion, Pleasure Park, Oldmeldrum

CC Members Present: - Shona Presly, Jan Chalmers, David Clare, Stuart Singer, James Milton, John Pirie, Nicola Currie, Alastair Massey, Willie Sinclair, Nick Forbes and Yvonne Oliver

Apologies: - Jeff Goodhall, Lloyd Duncan and Simon Kilkerr

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

Councillors: Cllr Hassan, Cllr Gifford and Cllr Johnston

Police: None

Minutes of November 2019

Proposed: Yvonne Oliver

Seconded: Willie Sinclair

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the previous minutes. Jan advised she had confirmation that the landowner of the strip of land in Benview Gardens that borders the glebe land is Kevin Douglas. David stated the key for the notice board at Daviot Hall is difficult to get hold of. He wondered if a community council notice board could be erected somewhere in Daviot. Nick said he knows where the keys for the one at Daviot Hall are. David and Nick are to discuss this further.

ACTION DAVID/NICK

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan advised she was still working on a number of these items and had nothing to report at the present time.

Police Report

The most recent police report we have was emailed to all members at the beginning of January by Jan.

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications for December and January. He advised Formartine Area Committee met on 10th December

2019 and 21st January 2020. The next Formartine Area Committee meeting is scheduled for 11th February 2020.

Shona advised a discussion on Chapelpark would take place and asked if any member had any interest to declare in this application. No members present declared any interest.

Jan advised she has had a call from Martin Forbes at Scotia to inform the Community Council they are considering appealing to the Local Review Body as their application was refused in December. Jan asked if we would be informed of the appeal date and if we would get a chance to make any representation should we wish to. Cllr Johnston advised speaking to the LRB clerk Frances Brown to check this however was confident we would be informed. **ACTION JAN**

John asked if we could check with the planner that our original representation was taken as a formal objection to the application. **ACTION JAN**

The members present felt it would be useful to see the Cameron and Ross drainage report in full again to read through and note any questions there may be as drainage is one of our main concerns. Jan will gain a copy of this and forward to all members. **ACTION JAN**
Cllr Johnston reminded us that all technical reports are self certified and not independently assessed.

Shona asked if the members felt we should send the recent info we have received from Scotia Homes on drainage to the Episcopal Church. A vote was taken and the majority of members agreed to this. Jan will email the documents to the Episcopal Church. **ACTION JAN**

Kevin stated the Cameron and Ross report states an emergency outflow from the suds to the nearest watercourse will be provided however this doesn't appear to be organised. He also advised the pipe under the A947, which the suds pipe from this development will connect to, requires some upgrading as it is currently too small. He said this is known to him as he lives close by and at times of flooding the current pipe cannot cope and therefore overflows causing damage.

Members of the public

Kaye reported the lighting in Major Lane is still very poor but is pleased the Council are currently looking at new lighting for Major Lane.

Kaye stated the electric car charging points are still not completed. Cllrs advised these would be completed by the end of March 2020.

Kaye updated the members on the VE Day celebrations and advised there are now 33 sponsors on board.

Kaye asked is there is a lease between Aberdeenshire Council and Making Meldrum Better for the Town Hall. Cllr Hassan will find out more about this and report back at the next meeting.

ACTION CLLR HASSAN

Nicola stated she has been asked for a grit bin in an area of Daviot. She has asked the Council for this and her request has been declined due the gradient not meeting the requirements. Cllr Hassan will ask the Roads Team for more information on this and report back at the next meeting.

ACTION CLLR HASSAN

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Gifford advised the budget process is currently ongoing and the new council tax and council rent levels will be set at the beginning of February.

Cllr Hassan read out the following report –

- attended the Meldrum Academy Christmas Concert on the 18th December, an excellent evening as always.
- Received several calls on Tuesday 8th January regarding bins not being emptied in Oldmeldrum. This was due to vehicle breakdowns that morning – they were all emptied I believe on Friday that same week.
- On the 15th January, I attended the Council’s Climate Workshop with fellow councillors and key officers – we are continuing to work towards net zero emission as part of our response to the climate crisis.
- Full Council on 16th January
- Formartine Area Committee was held on 21st January – among the papers discussed was the School Roll Forecast paper, showing Meldrum Academy currently 9 over capacity, and anticipated to be 57 over capacity by 2024. Currently the school has a restriction on placing requests and this will be continued.

