

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 28th September 2021

7.00pm

Online Zoom Meeting

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

Apologies: - Jeff Goodhall

Members of Public: - Kaye Cowie, Gary Oliver, Matthew Clubb, Barry Howard and Sean Jones

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

Aberdeenshire Council: Jim Bowe

Police: None

Shona began the meeting by advising Stuart Singer has stepped down from our community council. Shona advised she wished to thank Stuart for input during his time on the cc.

Shona then brought up the subject of “raising of hands during a meeting”. Shona stressed to all if they cannot get her attention by raising their hand please ask to speak before we move on to the next item on the agenda. Shona also advised everyone present there is a small change to the bottom of our agenda and asked everyone to read this and make themselves aware of it.

Declarations of Interest

None given

Co Option of New Members

Barry Howard was proposed by Willie Sinclair and seconded by Jan Chalmers. All other members present were content with this.

Minutes of August 2021

Proposed: Yvonne Oliver

Seconded: James Milton

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the last minutes.

James emailed the following report to all members prior to the meeting:

The Coat of Arms Sub-committee met by Zoom Meeting on Tuesday 31 August 2021 at 4pm. The meeting was organised by Jan Chalmers and in attendance were, Shona Presly, Gordon Duncan, Alistair Massey and me.

The main reason for the meeting was to discuss the offer from Mr Liam Devlin at the Court of the Lord Lyon regarding the supply of heraldic flags.

The committee agreed to purchase 4 flags at the discounted rate of £42 each. The 4 flags to be earmarked for the Town Hall, Oldmeldrum, the Village Hall, Daviot, the flagpole at the Bruce Seat and the flagpole at the viewfinder at the Whin Roadie.

Other ways of displaying the Coat of Arms were discussed but due to pressure of time no concrete decisions were made. The use of Arms on entrance signs to Daviot and Oldmeldrum was touched upon similar to those in place in Ellon, Huntly, Inverurie and Methlick. It was noted that Huntly CC recently applied for a micro-grant to have their Coat of Arms on adhesive transfers to decorate the litter bins in their town centre.

The committee resolved to reconvene once the flags have been obtained to discuss further uses of the CC's Coat of Arms.

Cllr Johnston confirmed he wrote to Paul Macari asked if there were going to be any changes to Developer Obligations. Paul Macari advised the changes are software changes only. Jan stated she has an email from Adam Sime via Linda Hendry advising there will be changes to the way DO are handled that will affect us. Cllr Hassan suggested we ask for this to be included in a cc forum as it will affect all community councils.

ACTION JAN

Cllr Gifford confirmed the Council is looking at all options for the path to Barra as it is not an easy fix. He also advised us a planning enforcement notice has been served to the Stephens for breaching a planning condition. The condition surrounds the entrance and exit into the farm shop and barn.

Cllr Hassan confirmed Landscape Services will not place a bin on Barra Hill as it is all private land.

The community payback team have confirmed they will cut the hedge at 40 Rosebank.

Cllr Hassan confirmed Inspector Young will monitor the driving in Rosebank when resources allow.

Jan advised the meeting to discuss the road detritus and other issues surrounding Meldrum Square took place on 16th September. Present were: Jan, Shona, Cllr Johnston, Cllr Hassan, Cllr Powell, Oliver Deeming, Anne Buchan and Sallie Antill. Jan advised all present it was a productive meeting and all council officers explained the issues they are currently having with budgets and staffing not to mention covid. We asked if the following could be placed on their lists to deal with once things improve:

1. The road sweeper back in Meldrum once a week as it was pre covid.
2. The drains to be unblocked in the square and the surrounding streets.
3. The drain covers to be opened and cleaned out (in front of the shops in the square)
4. Weeding to be carried out at the Sheltered Housing complexes.

The officers present advised us they would keep us updated of how things progress over the winter and into spring next year.

We also asked Anne Buchan to check if we are still able to request the survey to be carried out in the square to determine if a crossing is required.

ACTION ANNE/JAN

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan advised there is nothing new to report this month.

Police Report

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

Members of the public

Liz Wilkinson wrote to Shona regarding the hedge between Benview Gardens and Green Way. This has now been resolved thanks to Cllr Hassan and Cllr Gifford.

All cllrs present reminded everyone to report things on report it and to area office to ensure things get fixed quickly.

Sean Jones emailed to ask if anything could be done about the speeding from Meldrum House Roundabout to Park Lane junction and also if this part of the road could be resurfaced with a low noise surfacing. With regard to the speeding we advised Sean Inspector Young will be attending the next meeting and we will put this onto the list for discussion.

ACTION JAN

With regard to the road surfacing Cllr Johnston advised this will require to be done once Chapelpark has been completed. It will be reassessed and put into the programme of work to be completed once things move on with that development. Cllr Johnston confirmed all cllrs will be keeping an eye on this.

ACTION ALL CLLRS

Gordon Duncan stated he felt exactly the same as Sean Jones on both of these points and they both need to be dealt with quickly.

