

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 27th April 2021

7.00pm

Online Zoom Meeting

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

Apologies: - None

Members of Public: - Gary Oliver and Andrew McCartney

Councillors: Cllr Hassan, Cllr Johnston and Cllr Gifford

Police: None

Declarations of Interest

None given

Minutes of March 2021

Proposed: Stuart Singer

Seconded: John Pirie

Matters Arising

Shona began by advising all present that Lloyd Duncan has stepped down from this Community Council. Shona commented we wished to thank Lloyd for his hard work during his time on the Community Council mentioning his time as a vice chair and all the work he did on the community action plan.

Jan went through all matters arising from the last minutes.

Andrew McCartney confirmed he will get some quotes for the proposed new plaque in the community garden and report back to us when he has this information.

ACTION ANDREW MCCARTNEY

James advised he will arrange the Coat of Arms committee meeting as soon as possible and he has been in touch with other communities for information on how they promote their Coat of Arms. **ACTION JAMES**

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan advised there is nothing new to report from the statement this month.

Police Report

The police report for March was emailed to all members. There were no questions on this report.

Members of the public

Andrew McCartney asked if the silt that is lying on the bypass can be removed by Aberdeenshire Council. The Cllrs present agreed to ask for this. **ACTION CLLRS**

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Johnston advised ISC committee will be discussing the Direct Response Transport at their next meeting and asked us to forward any comments we may have on this. Shona advised we have this topic to discuss under AOCB.

Cllr Hassan stated the recent Green Growing Space was an excellent meeting and he is looking forward to seeing how things progress.

The following reports were received from the community groups:

MAIG

The ladies have been extremely busy over the past 2 weeks transferring the summer plug plants into their growing pots. Although there is heating in the Polytunnel nevertheless with frosty nights we have had to cover the plants with protection fleece. We are still waiting delivery of the final 400 plants.

The next stage will involve planting the plants into their summer containers targeting to put them out on display in early June. We are

always looking for extra help at this busy time of the year and volunteers are always welcome.

We have experienced further delays with our new EV Utility truck due to the slow processing by the DVLA. However, we have been told we should receive the logbook by next week, once we receive the logbook arrangements are in place to have the vehicle delivered to Meldrum and have it fitted out with the watering equipment.

Total funding for our project Cycling Without Age is now in place and arrangements for the Trishaw and its accessories will be delivered on Saturday 8th May. At this point the Pilots will go through their training. Currently we have 10 volunteers who wish to be trained. If anyone would like to be a volunteer Pilot, they should get in touch with Sheena Clarke sheenaw@btinternet.com who is the Chapter Captain (co-ordinator) For further details visit our Facebook Cycling Without Age Scotland Oldmeldrum. The public launch for the Oldmeldrum Chapter will take place on Saturday 5th June in Market Square.

Due to the restriction throughout the whole of last year it was not possible to use the new facilities of the Oldmeldrum Petanque club. However now that play is now possible those who are interested in playing Petanque 2 sessions per week are planned, starting on Thursday 29th April and every Thursday thereafter until the Autumn starting at 7 pm also on Saturday afternoons starting at 2 pm. If the Golf club car park is busy Petnaque players should park in the Church car park particularly on Saturday afternoons. For UpToDate Petanque info visit the MAIG Facebook page.

Owing to the current restrictions it has not been possible to carry out the monthly MAIG Draw support fund. However, the draw was made on Saturday 24th April for January, February, March and April with a total of 28 lucky numbers enjoying a total prize money of £1000.

Andrew McCartney commented the launch for the Trishaw will be 5th June and he encouraged everyone to come along. He also confirmed the litter pick will now be on 14th May.

DAIG

We had our first DAIG meeting of the year on Tues 6th. We discussed what we wanted to work towards for the year and what fundraising we plan to do.

We will be holding our annual flower pot competition again this year, its going to have an upcycle theme this time.

We have also decided we will run our Christmas fair this year providing we have no further restrictions. We will try to have a large part of the event outside this time.

We have ordered our new picnic bench for the park and that will hopefully be in place in a couple of weeks.

We discussed the car park in the village in the hope to get some volunteers to help with the upgrade of the area. There was a good bit of interest.

