

## **Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**7.00pm**

**Online Zoom Meeting**

**CC Members Present:** - Shona Presly, Jan Chalmers, Willie Sinclair, John Pirie, Stuart Singer, James Milton, Yvonne Oliver, Alistair Massey, Jeff Goodhall and Nicola Currie

**Apologies:** - Lloyd Duncan

**Members of Public:** - Murray Tennant, Gordon Duncan, Gary Oliver

**Councillors:** Cllr Hassan, Cllr Johnston and Cllr Gifford

**Police:** None

Shona began by advising everyone Simon Kilkerr has stepped down as a community councillor. Shona thanked Simon for his hard work during his time on the council and wished him all the best.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Shona reminded all members that if an item is brought into discussions through the evening that they feel a declaration of interest is required please ensure it is stated. No other declarations of interests were given.

### **Co-Option of New Member**

The members present had previously received information from Gordon Duncan requesting to join our community council. Members were asked in turn to vote on the request by Shona. 8 members present voted for and 1 member voted against. Shona welcomed Gordon to our community council.

### **Minutes of October 2020**

Proposed: Yvonne Oliver

Seconded: John Pirie

### **Matters Arising**

Jan went through all matters arising from the previous minutes.

It was noted that some of our meetings are becoming longer and it was agreed once again that all community groups should email their reports to

Jan 1 week in advance of the meeting so these can be circulated prior to the meeting taking place **ACTION ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Stuart commented it might be a good idea to send all questions to the chair or secretary prior to the meeting after reading reports.

Cllr Johnston said there is no further update on the status of the town hall repairs. James suggested that our community council keeps making enquiries on this and it was agreed to should be placed on our statement of outstanding business. **ACTION JAN**

Cllr Johnston advised there was a ward meeting today and the plans for upgrading the old sports pavilion were passed. He confirmed work is scheduled to start in the next few weeks however things may change due to covid-19.

Jan and Shona advised they are looking into funding options to help with setting up a group for keeping Meldrum tidy. They will report back on their findings at the next meeting. **ACTION JAN/SHONA**

Shona advised we are waiting on 3 quotes arriving for the erection of the finger post signs. It was noted we do not have funding to pay for this just now. Stuart suggested we ask local businesses or individuals for sponsorship of them. It was also suggested we ask the Formartine Rural Partnership for help with sourcing funding. Jan and Shona will look into this. **ACTION JAN/SHONA**

Willie advised he met with Ian Daniels and Nicola regarding the church annexe car park. Ian has advised they can give road planings but not tar. Ian also confirmed he is open to the redesigning of the car park. Nicola is going to look into get a group of volunteers together to do the work hopefully in spring. Nicola and Willie will keep us updated on any developments. **ACTION WILLIE/NICOLA**

### **Statement of Outstanding Business**

Jan advised there was nothing new to report from the statement.

### **Police Report**

No report provided. Jan read out the following answer from PC Loughhead regarding the speeding issue on the A947

Thank you for your email and query. We have previously been made aware of speeding issues and unfortunately it is a common theme across our Policing area. Roads Policing Officers have recently carried out patrols in Oldmeldrum and were in fact there today.

I will pass on the concerns to the other Sergeants in the area with a view to having Officers in the area where other calls allow.

### **Members of the public**

A discussion was held around this community council paying for the electric costs of the defib on Daviot Estate. Murray Tennant confirmed that money the group has sitting to pay for electric would be transferred to the cc so we could just use the money to pay the bill. The amount to pay each month is £3.18 and Murray advised there are enough funds to cover 8 year's worth of electric currently. Murray also advised the group is willing to continue to fundraise to support the electric costs and the pads and batteries for this defib. James asked if the Daviot Hall would consider taking on the electric costs. Nicola advised the committee there haven't met for over a year due to covid.

Willie agreed to speak to the electric company about this and report back to us at the next meeting. **ACTION WILLIE**

Andrew McCartney advised he witnessed a near accident at the corner of Kirk Brae and Albert Road. As an HGV was parked in the layby obstructing the view, he suggested that the part of the layby closest to Kirk Brae should not be accessible to HGV's for parking.

Jan to contact Ian Daniels to ask if no HGV parking could be painted on the road. **ACTION JAN**

Nicola advised the bottle bank at the hall in Daviot is overflowing again and now the front of the car park is full with bottles. Nicola asked if it was possible they can have confirm the bottle bank will be emptied every week as it is often missed. Cllr Hassan agreed to raise this.

