

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

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**

**7.00pm**

**Online Zoom Meeting**

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

**Apologies:** - Nick Forbes

**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 April 2021**

Proposed: John Pirie

Seconded: Yvonne Oliver

Shona began by advising Nicola Currie has resigned from this community council. We wish to thank Nicola for her hard work and dedication over the last few years.

## **Matters Arising**

Jan went through all matters arising from the last minutes.

Andrew McCartney confirmed the cost for the new plaque in the community garden is £405.00 including VAT. Andrew advised they are currently waiting on a reply from a funding application for this and will keep us updated.

Jan will continue to follow up on the Developer Obligations info from Meldrum House development. **ACTION JAN**

Cllr Johnston advised there is no further update on the Town Hall.

Cllr Hassan advised Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department has advised the speed hump on South Road is deemed as low priority and won't be fixed anytime soon. Cllr Hassan encouraged all members and members of the public to keep reporting it online.

Cllr Gifford confirmed the cllrs will speak about the path to Barra Castle and the speed hump at their ward meeting which is a week today and he will update up at our August meeting. **ACTION CLLR GIFFORD**

Jan, Shona and Gordon are going to arrange a meeting to discuss the emergency plan.

Jan has sent through the Tidy Village proposals for Meldrum and Daviot to Jan McRobbie.

### **Statement of Outstanding Business**

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

### **Police Report**

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

### **Members of the public**

Andrew McCartney asked if a refresh course on the defibrillators could be organised. Jan will look into this. **ACTION JAN**

### **Reports from Elected Members**

Cllr Hassan thanked everyone involved in the Cycling Without Age launch and advised the Green Growing Space group has a successful AGM last week.

Cllr Gifford advised the transport hub and road widening updates will be available after the summer recess.

Cllr Johnston stated he has placed a tree order for an orchard he is involved in and there are spare if anyone wants one.

Cllr Hassan reminded us of the election in August.

The following reports were received from the community groups:

## MAIG

- We had a successful launch of Cycling Without Age Oldmeldrum on Saturday morning 5<sup>th</sup>. June. MC Norman English introduced BBC Broadcaster Mark Steven to launch the Oldmeldrum Chapter. Mark highlighted the benefits the new Oldmeldrum Chapter would bring to the elderly and those with restricted mobility and the banter between the volunteer Pilots and their passengers.

We are indebted to the volunteer Pilots by giving their time and by taking people out will make a huge beneficial contribution to addressing loneliness and improving and enhancing the health and wellbeing of everyone involved. Already there have been a number of ride outs by residents of Westbank home mainly trips to the William Forsyth community garden. However, we hope that some of our town's elderly residents will soon register their interest. We are grateful to the management of Westbank Home for allowing the Chapter to garage the Trishaw at their premises. Anyone interested in booking a ride out should contact the Chapters Administrator Sheena Clarke on 873034 or email:

[sheenaw@btinternet.com](mailto:sheenaw@btinternet.com).

There are currently 6 fully trained Pilots with 2 others being trained. However, in order to be more flexible, we would encourage those interested in becoming Pilots to contact Sheena. We would also wish to record out thanks to Robin & Laura Philips for providing the refreshments following the launch and to Peter McLean for piping the Trishaw into the Square.

In keeping with our past heritage, the new Trishaw has been named "Meldrum Meg"

We were pleased that invited guests to the launch were able to come along e.g. The CC Chairperson Shona Presly and our Councillors Jim Gifford, Paul Johnstone & Andrew Hassan as well as Bea Jeffries from Foundation Scotland

- The Group have recently been busy putting out the summer floral displays.  
With all the past frustrations now behind us some of you will have noted our new highly visible Electric Truck doing the rounds. This

vehicle replaces our old Kubota tractor and water bowser. We are indebted to Henry Riddoch who has carried out all the work in kitting out the new watering system. Application has been made for grant assistance to Foundation Scotland's Vattenfall Unlock Your Future to install Solar Panels on the garaging premises at the site. If successful the vehicle will be powered by Solar Energy and in some small way will be contributing to assist Aberdeenshire Council's Sustainability Charter Action programme to become carbon neutral by 2030.

We are currently awaiting various signage for the vehicle which will acknowledge the funding support we received from the Vattenfall Unlock Your Future and the Formartine Area Committee. Once the signage has been installed it is intended to invite representatives from both the grant funders to a PR launch.

