

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 23rd March 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, Nick Forbes and Lloyd Duncan

Apologies: - James Milton and Alastair Massey

Members of Public: - Gary Oliver, Andrew McCartney, Kaye Cowie and Irene Dunbar

Councillors: Cllr Hassan and Cllr Gifford

Police: None

Declarations of Interest

Nicola advised she has a business in the same retail park as TJ's however the members present were content with Nicola taking part in discussions surrounding this item.

Jan declared an interest in the CLAN lighthouse discussion scheduled for AOCB and advised she would leave the room and would not take part in discussions.

Minutes of February 2021

Proposed: Yvonne Oliver

Seconded: Gordon Duncan

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the last minutes.

The members present discussed writing to the Chapelpark landowner regarding the area of land that was promised to be gifted to the community. Jan advised Willie Lippe had contacted her to advise the landowner along with Lippe Architects wishes to put some info and potentially a proposal to us in writing before our next meeting. The members present therefore decided to wait until we received this information before proceeding with writing a letter to the landowner.

The slowing measure in Daviot was again brought up and the cllrs present were asked for any update. They advised there is no update at the moment so it was agreed this would be moved to our statement of outstanding business so we can continue to follow it up.

ACTION JAN

James was unable to attend this meeting so it was agreed we will ask him for a Coat of Arms Committee update at the April meeting.

ACTION JAMES

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan advised Ian Jackson has replied. It was agreed to move this to the completed business report but to keep an eye on the protocols at the Academy as time goes on.

Police Report

There is no current police report uploaded to the online portal for members to view.

Members of the public

Gordon Duncan asked if the forms to apply to become a community council member this year will be available online. Cllr Gifford advised they will be.

Kaye Cowie asked if there is any update on the widening of the Methlick road. Cllr Gifford advised it is still being negotiated but the Council will compulsory purchase order if need be and hopefully the work will be able to be completed ASAP.

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Gifford informed us the application for 37 houses at the Glebe, Urquhart Road was passed at area committee today and commented he is hopeful we will see some building there soon.

Cllr Hassan informed us the Scheme of Establishment documents were discussed at the recent area committee meeting. He also added there is now going to be some flexibility in planning application fees for community councils.

The following reports were received from the community groups:

MAIG

- We have been unable to announce the monthly winners of the MAIG support draw fund for January & February because of the current restrictions. However, it is hoped that with the easing of restrictions that the draw will be made on Saturday 27th. March including the March Draw. We currently have 116 members. Anyone wishing to support MAIG activities and participate in the monthly draws can do so by applying to Bill Duncan email billduncan1925@gmail.com. The cost is only £1 per week. Without this support from members of the public our activities in the town would be severely restricted.

- As previously reported our electric truck will be delivered by the end of the month.

Quotes have been obtained and application for grant funding has been submitted to instal Solar Panels on our building at the MAIG site. If successful this will enable us to charge the new EV from Solar energy. In addition, the solar power will also enable us to run our propagation beds which are used to propagate our recycled Begonia tubers and cuttings.

By fitting solar panels MAIG will be assisting in some small measure to contribute to Aberdeenshire Council's Sustainability Charter Action Programme which is targeted to be a carbon neutral organisation in the short to medium term and for the whole of Aberdeenshire to be carbon neutral by 2030.

- Our Cycling Without Age programme to establish a Chapter in Oldmeldrum is progressing well, and I am pleased to announce that the application to the Ballie Gifford Community Fund which is managed by Foundation Scotland has been successful with an award for £5000. We await the outcome for two further applications to the Princes Trust & the Robertson Trust, successful applications are due to be announced in the next few weeks. I am pleased to report that Sheens Clarke has kindly agreed to manage this project on behalf of MAIG. We already have a number of volunteers who wish to become Pilots and I hope that full funding will take place shortly and we are able to start Pilot training and carrying out disclosure certificates by June.