**ACTION CLLR HASSAN**

Jan advised she has been approached by some members of the public concerned that our bank machine within the little square is still not working. It has not been working since March. Cllr Johnston advised Jan to write to the Clydesdale Bank head office and provided the address. Jan will do this. **ACTION JAN**

### **Reports from Elected Members**

Cllr Hassan advised us that he and Cllr Adam were on the interview panel for the new head teacher at Meldrum Primary.

## **MAIG**

Andrew McCartney emailed the following report -

The MAIG team have been busy recently removing the summer displays and replacing the town square & Urquhart road containers with spring flowering pansies. Also, the Urquhart Road bed summer flowers have been removed and planted out with spring flowering plants.

We are replacing all our half barrel wood containers with plastic containers which are much lighter and more manageable for our increasing elderly volunteers. As a result we are selling off our half wooden barrels for the bargain price of £10.

As a result of Aberdeenshire Council's cut backs in supporting the communities with summer plants, we are adapting to these changes. As a result we are endeavouring to retain and winter store all the Begonia tubors.

In order that we have the correct management conditions to grow the tubors the maintenance team have been very busy these last few weeks designing

and manufacturing capillary platforms in the Polytunnels to enable us to bring on the Begonias for next year's planting.

The Christmas illuminations will go up on Sunday 29th. November starting at 7am and will come down on Sunday 3rd. January starting at 7am. Any assistance for carrying out these tasks will be very welcome. Normally the Golf Club would donate the community Christmas tree however, this year the Kirk session are allowing us to remove a tree from the old Manse and this task will be carried out on Wednesday of this week.

Because of the present Covaid restrictions as previously announced there will no public switch on event this year. As a result there will be no opportunity to raise funds. Normally public donations at this event make a contribution towards the upkeep of the Illuminations.

However, we are very grateful to all those who support MAIG operations through the "Friends of MAIG" monthly draw and others who donate in

kind over the year – it is very much appreciated. New Members are always welcome.

War Memorial - We continue to manage the timing for the floodlighting of the War Memorial. The maintenance fund for any repairs required stands at £84 and is held as a separate item in the MAIG accounts. The partners in this funding are the Community Council, British Legion, Sports Committee & MAIG with church covering the energy costs. We take this opportunity to thank staff members of Glengarioch Distillery who recently carried out power washing of the Memorial and it now shines out in tribute to the Glorious dead.

We continue to research funding for our current project “Cycling Without Age”

We currently have an application submitted to Foundation Scotland’s Response Recovery Resilience Fund and if successful will endorse a significant contribution towards the total cost of establishing the Oldmeldrum Chapter Cycling Without Age. We are hopeful that The Academy YPI team will become involved and that other organisations will eventually contribute to funding for this very worthwhile project which will make such a difference to our elderly and those with limited ability and help to reduce isolation.

Shona stated she had noticed when putting notices into our noticeboard there haven’t been any results from the MAIG lottery draw. Andrew advised he would contact the relevant person and about and ensure the results were published in the noticeboard in future.

**ACTION ANDREW MCCARTNEY**

### **Daviot Community Trust**

Willie emailed through the following report –

Regular Saturday Work Parties have stopped for the winter months but a few of the directors still find some jobs to do such as fixing up storage units and adding a small mezzanine floor area in the new Maintenance Facility building.

There is also an ongoing task to put in a drainage system to prevent further path damage by the exceptional rain storms such as was experienced in July to October. This caused a lot of damage to the newly completed Chestnut Walk Path and repairs had to be effected on three occasions.

A gate is being erected to prevent unauthorised dumping in a developed area across the driveway from the Maintenance Facility as the Trust cannot risk the dumping of undesirable materials and the potential of costly remedial work.

The Trust entered “Paths for All” 2020 Awards competition in the Team category but alas did not win this time around but all the regular volunteers received certificates in recognition of their hard work for the community. Those will be handed out when we can have a proper meeting.

A number of Testimonials have been received from members of the public acknowledging they have found the paths network of tremendous benefit during the Coronavirus restrictions.

## **DAIG**

Nicola emailed the following report –

We are currently running an online Christmas craft fair which have proven to be a great success, we have already raised over £800. This has also been a great opportunity for local crafters to showcase their products.

We have successfully managed to get a Christmas tree from ACRO Trees we are awaiting a collection date. No switch on event but it will still be nice to see the tree in place.

We plan to order 1 bit of play equipment for the park in January with all the funds we have raised over the last 2 years and look forward to that as it will show what everyone’s efforts have gone to.

