

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

7.00pm

Online Zoom Meeting

CC Members Present: - Shona Presly, Jan Chalmers, Willie Sinclair, John Pirie, Stuart Singer, James Milton, Yvonne Oliver, Gordon Duncan, Jeff Goodhall and Lloyd Duncan

Apologies: - Nicola Currie

Members of Public: - Murray Tennant, Gary Oliver, Andrew McCartney and Irene Dunbar

Councillors: Cllr Hassan and Cllr Gifford

Police: None

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were given.

Minutes of November 2020

Proposed: Yvonne Oliver

Seconded: Willie Sinclair

Matters Arising

Jan advised she has received an email from Elaine Brown with the answers to the questions this community council has regarding Chapelpark.

Jan then read out the following:

1. Will the council be actively looking for a new site for the hub so we can still have a hub in Oldmeldrum?
A. Yes, preliminary discussions have already commenced with one landowner and we will continue to search for further options until a solution is found to deliver a hub.
2. Is the funding from Nestrans secure for a couple of years to allow us time to find a new site?
A. We apply for funding each year, i.e. for new, additional or to carry forward. A request has been submitted for funding to cover

the preliminary work, such as design work, with the intention to take it to planning stage, dependent on the time it takes to source the land. At that stage, an application will be made for additional Nestrans funding as and when it is required (i.e. 22/23) The Council is awaiting decision on the current request, which is expected end of March/early April. If necessary, officers will explore other funding avenues to ensure we can deliver a solution.

3. Can the layby that was being offered with chapel park be compulsory purchased?

A.NO we will not. There is no intention or requirement to undertake a compulsory acquisition of the bus layby site as there are alternative sites and options for the layby.

4. Will the road widening be able to be compulsory purchased on the grounds of safety?

A.YES, if required. The Roads Authority has a requirement to obtain the land as soon as possible and we would want to progress by negotiation. However, if agreement cannot be reached then a statutory and/or compulsory acquisition will be considered to allow the road works to be completed.

In addition, I understand that the issue of the costs of progressing the hub to date has been raised, and I assume that this is in relation to the cost of abortive works. I can confirm that to date, the project costs have totalled £58k across 4 financial years (13/14, 17/18, 18/19 and 19/20). 70% of these costs are transferrable to a new site by using Council Officers' skills and judgement as they provide the foundation of the design of a Transport Hub. In support of this, we will consider enhancing the design, particularly where we are not limited by infrastructure on an adjacent site. This provides added benefits to any new scheme in addition to the opportunity to explore and scope/enhance the infrastructure.

Jeff asked why the hub has been allowed to fall apart.

Cllr Hassan said it is just as the area manager has detailed in her emails last month and this month.

Jeff asked if the landowners at Chapelpark would now be asked to hand over the piece of ground that was earmarked for the hub to the community. Jeff stated this could easily be used for another community benefit and should be considered as the gift of a community benefit is one of the reason planning was granted for houses on that site.

Cllr Gifford commented it would be perfectly acceptable for our community council to write to the landowner and ask this question. Community Council members are to think about this and discuss at the next meeting.

ACTION ALL MEMBERS

Shona confirmed the cheque for £300 to the Meldrum Foodbank has been sent and Louise has confirmed the first batch of kids snack packs have been distributed.

Gary advised he investigated the missing hand rail on a bridge near Barra Hill. He confirmed the Paths Group will get some materials purchased to allow this work to be completed.

The Cllrs present advised the slowing measure in Daviot was discussed at their ward meeting however it looks as though it will be difficult to move as Roads Department have advised they are happy where it is and do not want to move it. The decision at that meeting was taken to ask Roads about this again and the Cllrs will report any information back to this community council when they receive it.

ACTION ALL CLLRS

James advised he would send out a zoom invite to the Coat of Arms committee in the next couple of weeks.

ACTION JAMES

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan advised she has emailed Ian Jackson for an update on the outstanding item re fire safety at the Academy and is waiting for a reply.

Jan also advised Stewart and Watson have confirmed Meldrum House Trustees have advised the best way forward for the maintenance of the Benview Path is for individuals or a group to take this on. Jan will email Gordon and Marjorie Miles to advise them of this.

The work to the Old Sports Pavillion started week beginning 15th February 2021.

Police Report

The Police Report was emailed to members prior to the meeting. There were no questions on this report.

Members of the public

Jan received a message from Oldmeldrum Bowling Club regarding flooding on their green. They advised it was coming from a blocked drain at the playpark. Jan emailed Oliver Deeming who has replied today

stating he has visited and there is no apparent flooding. Jan advised she has sent this back to the Bowling Club who disagree and have sent pictures and more info. Jan asked the Councillors present if they could suggest a way forward. Cllr Gifford advised to give the Bowling Club Oliver Deeming's email address to liaise directly with him.