We have also discussed looking into a winter plan for the future getting volunteers etc this is ongoing.

Daviot Community Trust

Repairs to the new path and other paths is now well under way with the better weather over the last week-ends. This work is being undertaken by our “in-house volunteers” along with general maintenance and improvements. Three new volunteers have been welcomed and it is hoped more will join the list.

As previously mentioned, 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. This is now underway with the old roof having been removed and replaced by new one last week and other connected works will soon follow. 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 as various pictures are shown.

The Trust was offered around sixty young trees from a house development area that was being cleared at Kirkdale Nursery and those were planted last Saturday at various areas around the Trust land.

Heritage Society

John advised the society has three new members.

Meldrum Paths Group

MMW (Oldmeldrum/Daviot/Inverurie Active travel route)

Plans to delivery the footpath from Inverurie to the link road by summer 2021 continue to be worked on.

Communications are ongoing with Landowners to get a solution for agreement for a path from Lethenty to the link road.

Survey of the Lethenty /Daviot Road network for dual access (motorised and pedestrian) will not take place until agreement has been reached with the Lethenty to Link road path.

We welcome the path David and Sarah Stephen have created from North Main of Barra to Barra Castle.

Community Path Links

Daviot/Oldmeldrum/ Inverurie – see comment in MMW.

Oldmeldrum/Pitmedden/Undy/Tarves - Initial discussions with land owners are still in progress

Barra Hill Path

Landowner has erected signs closing the path to 31 May for lambing. Banister on foot bridge has still be put in place.

Red House Farm Track

A gate has been erected across the track by the Land Owner to prevent vehicle access.

Active travel route to Denwood from Oldmeldrum

Three land owners have been contacted. Positive response from one, no reply for one, awaiting feedback from another. Suggest MDBCC reconvene the group meeting to raise focus.

Community E-bike Scheme

A run the trial with 2 cycles for 4 weeks ending 25 April which was a tremendous success with the bikes were booked for 100% use. Plans are being considered on how to mov this project to the next stage. A big thanks to Richard Elliott who co-ordinated the trial, and to Huntly Development Trust who supplied the bikes.

The bikes have been passed onto Zero Carbon Daviot for them to run a 4 week trial.

Meldrum House Estate Access

There has been further feedback the letter of acknowledgement.

It is disappointing the east entry track which is used by walkers, cyclists, and horse riders has been blocked off with a wire fence.

Walk routes around Oldmedrum

Initial ideas to revamp an electronic leaflet of walks and cycle routes in our area is being worked on.

Gary advised Meldrum Paths Group would like to request this Community Council writes a letter of support backing them with the issue they have with Meldrum House Estate Access. The members present felt it wasn't something they wanted to do at the moment. Shona stated the Paths Group could continue to keep us updated on the situation.

Treasurers Report

Willie emailed round a copy of the current account and the balance as at 27th April 2021 is £13,330.13. Willie pointed out that £6500 is the Town Centre Regeneration Group's money and this will be moved out of our account as soon as they get their bank account up and running.

Secretarial Report

Jan began by reading out the following from William Lippe Architects regarding Chapelpark:

The site for the parking hub was not accepted by aberdeenshire council as part of the section 75 agreement related to the housing development at chapel park

Aberdeenshire council wanted the site handed over to them with a clear title, whereas we wanted it to have a restriction that it could only be used for a parking hub for benefit of community

There were also requirements for the developer to have a wayleave through the site for sewers and surface water drains and services; should that be required

We were therefore unable to agree details with council as once handed over, there was no restriction as to what the council could do with the land;

At present, our client has an agreement with scotia to occupy the area allocated for the parking hub , with their site huts and compound during the construction of the housing development, which I understand is a three year licence commencing April 2021, to occupy

However, once this is concluded , the site can revert to our original proposal of a transport hub

If council are not in a position to do this, then our client is suggesting that this be handed over to the community, either the community council or a community trust / charitable organization who could then deliver the hub

and it may be that by 2023/24 , the council will be in a position to help fund this type of project

Being a community group / trust / charity also opens up the possibility of raising funds from other sources; eg planning obligations, central government / public transport funds and these would all require to be explored

As stated, it has always been our clients wish to give over this piece of ground for the benefit of the community.