## **Meldrum Paths Group**

Gary advised Redhouse Farms are now going to be meeting some of the costs to repair the Redhouse Track and the remaining balance that is required they would like to apply for through the Formartine Rural Grant. Gary asked for the community council’s support with this. They would be

applying for £480.00. 8 members present voted to support this and 1 member voted against this.

Jan will write a letter of support and email to Gary to attach to their application.

**ACTION JAN**

### COMMUNITY GROWING SPACE UPDATE

Gary advised things are progressing with the community growing space and he will have more information hopefully for our next meeting.

**ACTION GARY OLIVER**

### Treasurers Report

Willie Advised the balance as at 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 is £10,254.13.

Shona advised the members that she has visited the Meldrum Food bank and there is lots of hard work going on there. Shona advised they have submitted their application to the resilience fund for funds and asked if a cllr present could advised how long the money would take to arrive with them should they be successful. Cllr Gifford advised it should be with them within a few days if their application fits the criteria.

A lengthy discussion was held around donating some money to the Meldrum Food bank and it was decided that we would request the cheque that we sent to the Aberdeenshire North Food bank back then ask Louise Wilson for an update on the Meldrum Food bank in January. We can look at making a donation then if need be as it was felt the need might be greater then.

Shona will ask Louise for an update prior to our next meeting.

**ACTION SHONA**

### Secretarial Report

Jan advised she has received an email from the Woodland Trust regarding development works at Den Wood. Jan suggested we hold a short informal meeting via zoom next week for any cc member who is interested and include the paths group. All members present agreed. Jan will send out the information along with a date for the meeting to everyone.

**ACTION JAN**

Jan also advised Ian Daniels has confirmed he has raised a works order for the bollard at the corner of Kirk Brae to be replaced.

## **Planning Report**

John gave a report on the planning applications for November 2020.

## **CC Forum**

Shona emailed the following report -

Andrew McIntyre, Principal Landscape Services Officer, was the guest speaker.

Andrew said he felt his department was on top of things in the Formartine area. Town centres had been spruced up, they had just about finished grass cutting and now it was Winter maintenance. He stressed a lot of his staff were now helping with Waste Services – everyone was pulling together as a result of the present situation. Burials have been a difficult time because of Covid-19. He thanked those who have had to deal with the restrictions and extra duties.

The coming year will be mainly influenced by resources and budget allocations. He hopes to give the service his department has previously provided. Teams have been able, and hope to continue to – Spray weeds. Playgrounds – inspect, repair and carry out essential work to keep them safe. Provide annual bedding but it will be reduced. Litter /dog bin emptying will be the same as currently provided. Beaches will continue to receive the same care but most things depend on budgets and resources. Andrew feels there will be a strain on everyone next year.

He mentioned Haddo Country Park. There are plans to allow it to be more natural in appearance. Feedback from user groups seems to be positive about the management there and with this more natural look. Balmedie Country Park was also mentioned.

There was some discussion on plants for communities next year – 1500 for larger communities, 1000 for medium and 500 for smaller ones.

It was also suggested that Landscape Services should tell communities what they cannot provide and carry out then local helpers/groups could do the work instead in allocated areas. Training could be needed for some jobs, insurance cover and possibly PPE. Andrew thought this was something that could be looked into. Taking pride in our towns and villages was put forward. Elaine Brown might liaise with communities to find out what they might be willing to take on.

There was no Police Scotland update. A better way to receive ward reports is being looked into. Turnover of staff is causing problems for the police. Sending reports to councillors through area office is one possibility being looked into.

Elaine Brown gave us a Covid -19 update. In challenging times premises are being appropriately staffed and cleaned. Most are working from home. She is working with Rural Partnership and The Red Cross will be available if needed to support communities. The Resilience Fund is still available and a Government Food Fund too. Staff are still being deployed to other services and if there is another Coronavirus spike, the council will be ready.

November 19th - first results on the review of The Scheme of Establishment will be considered at full council. November 11th Formartine Partnership's grant funding opened up.

Sam Rawlins from The Community Planning Partnership Group stated there now is an online page for each Community Council. Agendas and minutes can be seen.

### **AOCB**

Shona asked for member's approval for a card and small gift to send to David Clare as he has stepped down from our council. All members present agreed. Jan and Shona will organise this.

**ACTION JAN/SHONA**

It was noted that one of the car charging points isn't working in the Baker Street Car Park. Cllr Hassan advised this has been reported.

### **Date and time of next meeting**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00pm online via Zoom