We also that day discussed the Playpark Pavilion in private.

- Yesterday, I attended the Council's event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day – another event well attended by both Councillors and Council Officers and included presentations from some school pupils.
- The A920 is closed this week for surface dressing prep works. The diversion is via the B9001 and the B9170.

Coming up:

- 31st January (this Friday) – we have Community Surgeries with the Police and others in Balmedie then Pitmedden
- 5th February – Community Council Forum
- 11th February – Formartine Area Committee (agenda obviously not yet available)
- 13th February (hopefully) – The Council's Budget Day

Finally: Aberdeenshire Council is currently undertaking a programme of travel behaviour change activities through the Government funded Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) programme which is subject to a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, both to inform decisions as to which activities should be run and where, and to monitor the effect activities have had in terms of both outputs, and outcomes. Non-Motorised User (NMU) surveys will take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during March 2020 in Oldmeldrum and other towns.

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.

Secretarial Report

Jan advised she would cover the secretarial items within AOCB this month.

Community Council Forum

Shona advised the next meeting is 5th February. The cllrs thought this might have been cancelled so Jan will check this with area office.

ACTION JAN

Future Vison

A discussion was held around the Future Vision booklets. It was decided we will invite Ian Daniels and Meldrum Paths Group to the next meeting to go through the booklet and ask for their input and support with certain items. Jan will invite Ian and the paths group to the next meeting.

ACTION JAN

We will then arrange a date to go through the whole booklet and make a plan of action. Ideas for where booklets can be placed for the public to look through are –

Community Cafe, Meldrum Library, Meldrum Doctors Surgery, Meldrum Dentists, Berrys, Bourtie Church, Daviot Shop, Daviot Hall, Daviot Church annexe and Redgarth.

Kaye suggested the VE box office dates could be an event we could have booklets available for people to look at.

It was noted we will also need to have places available for the public to write comments about the booklets that we can collect and read through.

The Cllrs suggested possibly writing to Kevin Stewart to ask how our community action plan fits in with the SDP, LDP etc

MAIG

Andrew emailed the following report -

- We had a successful Community Switch on Sunday 2nd December with a large tun out from members of the public. Sam Reid was our invited guest for the Switch on.

Once again, we are indebted to Oldmeldrum Golf Club for donating the Community Christmas tree and to Patrick Sleigh for providing the transport and lifting tackle to position the tree.

- Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services division have sent to all communities a survey form requesting feedback with regards to the supply of plants for the summer displays.

Basically, they are asking to what degree if any would we be prepared to pay for the plants.

Our Group convened a special meeting to discuss the survey form. In our reply we pointed out that MAIG are probably the only group to take in the plants as plugs and grow them on ourselves. We therefore have all the costs of fertilizer, heating & compost which otherwise the Council carry out including labour and supporting the nursery site at Mintlaw which overheads are set against all the other communities. To cover the cost of

growing on the plants we are dependent on donations from community groups, businesses & members of the public.

Unlike Inverurie Turriff and Ellon we do not have a large business community to give the same support. Under those circumstances if we had to pay for the plants it is unlikely, we would be able to carry on with the summer displays. Orders for plants for the 2020 displays were ordered back in September and we have been assured that the plants will be available for the 2020 displays. We hope that the CC will defend our position and that continuation of a free supply of plants will continue and that our concerns will be highlighted by the CC at the next Community Council Forum meeting.

- Application to Amey/Arup (A96 dualling) for grant funding for the flagstaff for the Sailor Statue has been partially successful. They have awarded £250 towards the total cost of £534. I am currently seeking further grant assistance in order to complete the project.