Jan received a message from Bill Duncan. The Episcopal Church is seeking clarity on how the drainage at Chapelpark will affect them as the hub cannot be built there. In particular they have concerns that the things put in place from the hub application (eg the bunding along the church wall) will not happen as it is outwith Scotia's site. Jan advised she thought Martin Forbes might be best placed to answer this so she gave him a call that afternoon. He advised they are very much aware of this and are working closely with the Chapelpark landowner as well as surrounding properties to ensure there is no flooding from their development. He also advised if, when they do begin work there, any flooding appears they will stop work and rectify the issue. Jan will inform Bill Duncan of this. **ACTION JAN**

Jan advised she had received a call from some concerned residents in Benview Gardens regarding the impact the traffic will have on the A947 from Chapelpark as the entrance is almost directly opposite them. They would like to know if there is anyone they can raise concerns with now that planning has been passed. Cllr Gifford advised to raise any concerns with Aberdeenshire Roads Department as well as the Councillors and Elaine Brown.

Jan will let the Benview residents know this. **ACTION JAN**

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Gifford informed us the Scheme of Establishment will be going to Formartine Area Committee very soon for comments. He confirmed the code of conduct is a large part of it.

Cllr Hassan advised there will be a road closure for 2 weeks from 22nd March for 2 weeks for tree works at Meldrum House.

The following reports were received from the community groups:

MAIG

With the continuation of lockdown and time of year there isn't a lot to report.

- The MAIG Draw support fund, owing to lockdown the monthly draw has been postponed until such times lockdown has been lifted. In the meantime, the situation has been posted on MAIG FB page.
- We expect to take delivery of the new Electric Utility vehicle by the end of March and hoped to have it fitted out in time to start watering the 2021 floral displays.
- We are in discussion with Liz Stanyer from Greenspace and Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Dept. to prepare a piece of ground, one of the proposed sites might be the steep bank located opposite the exit/entrance junction at the top of South Road on the A947 in order that we can establish a wild flower display approaching the town from the south. We are also considering planting perennial flowers on the bed at the top of Urquhart Road.
- We expect to take delivery of the Council plug plants towards the end of March for growing on in the Poly tunnel. However, with the reduction in plants available our displays will once again not be so extensive as in past years and display plans are still to be decided.
- With the dismantling of the Christmas Illuminations there are a number of the features requiring maintenance and this will be undertaken in the months ahead.
- Once the Covid restrictions are lifted there are plans to involve schools to take part in planting projects.
- We continue to source funding opportunities for our "Cycling Without Age Project"

Andrew was asked about their new electric tractor. He advised MAIG will have this by the end of March.

Daviot Community Trust

Despite the winter weather, the paths continue to very well used. The drainage system with an extensive soakaway, with an overflow piped to the existing small holding reservoir has now been completed apart from some tidying up. The decision was taken to hire in a contractor as it was unlikely volunteers would have been able to operate with the current Covid restrictions. A very competitive price was obtained and work was

possible despite the snow and frost. However, a lot of repairs to the new path will be necessary once the better weather arrives. This work will be undertaken by our “in-house volunteers” along with further path improvements and general maintenance.

The renovation of the Ram House area is being undertaken by those involved in the Chris Smith Daviot Memorial team with volunteers from the Trust assisting in this fitting and poignant tribute to a local lad whose life was so tragically cut short. The fundraising link and information can be found at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-chris-smith-daviot-memorial/update/26525620/gallery/1> and is worth a look.

Heritage Group

John advised the group has a new web provider. He also said the group are actively looking for new members.

John will send out the new website address to all members.

ACTION JOHN

Meldrum Paths Group

Survey

Report on the survey is 98% complete with the circulation being imminent. Copy will be given to MDBCC this week.

MMW (Oldmeldrum/Daviot/Inverurie Active travel route)

Discussions with Landowners to get updated views are continuing.

Confirm Zero Carbon Daviot Group are to partner with MPG for the Daviot Link.

Plans are in place for the footbridge over the Ury to be built with the path network links with Uryside Park and the B9001 – B9170 link road during summer months of 2021.

The Lethenty road network is being considered with minor road south out of Daviot village part of the initial route.

Community Path Links

Daviot/Oldmeldrum/ Inverurie – see comment in MMW.

Oldmeldrum/Pitmedden/Undy/Tarves - Some Land owners have still to be contacted on their views on a proposed route.

Agri Environment Climate Scheme - Grant application for Public Access.

The rural payment is open again for a short period of time i.e. to 30 June. We have been actively bringing this scheme to Land owners attention.

Copy link below. <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/>

Benview Gardens – Distillery Path.

Repairs being carried out by Tim Wood, Benview Gardens resident are almost complete. Weather has delayed this, we hope to help Tim with material to get this completed in the next 2 weeks.

MPG have made contact with the Distillery Manager and they have committed to repair the path by the pond churned up when accessing to do ground maintenance .

