

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

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**7.00pm**

**Online Zoom Meeting**

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

**Apologies:** - Nick Forbes and Stuart Singer

**Members of Public:** - Kaye Cowie, Gary Oliver, Alistair Massey and Andrew McCartney

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

**Aberdeenshire Council:** Samantha Rawlins

**Police:** None

## **Declarations of Interest**

None given

## **Co Option of New Members**

Alistair Massey was proposed by James Milton and seconded by Willie Sinclair

## **Minutes of June 2021**

Proposed: Gordon Duncan

Seconded: Yvonne Oliver

## **Matters Arising**

Jan went through all matters arising from the last minutes.

The Cllrs are going to take the questions regarding changes to the way Developer Obligations are carried out to their next ward meeting and will report back to us at our September meeting. **ACTION CLLRS**

Cllr Gifford will find out more information on the work that can be done on the path to Barra Castle from the Council's side and report back to us at the September meeting. **ACTION CLLR GIFFORD**

Cllr Gifford confirmed the Council are prepared to replant a new hedge at Chapelpark when the fence is moved for the road widening. Cllr Gifford also confirmed the CPO process is currently running parallel with the negotiations with the Paterson's for the road widening.

### **Statement of Outstanding Business**

There is currently no further update on the Town Hall. The question was raised if the roof of the Town Hall is damaged and causing issues for the inside of the hall will the Council's insurance cover the work. The cllrs replied this would likely be the case given the Council is responsible for the external and MMB responsible for the interior.

### **Police Report**

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

### **Samantha Rawlins, Emergency Food Provisions**

Samantha gave a detailed talk on this subject. She advised the correct name is "Emergency Food Parcel" and not "A Food Bank" when talking about independently run groups. Samantha advised there is funding available to help provide support for ward 8 and there is also the option of signposting people to places for help too. Money advisors available through CAB are going to be made available to help address the ward 8 situation. Another idea is to provide a slow cooker and a recipe book to help people who need it.

Gordon advised the British Legion in Oldmeldrum have received lottery funding and they are looking to expand what they offer the community. This would include a community café for example.

Samantha advised The Community Planning Group is looking to create a sub group and one rep from our cc could attend these meetings. Samantha will provide all the info to us when she has it.

### **Bridget Sutherland – Village Church**

Bridget Sutherland provided a report to all members prior to the meeting. The question of how many people roughly attend the parent's group was asked. Bridget replied 10-15 people every week but can sometimes be 25-30 people. Bridget also advised us their church is under the Skylark International umbrella and is network based with 6 churches under that umbrella at the moment.

Shona advised the Episcopal Church has replied and would like to provide reports to this cc from time to time and perhaps attend on occasion. There has been no reply from Meldrum Parish Church.

### **Members of the public**

Kaye Cowie stated the weeds next to the sheltered housing down King Street is a disgrace. Shona asked our Village Orderly simply cannot get round everywhere. Samantha suggested contacting Community Payback Team. Jan will do this. **ACTION JAN**

Andrew McCartney asked if the Cllrs would meet him to look at the state of the road debris. The Cllrs agreed to set this meeting up.

**ACTION CLLRS**

It was mentioned that the hedge on Kirk Brae requires cutting back once again. Jan will try and contact the owner of the house. **ACTION JAN**

### **Reports from Elected Members**

Cllr Hassan thanked everyone for their interest in the recent local election.

John asked for more detail on the way these figures for the winner of the election were decided. Cllr Gifford advised a EV system is used and the breakdown is always shown. John stated this has not been shown yet. Cllr Gifford advised him to keep looking at the Council's website.

The following reports were received from the community groups:

### **MAIG**

- We have been able to extend the floral displays this year thanks to Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape department supplying more plug plants from the previous year. The displays have given much colour throughout the main thoroughfares. However, sadly they are just beginning to be less of a show and within the next 6 weeks we will have to close the summer show. Residents will have noted that the MAIG team undertook to clean up the area around the Sailor mannie which had become an unsightly display of weeds and replaced with a prominent floral display which has improved the ambiance as you approach the town centre from South Road.