- Although the VO appears to be keeping on top of litter within the town it is disappointing that kerb sweeping particularly in the immediate town centre has been very poor. We are pleased to note that following representations from Jan to the roads department will shortly take remedial steps to repair the A947 carriageway adjacent to the Church Hall. However, it is disappointing that the speed restriction hump on South Road is not programmed for repairs. We hope that the road cleansing department will shortly dispatch a sweeper particularly to clean up kerbs and pavements on the Albert/Urquhart Roads on the A947.

### **Daviot Community Trust**

Work repairing the new path has now been completed. Good progress has been made with general maintenance especially with grassed areas and woodland.

The renovation of the Ram House area, being undertaken by those involved in the Chris Smith Daviot Memorial team with volunteers from the Trust assisting, is now near completion. The fundraising link and information can be found at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-chris-smith-daviot-memorial/update/26525620/gallery/1> .

A committee meeting was held on Wednesday -the first for many months due to Covid-19 restrictions.

A race in honour of Chris Smith will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> August with his running colleagues taking part in the 5K event. In accordance with current Corona Virus restrictions the number of competitors is limited to 100 with the race be professionally managed.

The Trust is exploring how to get improvements to the muddy part of Aberdeenshire Council's Core Path which connects with the Trust's new Chestnut Path. The new owners of Glack House and residents of Daviot Estate homes are keen to have this become an all-weather route for everyone, especially for children walking to the Primary School.

### **Heritage Society**

John advised the group are discussing placing an information plaque next to The Sailor.

### **Meldrum Paths Group**

Gary stated the group has strimmed Barra Hill and Coutens and they are working on purchases their own e bikes and a temporary storage facility for them.

John commented that he had noticed the Barra Hill signs have been removed from there and their presence has made a lasting effect on the amount of people using the hill. Gary said he thought people would start using it again soon.

John also stated it is now not very easy to walk on the path there now after the resurfacing took place. Gary advised they didn't have a choice in the materials used.

### **Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space**

The AGM was very successful and the first meeting of the group takes place tomorrow evening.

### **Zero Carbon Daviot**

- Zero Carbon Daviot received full registration with OSCR last week as a SCIO.

- ZCD are also now holders of a bank account (which took us 4 months to acquire) so we will now be able to begin spending our grant funds.

- To that end we are looking for volunteer households, in the Daviot constituency, to take part in our home retrofit project. For more information please email [info@zerocarbondaviot.org](mailto:info@zerocarbondaviot.org)
- We have been leaflet dropping to all 450 households in our catchment area in a drive to increase membership. There have been lots of great doorstep conversations with the majority of people very interested in the projects of the group.
- Our community e-bike loan scheme is continuing and we're now trying to encourage people to rent bikes for longer so they can get the feel of owning a bike.
- Some of our members are taking part in a garden biodiversity project in the centre of the village.

### **Treasurers Report**

Willie emailed round a copy of the current account and the balance as at 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 is £17,184.95

### **Secretarial Report**

Jan advised Willie Lippe has given an update on the road widening at Chapelpark. He advised the Patersons' are committed to handing over the land to allow the widening to take place however they wish their beech hedge to be replanted after the work has taken place. Willie said Philip Leiper of the Roads Dept is refusing to do this so negotiations are not progressing well just now.

Cllr Gifford said a new beech hedge will need to be planted as one cannot dig up an old hedge and replant – it will not grow.

Stuart said the council are refusing to plant a new hedge.

Cllr Gifford said he would check this and report back at our August meeting.

**ACTION CLLR GIFFORD**

Cllr Johnston commented the offer of a new hedge was put to the Patersons' 6 or 7 years ago.

Jan confirmed a meeting with the Community Council and the Town Centre Regeneration Group will take place with Andy Cowie in the

future. Jan asked Jeff is he still has a note of all the businesses in Meldrum. Jeff will forward onto Jan. **ACTION JEFF**

### **Planning Report**

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

### **AOCB**

All members present agreed they are happy to support the application for a licence from The Stitch House Cafe, Oldmeldrum.

Jan asked if a contact was given for MMB to the person who asked about the recordings from the CCTV on Facebook. Cllr Johnston confirmed it was.

John asked if an updated list of members was ready to view. Jan advised she will send this out prior to the next meeting.

Gordon asked if there was any update on the constitution yet. The Cllrs present advised this will be available once the Scheme of Establishment is passed.

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

24<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7.00pm