Sean asked if the cllr's emails and the CC secretary email could be added to the bottom of every minute to make it easier for members of the public to find this information. All members present and cllrs agreed so Jan will do this going forward.

ACTION JAN

Jim Bowe Principal Officer (Information and Infrastructure) **Passenger Unit regarding Oldmeldrum Travel Hub**

Jim gave a very detailed slideshow presentation on the plans for the new travel hub. Although there is no site identified at present the intention is to build slightly larger with more amenities than proposed at Chapelpark previously. They would look to include things like EV Charging points, an electric bike scheme, an electric car share scheme, Amazon lockers and much more.

Gordon asked if all parking spaces would be able to take an EV charging unit eventually. Jim confirmed they would.

Yvonne asked if there are any provisions going to be made for toilet facilities for the passengers or drivers. Jim stated this is currently not on the design but he will look into it.

Matthew Clubb stated it is great to be embracing active travel however he felt there was an infrastructure problem and questioned how the whole community including Bourtie, Daviot and other places close by can access it without a car. Jim confirmed he will take this point on board and look into it.

Jim finished his presentation by confirming to us all he will keep us updated of any developments as and when they happen.

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Hassan advised us there was a full council meeting on Thursday 23rd September. This meeting included a report on a move to hybrid meetings where some members were in the room and some were still online. One of the main topics was a paper on the Community Council Scheme of Establishment. Cllr Hassan confirmed to us the Scheme of Establishment will always take precedence over each individual Community Council Constitution.

Cllr Johnston advised MMB meet with the property service and area office a week ago. The outcome of this meeting is still to be worked through and Cllr Johnston will report back to us when he has more information.

ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON

Cllr Powell commented she was pleased to be invited to meet with us in the town centre along with the other cllrs and officers. Cllr Powell said she felt very positive after this meeting.

Willie asked the cllrs if it is the council's plan to provide plants again in 2022. He said he emailed Oliver Deeming about this but had had no response. The cllrs said they felt the council would have little resources to do this in 2022 but they would check and report back to us.

ACTION ALL CLLRS

Kaye Cowie asked when there is going to be work carried out on the drains in the square. The cllrs advised this has been noted by officers and they will try to get something done as soon as resources allow it. There is no guarantee of time scale though.

Matthew Clubb stated Zero Carbon Daviot has done really well with the e bike trial and their other big initiative is a safe walking and cycling route to Inverurie. He asked if the cllrs can help him with contacting Chris Menzies as their communication has come to a dead end. Gary Oliver said he has heard from Chris recently and hopefully some news on this will come soon.

Gary also said the Barra path is an integral part of the safe walking and cycling route to Inverurie.

The cllrs asked Matthew to drop them an email and they will pick this up with Chris and report back to us.

ACTION ALL CLLRS

The following reports were received from the community groups:

MAIG

Andrew sent an email advising the group will be working on taking in all the hanging baskets over the next few weeks.

Daviot Community Trust

Work is now well under way on reconstructing the muddy part of Aberdeenshire Council's Core Path which connects with the Trust's new Chestnut Path. Drainage pipes have been installed and some of the new path laid. In the next few weeks, it is planned to double the number of work parties to ensure completion before the weather deteriorates.

The Chris Smith Memorial Run on 28th August was a great success with around 99 registered runners for the main run.

The day began with races for under 9's followed by the under 16's races.

The turnout in both events was amazing and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The 5k event kicked off at 2.00pm, 2 laps of the route through Daviot Trust Land and Daviot Estate. Everyone enjoyed the steep climb up Holly Tree Walk into the Estate! Final winners were Matias Arguello Narganes from Argentina in a time of 00:18:12 and Ladies winner Chloe Sangster in a time of 00:21:40.

Following the athletics, the Chris Smith Memorial Plaque was unveiled by the family in front of a large crowd at the newly renovated Ram Pump House and innovative seating area. In the evening the raffle was drawn at the Smiddy Bar with dozens of raffle prizes handed out.

The event was possible due to the hard work of DCT Members and Volunteers, Mike and Nick Smith, "Davit Lads", Garioch Road Runners, The Scouts, Daviot Shop, St Andrews Ambulance First Aiders, The Smiddy Bar, Mackies, Ian Stewart, Cafe on the Kerb, Mr Whippy and everyone who donated prizes for the raffle

Meldrum Paths Group

Community E-bike /Bike Scheme

We have secured a grant award to create a base for the bike operation which includes a container, training and conventional bikes.

Grant funding applications are being pursued for e-bikes with the aim to get the project fully operational by for Spring/Summer 2022.

When established we will looking for people and groups to get involved.

MMW (Oldmeldrum/Daviot/Inverurie Active travel route) - No change

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

Daviot/Oldmeldrum/ Inverurie – see comment in MMW.

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

Active travel route to Denwood from Oldmeldrum

MDBCC to try and arrange a meeting for October

Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space

SCIO

Our application to OSCR for SCIO (**Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation**) status was sent off in August. There is currently a three month backlog in processing applications therefore it could be November before we get feedback.

Constitution

Our constitution has been completed.