- You might have noticed that we have planted further containers in the Square to complement our barrier containers with spring flowers which

will give a bit of colour during the next few weeks. We expect to take delivery of the Councils plug plants shortly.

· William Forsyth born in Oldmeldrum on 1737 was an important botanist, a founder of the RHS, spent time as Head Gardener of the Chelsea Physic Garden, and a spell at St James's Palace. He received a gift from the then King for saving English Oaks, essential for making warships, from a killer disease with his 'plaister' which included a measure of cow dung. As most will recall we entered the town in the "Keep Scotland Beautiful" for the 2019 season and were awarded Silver Gilt and won the Rose bowl for the best new entrant. We believe we failed to attain the Gold award as the judge dropped a number of points because there were no Forsythia bushes in our William Forsyth Community Garden! As a result, MAIG in conjunction with the Rotary club are about create part of the Garden dedicated to William Forsyth by identifying and planting and identifying all catalogued species of Forsythia. We hope that this will become a focal area to highlight the valuable contribution William Forsyth to this country and further afield as a botanist. The heritage society have suitably recognized other local born celebrities in the town by mounting plaques to commemorate their lives. Would the Community Council Consider sponsoring a similar plaque which would be sighted in the garden once the proposed work has been carried.

· MAIG, providing there are no limiting restrictions are proposing to have a Community litter pick on Saturday 1st May meeting at the Meadows veterinary centre at 9.30 am. All community organisations will be invited to assist with their volunteers. We hope that the community Council will be able to employ a town orderly this year. In the meantime, we hope that Aberdeenshire Council will deploy a deep clean programme very soon as the street kerbs and pavements are becoming very unsightly.

Andrew McCartney advised there is an amendment to the report. The Community Garden will now be the starting point for the litter pick on 1st May.

Andrew also advised the group is around £2000 short currently for their cycling without age project and he commented they are still looking for anyone to help with the cycling project. Anyone over 16 can volunteer and all training will be given.

Shona asked Andrew if MAIG know the cost the plaque will be. Andrew advised they didn't but he would find out more info for our April meeting.

ACTION ANDREW MCCARTNEY

DAIG

Finally we have confirmed the order of a toddler play frame. It will be installed in the park in the next 7 to 10 weeks and is all confirmed and agreed with Aberdeenshire council. We had a meeting with Oliver Deeming who was very helpful with moving this forward. We will also order a picnic bench through the council very soon for the park.

We have an Easter raffle starting soon we hope to raise funds to help towards a picnic bench.

We will hold an online meeting in April. A new group has started in Daviot called Zero Carbon Daviot and DAIG hope to be able to support and help with this fantastic new initiative for the village.

Meldrum Paths Group

Survey

Survey report is complete copy on MPG Facebook page and on attachment.

MMW (Oldmeldrum/Daviot/Inverurie Active travel route)

Final details to deliver the footpath from Inverurie to the B9001-B9170 by summer 2021 are progressing well.

Discussions have taken place with 90% of the Land Owners to get an updated on their views.

MPG and Zero Carbon Daviot Group are actively working together in the objective to the communities request for active travel route between Oldmeldrum/Daviot and Inverurie.

It has been proposed Lethenty road network and the back south road out of Daviot is surveyed for to make them shared access status roads.

Community Path Links

Daviot/Oldmeldrum/ Inverurie – see comment in MMW.

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

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. Unaware if any Land Owners who have made any applications <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/>

Hand Rail for Foot Bridge on Barra Hill Path

Hand rail still to be installed.

Active travel route to Denwood from Oldmeldrum

Three land owners have been contacted. Positive response from one, no reply or feedback received to date from others.

Community E-bike Scheme

Positive outcome from meeting with Huntly Development Trust on 1 March in that we have in our possession 2 x e-bikes for an 8 week pilot trial from HDT for anyone in the community to book and use. Details will be released to the public by Fri 2 April of how to book a bike/s. Going forward an idea is being worked on which will involve teaming up with neighbouring communities to prove the facility “under one umbrella” for service and maintenance but issue and return locally.