- Application for DO money to reinstate the Bank House Washhouse (the derelict building in the British Legion carpark) Application was made in September 2019 plus various emails requesting if there has been any decision. To date there hasn't even been an acknowledgement of our application.

- A small committee to oversee the maintenance of the War Memorial flood lighting system is about to be convened. The organizations representing the maintenance group are as follows: The Oldmeldrum Branch of the British Legion represented by John McKenzie, MAIG represented by Alan Buck, Sports Committee represented by Stanley McKenzie and Community Council (we require a nomination). At this stage Alan Buck has been approached if he would act as Chairperson and he has agreed providing this is acceptable to the other members. MAIG would also be prepared to act as treasurer, again if this is acceptable to the other parties.

Kaye asked who owns the washhouse. Jan will ask Andrew for an update on ownership.

ACTION JAN

Daviot Community Trust

Willie advised the group has very little to report as been unable to carry out work due to the weather. They are carrying out essential maintenance only.

Heritage Society

Alistair advised the group had their AGM and has lots of interesting projects lined up for this year. One of their main aims is to concentrate on their website and loading photos onto their photo database.

DAIG

Nicola confirmed the group had a successful light switch on at the end of November. They are continuing to fundraise for their park and they have a race night on 8th February at the Smiddy Bar, Daviot.

Bus Forum

Yvonne reported the following from the bus forum meeting on 4th December –

- The Bains bus from Oldmeldrum to Alford via Inverurie is running well and meets the train times in Inverurie for connecting to Aberdeen.
- The transport hub now has full planning permission and the Council's next step is to get the lease finalised and signed with the landowner.
- The buses meeting in Meldum Square at the same time and therefore holding up traffic has been rectified. Kaye and James both advised this is not the case. The Cllrs advised them to send more photographic evidence to Susan Watt as well as themselves.

Yvonne advised the next meeting will be held on late spring.

AOCB

John stated there are issues once again with illegal substances being sent down the mole holes at the Bruce Stone. He also asked if it is the Council who mows the grass at the NRC roundabout. Cllr Hassan said he would check this and report back at the next meeting.

ACTION CLLR HASSAN

Jan asked for a member to volunteer for some groups who are looking for representatives. The following was decided upon –

Community Planning Group – David Clare

Formartine Safety Group – Yvonne Oliver

Formartine Rural Partnership – Nick Forbes

War Memorial Light Committee – Shona Presly

Shona asked James if he was any further on with arranging the first meeting of the Coat of Arms committee. James advised he would like to try the meetings via email and will get information out to the sub group on this.

ACTION JAMES

Shona asked Nick for some more information about the Inverurie Business Group. Nick stated it isn't just for Inverurie businesses and they do allow Meldrum businesses to join. He said they are trying to recruit more members just now and they currently don't have any business from Meldrum on board.

Shona confirmed she will speak to Robin and Kaye about setting up a Meldrum business group again and the possibility of businesses joining the Inverurie one.

ACTION SHONA

Shona suggested we should look for a couple of people who are keen to take an orchard site forward in Meldrum and/or Daviot. It was agreed we would put a notice in the notice board asking anyone keen to contact us as well as a post on Facebook and the website.

ACTION JAN

Kaye asked if the Council ground on Mill Road would be any use. Shona added this to the list of potential places we have already. Nicola said she would put a notice in Daviot notice board to ask if anyone willing to help there.

ACTION NICOLA

Kaye stated there is still an abandoned car beside Sellars Agriculture with no tax since July 2019 and the MOT is about to run out. She said Ian Daniels sent her a link to report this as if it is not taxed it is the Council's responsibility to move it.

John asked the Cllrs if the planners will have recorded every reason for the refusal of Chapelpark on their report. The Cllrs thought they would make the majority of reasons know but Jan will contact Alan Davidson and check.

ACTION JAN

Stuart then stated he wanted to read out an email but he would like the sender to remain anonymous. This email had extracts from Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot Community Council minutes from 2019 as well as questioning the Cllrs on their response via delegated grant for the Chapelpark planning application.

Date and time of next meeting

25th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the New Sports Pavilion, Oldmeldrum