- Our new Electric truck has been a popular and well received by the volunteer watering teams and I am sure many residents will be pleased with the almost silent operation when carrying out daily maintenance of the displays.
- I am pleased to report that our application for grant funding to Vattenfall Unlock Your Future which is managed by Foundation Scotland has been successful and an award of £5,300 to install Solar Panels on our implement shed. We expect the panels will be fitted in the next few weeks. Once completed our electric truck and its electric accessories will be powered solely by Solar energy. The energy from the panels will also heat our propagation beds which are used to bring on the small plug plants during the spring. At other times when there is no requirement by MAIG, surplus energy will be fed back into the Golf club premises.
- We note that 2022 will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Sir Patrick Manson. MAIG will undertake to have a prominent floral display alongside the Memorial monument located on South Road.
- Our latest project which was covered in our June report, the Oldmeldrum Chapter Cycling Without age is being well used by residents of Westbank Home & Wyverie Court as well as a number of elderly residents of the town. To date there have been a number of circuitous routes e.g., out to Hoodles Play barn and the William Forsyth community garden appears to be a popular outing. We continue to recruit and train our volunteer pilots and we are delighted that our Community Council Chairperson, Shona, has volunteered to become a Pilot. Anyone who wishes to book a ride on the Trishaw or wishes to become a Pilot or Co-Pilot should contact our Administrator Sheena Clarke on 873034 or email [sheenaw@btinternet.com](mailto:sheenaw@btinternet.com). With autumn approaching and the weather not being so kind nevertheless passengers should not be put off as the trishaw is supplied with Ponchos and a warm rug as well as a protective hood covering the passengers, so don't let the weather deter.
- Weeds in the immediate town centre were becoming a real eyesore, as a result a team of MAIG volunteers spent a whole morning cleaning up the town centre. We find it disappointing that this year's VO has

neglected to keep kerbside and pavement free of detritus within the town centre.

As reported in our June report it is disappointing that Aberdeenshire Council have not undertaken a deep clean and in particular the kerbside along the full length of Urquhart & Albert Rd. on the A947.

MAIG discussed the possibility of entering the town in this years “Keep Scotland Beautiful” but it was felt that the work that volunteers had to take on board in preparing the town owing to the level of weeds and kerbside detritus was too much to expect volunteers to undertake without the support of Aberdeenshire council roads and cleansing departments.

- We hope that our newly elected member will have some sway with Aberdeenshire Council roads department in repairing the speed hump on South Road having drawn attention to the condition of the carriageway in her electoral campaign.

### **Daviot Community Trust**

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, has now been completed. The Chris Smith Memorial Run with around 90 registered runners takes place on Saturday and includes Fun Runs for children with entry on the day. There will also be refreshments available to purchase. The full programme can be viewed at [www.daviotcommunitytrust.org](http://www.daviotcommunitytrust.org)

As advised in June, 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. Funding has been approved this week and work will likely start in the next few weeks with completion before the end of autumn.

## **Meldrum Paths Group**

**MMW** (Oldmeldrum/Daviot/Inverurie Active travel route) -  
Awaiting an update Aberdeenshire Council Transportations Strategy on link from Uryside Park to the link road.  
Awaiting the outcome of the ongoing issues with Aberdeenshire Council and Barra Farms with regards to the recently installed path.

**Community Path Links** No Change since April report.  
Daviot/Oldmeldrum/ Inverurie – see comment in MMW.  
Oldmeldrum/Pitmedden/Undy/Tarves - discussions with land owners are still in progress

### **Barra Hill Path**

Banister on foot bridge has been repaired.

### **Active travel route to Denwood from Oldmeldrum**

Three land owners to date are will to be meet with representation from MBDC, Woodland Trust and MPG to discuss possible routes.  
MDBC to try and arrange a meeting for September.