Meldrum House Estate Access

There has been some recent exchange of communication with regard a kamoot posting on MPGs facebook page of a walk through Meldrum House Estate and perceived access issues. Proposed suggestions to overcome the access issues have been forwarded to MHE. This has been acknowledged by the owners of the estate no feedback has been given to date.

Walk routes in the Areas

Initial ideas to revamp an electronic leaflet of walks and cycle routes in our area have taken place and will be worked on.

Cllr Hassan commented that he wished to commend the work Meldrum Paths Group are doing.

Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space

Survey

A survey has gone out with help for Aberdeenshire Council to gauge interest in allotments (green growing space) for Oldmeldrum, and if people are willing to get involved.

50 have replied to date

42 interest in an allotment
5 maybe in interested in an allotment
12 willing to help in the set up.
14 maybe interested in getting involved in the set up.

Public Meeting

A provisional date of Wed 21 April has been set for a Public Meeting (by zoom).

Sites

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

Scheme of Establishment

Shona asked if all members present have managed to read the changes proposed and the information the sub group wishes to send to the Council from our community council. All members present confirmed they had and all voted in favour of sending this information to the council. Jan will send this via email. **ACTION JAN**

Treasurers Report

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

Secretarial Report

Jan reported the following:

- The Meldrum Skatepark Group is now resurrected and we are in the process of drawing up a constitution and changing the signatories on the original bank account. We will then submit our funding applications. Jan will report back information on this as it progresses.
- Jan confirmed the Town Centre Regeneration Group has now got Nick Wright of Nick Wright Planning on board to begin work on a

town centre plan for Meldrum. He will begin work ASAP. The group is using some of the money from the Phoenix fund as well as the Area Committee Town Centre fund to pay for this work.

- Jan advised she was contacted by some members of the public about the Stitch House café offering alcohol from 26th April and they didn't think they have an alcohol license. Jan contacted our LSO who advised there is no license in place currently however they have been in talks with the Stitch House and they may be an application being submitted soon.

Planning Report

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

A discussion was then held around Planning Application APP/2021/0471 Alterations to Vehicular Access at Barra Berries Farm and Cafe Shop. All members present felt if Aberdeenshire Council Roads department have concerns about the safety then our community council should be taking notice of this and agree with the professionals therefore all members present voted to object to this application on this basis. Jan will write a letter to the Planning department and email to them.

ACTION JAN

AOCB

A discussion was held around a licence application for TJ's Pizza. The majority of members present voted to support this application. Jan will write a letter to the planning department and email to them.

ACTION JAN

Shona asked if Gordon was involved in writing any of the social media policies Richard Elliot is helping to write for us. Gordon replied he wasn't but would contact Richard about it.

ACTION GORDON

Gordon asked if he could post the community council agendas and minutes onto our Facebook page. The members present agreed for agendas to be posted on the page and a link to the website to view the minutes.

ACTION GORDON

Shona asked for members approval to place a notice in the notice board and on Facebook asking for volunteers for weeding and general tidying within the town. All members present agreed

Andrew McCartney asked if we could request another deep clean as we have always had in previous years. Jan will request this. **ACTION JAN**

Cllr Johnston advised the Demand Responsive Transport pilot project will go ahead and Inverurie is the chosen town. This will affect Meldrum and Daviot too so advised us to look out for information on this.

Members present asked Cllr Johnston if there is any update on the town hall. Cllr Johnston advised he has spoken with Trevor Morgan recently and urgent works are required. A report will be made available to the community council and all Cllrs soon and hopefully the work will be completed fairly quickly.

Nicola asked if there is any update on the defib at Daviot Estate. Willie advised he is still waiting on more information from SSE.

Jan left the room to allow the discussions to take place around the financial support requested for the CLAN lighthouse to be sited in the square. The members present voted to gift £200 to the cause.

Date and time of next meeting

25th May 2021 at 7.00pm online via Zoom