Hand Rail for Foot Bridge on Barra Hill Path

Materials are being purchased for a new cattle “friendly” hand rail to be added to the wooden footbridge.

Active travel route to Denwood from Oldmeldrum

Attended meeting with MBDCC and Woodland Trust to discuss a proposal to develop a walking route from Oldmeldrum to Denwood.

Community E-bike Scheme

A zoom meeting has been arrange with Huntly Development Trust on 1 March to network/share information and the community e-bike scheme they operate at Huntly.

Gordon asked Gary is there are any plans to produce leaflets for paths. Gary advised they did produce a leaflet and are currently working on digital routes.

Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space

Meeting with Aberdeenshire Officers 28 January 2021

A zoom meeting took place on 28 January with representation from Local Council, Landscapes, Growing Strategy, Projects, Community Planning and OGGs. It was an interesting and engaging meeting where there was good exchange ideas, information, knowledge and assistance to start to prepare the platform for a public meeting.

Public Meeting

No date has been set, however we are working to an objective for a public meeting to take place in April to deliver a meaningful proposal. The meeting will mostly likely be held by zoom, however we will wait and see how current covid restrictions develop before confirming.

Sites

Three site options are being considered as part of the proposal investigations for the public meeting.

Bus Forum

Cllr Hassan commented the 240 on a Saturday has currently been withdrawn during covid as the 49 is deemed to be able to cope with the amount of passengers.

A96 Dualling

Gordon commented his view is to make sure that the new junctions are to up standard and that the road transport network to the North and West requires upgrading too.

Concerns were raised regarding the B9170 not having a direct connection and the available route would be through Burghmuir Drive or through Inverurie Town Centre via Inverurie Railway Station.

All members present agreed with the above points. Jan will send them in an email to Billy Gordon of AmeyArup. **ACTION JAN**

Discussion around development at the Glebe, Urquhart Road, Oldmeldrum

Shona advised Jan has sent out our original response for all members to look over as well as the committee report. Shona then asked if all members had had a chance to read the documents and then took a vote on whether our Community Council leaves our objection standing or removes our objection. The vote was 7 for removing our objection and 3 against removing our objection. As 7 votes made a majority Jan will now write to the planning department and remove our objection with immediate effect. **ACTION JAN**

Treasurers Report

Willie emailed round a copy of the current account and the balance as at 23rd February 2021 is £13,365.13

Secretarial Report

Jan reported the following:

- The 5 sets of potholes I reported last month are still not fixed so have reported them today again– 1 on A947 at Newbarns junction, 1 at the top of Distillery road and 3 before turn in to Westend Gardens. I have received an email back about the Newbarns one only so far.
- The meeting with the Woodland Trust, Paths Group and the cc went well on 4th February. It was a very informative and useful meeting. The next steps are for The Woodland Trust and Meldrum Paths Group to make some initial enquiries with landowners and another meeting will be arranged once this has been completed.
- A Community Development webinar takes place on 3rd March run by Audrey Michie. I am booked to attend and if anyone wants to join just let me know and we can book places. This will have more info and a toolkit provided to us. Once we get this we can make time on a future agenda what Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot can offer visitors (for part of the Scotland Loves Local) and any projects we want to try and bring forward using the Community Development toolkit
- Bottle bins and rubbish bins in Baker Street car park overflowing. I contacted Cllr Hassan about this this morning and he has advised they will be emptied Thursday at the latest, sooner if possible.
- Gordon Duncan has advised he would like to become an admin on our facebook page. He was involved with the Fyvie Rothie and Monquihutter page and would like to help boost our page. I have contacted Richard Elliot to ask if Gordon can be added and he can do this if all members are happy. On another matter the council

asked if ccs have a policy in place for websites and social media – Richard is happy to help us write one if we wish.

- The Meldrum Town Centre Regeneration Group was awarded £4000 for funding from the Formartine Area Committee budget towards a feasibility study to produce a Town Centre Plan for Meldrum.

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications for February 2021.

AOCB

Jan advised that Aberdeenshire Council have issued an email advising there will be a review of the Scheme of Establishment. The consultation opened on 17th February and will close on 14th April. They have asked us to review and make any comments we wish. As this is a large document Shona and Jan proposed to do what our cc did last time we had to review this. That was set up a sub group of 4 or 5 members to meet one evening to go through this document. The notes from that meeting will be circulated around the whole cc prior to the next meeting (23rd March) and we can then draw up a response should we wish to. All members present agreed to this. Jan, Shona, Gordon and James will make the sub-committee and Jan will send the notes out. **ACTION JAN**

Yvonne asked if the money from the Town Centre Regeneration Group could be used to erect the finger post signage. The Cllrs present confirmed it could not as the money requires to be spent on what it was allocated for.

John stated there is a rather large pothole developing on the A947 close to Kirk Brae junction. Yvonne said she walks past every day and it has now been fixed.

Date and time of next meeting

27th April 2021 at 7.00pm online via Zoom