### **Community E-bike Scheme**

The second trial of the two e-bikes from Huntly Development Trust was very successful.  
On the back of the trials, we have securing Cycling Friendly Communities Bronze Award.  
An area for a container for storage and operations base has been established.  
Avenues of funding and funding applications are being worked on.

### **Walk routes around Oldmedrum - no update**

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

### **SCIO**

The group has decided to supply for SCIO status

## **Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space**

### **Lead Group**

The Lead Group consisting of 8 members have been meeting regularly since 22 June to progress the objective to have a site ready for the

growing season starting Spring 2022. Included in the team is an Oldmeldrum Schools representative. The team are grateful for the various avenues of assistance and support which can be called on from Aberdeenshire Council Officials and members of the community who have skills to advise and assist when required.

## **SCIO**

The group has decided to apply to OSCR for SCIO (**Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation**) status. **The application form is currently being worked on with the plan to lodge in September.**

## **Constitution**

Our draft constitution is in the final stages of completion and will be closed off on the 31 August. This will of course unlock the process to apply for our formal administration systems and thereafter funding applications.

## **Site – Meadows Vale**

Following various discussions, SWATS analysis, and site visits the group has decided

Meadows Vale be put forward as the pilot site and Meldrum Academy (Coutens) as a development

Site. The site at Academy does lend itself for co-operative allotments. The later could of course following on once the pilot site is established.

## **Lease**

The group has decided to apply to Aberdeenshire Council for a lease for the site, leaving the option of an asset transfer open in the future. Both sites are owned by Aberdeenshire Council.

## **Planning Application and Design.**

The design and planning application will be worked on separately of the lease application.

We have a Planning Consultant and Architectural Technician who are delighted to come on board to help and guide the application through the system.

## **Networking**

We are networking with other allotment associations in the area and have visited Garthdee and Slopefield recently, and will be visiting Aden within the week. This is for information and idea gathering. It also assists in building up our own design wish list for the site.

### **Treasurers Report**

Willie emailed round a copy of the current account and the balance as at 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 is £16,281.64

### **Secretarial Report**

Jan advised she had received an email from Tony Smith asking us to look at pushing for a southern by pass again. Jan spoke to both Graham Steel and Piers Blaxter about this however was advised this is not on the council's agenda just now and certainly not in this LDP plan period that is away to be adopted (2022-2026)

### **Planning Report**

John gave a report on the planning applications for July and August 2021. John also advised the Formartine Area Committee met on 29<sup>th</sup> June and approved the street names we suggested for the Glebe. The next Formartine Area Committee meeting is on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### **AOCB**

Gordon asked if we are ready to set a meeting date to discuss our resilience plan. Jan and Shona will arrange this with Gordon.

The members present voted to support donating £136 to MAIG for the floral displays.

Jan advised she has applied to MMB for funding for erecting the finger post signs in the square and is awaiting a response.

A meeting date has been set for the coat of arms sub group to meet.

The hedge at Rosebank that is Council owned is requiring cut back again and there is lots of speeding and hand brake turns being reported down Rosebank. Cllr Hassan agreed to take both of these items forward and try to get answers. Samantha suggested dialling 101 for the speeding and reporting it. Samantha also said she would forward us a copy of Turriff's see it report it poster for us to display if we wish. **ACTION SAMANTHA**

Jeff advised he has been approached to see if a bin can be put in place at the Bourtie side of Barra Hill. Cllr Hassan will ask landscape service.

**ACTION CLLR HASSAN**



Jeff also stated he has been contacted by some concerned residents from the new houses from Green way over to Ardconnon Avenue regarding their Greenbelt service. It was felt by the members present that whilst we sympathise with them we, as a cc, cannot take this on on their behalf and they would need to set up a sub group and take it forward themselves. We would however be interested to hear their progress and support them in any way we can.

**Date and time of next meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.00pm