Jan then went on to explain she had a call from the Transport Team at Aberdeenshire Council. They have stated they are progressing well with another landowner and are hoping to have information to present to us at our May or June meeting.

Stuart asked if this new landowner is handing over land for a hub in return for a planning deal. Cllr Johnston advised this was improper to suggest this and advised it will be made clear that this cannot happen again in Oldmeldrum.

Cllr Gifford advised a CPO on the hub land at Chapelpark wasn't available to the Council. He also advised that the Council couldn't accept the conditions proposed by the landowner at Chapelpark as there were two pages of them, none of which were acceptable.

Jan put forward the suggestion that this Community Council waits until we have the Aberdeenshire Council presentation so we can view both proposals side and side and make a fair and balanced decision. All members present agreed with this.

Planning Report

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

John asked if these new applications for Meldrum House are full planning applications. Cllr Johnston advised they were material applications.

John advised Formartine Area Committee met today and there are various grants now available. All the information is online and he encouraged anyone looking for funding to take a look.

John also advised the LDP has now been sent to the reporter in Edinburgh and they have advised examination will take between 6-9 months.

Shona advised she and Jan met with Bob Edwards and Gregor Davidson to hear the new plans for Meldrum House Estate housing. Shona advised

they informed us there will now be 75% fewer trees being felled with this new plan, the old slaughterhouse and ice house will now be preserved and there will be no houses up the main drive now. Jan advised she would send the minutes of the meeting along with the briefing note and master plan received from Bob Edwards. Jan also stated she would contact the Developer Obligation Team to request the amount of Community Facility money so we, as a CC, can start to think of projects for the town. Andrew McCartney asked if the same level of Developer Obligations was applied for Meldrum House as it was for the Glebe. Cllr Johnston advised each development is taken on its own merit so it could be different.

ACTION JAN

AOCB

The subject of street names for the Glebe was discussed and it was decided by the members present we would like to put forward the following:

Glebe Park

Glebe Avenue

Thomson Way

Jan will email these through to Aberdeenshire Council **ACTION JAN**

Shona asked if any member present had any queries or comments on the email she sent out regarding roles and responsibilities. No members present made any comments.

John asked if anyone from the press has recently asked to attend a meeting as this used to be a common occurrence. Jan advised she has only been contacted a couple of times for comments and has always declined. She confirmed she has never been asked by someone from a newspaper to attend one of our meetings.

Cllr Johnston stated he has no update on the Town Hall yet but will hopefully have this for the next meeting.

ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON

Nicola stated Matthew Clubb from Zero Carbon Daviot would like to come along to one of our meetings. Nicola will send Matthew's details to Jan for her to set up a meeting that Matthew can attend.

ACTION NICOLA/JAN

Shona asked who will maintain the Wildflower area at the NRC roundabout that has been proposed by Aberdeenshire Council. The Cllrs present advised this would be Aberdeenshire Council themselves.

A discussion was held around Direct Responsive Transport to ascertain any views to send to Cllr Johnston ahead of the ISC meeting. Yvonne asked if they would be wheelchair accessible. Cllr Johnston advised most of them are. Some members raised concerns about getting to appointments on time. It was also suggested that an evening service would be beneficial.

Gordon asked if there was any update on the Scheme of Establishment. Cllr Gifford advised there is a special meeting about this at Full Council on Thursday.

Yvonne asked if we have to write into the constitution that we use zoom for our meeting just now. No one present knew so Jan will ask area office.

ACTION JAN

Nicola asked if the Cllrs knew why the school meals are now reduced portions. Cllr Gifford advised the Council are following the procedure that has been set by the Government.

Andrew McCartney asked Jan to liaise with him next week to get a time set for the village orderly to collect the barrow from the poly tunnel

ACTION JAN

John asked if anyone knew why there are 2 signs stating Barra Hill is closed. One is handmade and one is from NFU. Gary Oliver explained one cannot close a core path without permission and this requires to be given by an access officer. Gary thought the 2 signs were both placed there by the Stephen family.

Stuart asked if there had been any more correspondence from Barra regarding their planning application. Jan advised we have received nothing as yet.

Date and time of next meeting

25th May 2021 at 7.00pm online via Zoom