Site – Meadows Vale

Lease . Expression of interest form for the lease of the Meadow Vale has been forwarded to Aberdeenshire Council to process.

Planning Application and Design.

Survey of the proposed site will take place early October

Plans will start to get drafted on receipt of the survey report.

John asked Gary Oliver if he had a view on the signs at Meldrum House Golf Course. Cllr Johnsnton advised them to pass any info about signs etc in general to all Cllrs and the access officer. He also confirmed there are still ongoing discussions with Meldrum House Estates and Aberdeenshire Council Access Officers.

Treasurers Report

Willie emailed round a copy of the current account and the balance as at 28th September 2021 is £17,097.27

Secretarial Report

Jan confirmed the “See It Report It” sign was now in the noticeboard.

Jan also confirmed the Community Payback Team have been given a list of areas that require weeding to be carried out. They have replied advising they have put us on the list and will carry out the work when they are able to.

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications for September 2021. After a lot of discussion it was agreed by all members we would create a separate meeting for discuss Meldrum House planning applications as we had just received a large number of documents from the planning department that afternoon and this would give everyone a chance to read them fully.

All members present agreed to Gordon posting the planning applications on our facebook page each week. **ACTION GORDON**

CC Forum

Shona Campbell and Jason Strathdee from Health and Social Care Partnership (H.S.C.P.) introduced themselves and made us aware of this service.

Jason- Covers Turriff and Meldrum. Westbank Care Home is his fixed location. Support team leader for these services and district nurses too. He has budget responsibilities but also covers a wide range of other services too.

Shona – Patient Participation and feedback to practices. She had heard nothing back from Oldmeldrum.

Primary and secondary care services were brought up and discussed. Vaccinations and Immunisations – moving from G.P. to N.H.S. Grampian to H.S.C.P. Flu vaccinations will be given October/November. Covid vaccination booster – waiting to hear who will be eligible and which

vaccine will be used. The decision is not expected until the middle of September. H.S.C.P looking for more permanent vaccination sites/centres across N.H.S. Grampian – not one in Formartine yet. Sites will hopefully be closer to homes and they are not looking at village halls as possibilities. Mobile units may be a possibility. They realise they need to be flexible. Transport support – a number will be available for people to call if wishing to make a request for assistance to get to a vaccination centre.

We then had a very detailed report from Inspector Mark Young who attended the meeting. A staffing update was given. Police priorities would be detailed in community reports. Emerging trends – protecting vulnerable adults, e-crime and fraud was highlighted. There is not a lot of organised crime in the area, drug misuse, yes. Anti – social behaviour – a number of reports of adult and youth disorder. Violence – Formartine is lucky as small pockets only. Domestic abuse – there is safety wrapping for these people. Road safety crime is a big hitter across Formartine he said. The Police continually get reports about speeding offences. They focus on built up areas but rural areas covered too. They target areas where road casualties can be reduced. He urged us to get in touch if we have concerns about our area. Theft/dishonesty – not been too bad recently. Things have been removed from garages and sheds. Cars and vans have been involved in theft too. Shoplifting – mainly smaller shops being targeted by local individuals. Travelling individuals can target bigger shops/supermarkets. Under age drinking is being targeted and is a “new” initiative.

Inspector Young said the Police cannot provide statistics in Ward reports and that’s a policy but we can send an email highlighting what we would like to see in our Ward report. He wants to look at local priorities and what can be done in the future about them. He welcomes any suggestions to improve Ward reports but stressed again he can’t include statistics. Police at meetings – he has to balance attending incidents with attending C.C. meetings. There is no Community Officer available to go to meetings. He suggests if no officer attends, then email in concerns and hopefully, they can be dealt with.

Unfortunately, throughout the evening I had a poor connection and for items 4 (Note of previous meeting), 5 (Matters arising) and most of 6 (Covid-19 update) I completely lost contact. I re-joined when Elaine Brown was finishing her Covid update. She said the vast majority of staff was still working from home. Venues may or may not be opening up for C.C. meetings. It was suggested we contact our meeting venue and she hopes they will be able to provide the best advice if required. Some councils are happy staying on line and have no ambition to change. Some are considering meeting in person again but perhaps every second month

or only in the summer months. The fact that car journeys have gone was thought to be a good thing. Committee members with health issues should be considered too if Coronavirus is to stay with us.

Some Community Council reports were read out. Some committees are struggling with member numbers and are looking for local people to join.

AOCB

Gordon wished the Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space the best of luck with their SKIO application.

Gary Oliver said it was good to see Daviot Hall setting up an event day where community groups could let the community see what is available to them. He said the date for Daviot is 13th November and asked if Meldrum CC would consider organising the same thing. The members present felt this was a good idea but next spring would be the best time for it.

Jan will take a diary note to discuss this in the New Year. **ACTION JAN**

Gary Oliver said the travel hub presentation was fantastic and wished to state he is of the same opinion of Matthew Clubb and safe active travel routes requires to be made at the same time as the hub.

Kaye Cowie asked if there is any update on the road widening at Chapelpark. Cllr Gifford confirmed there is no update as the negotiations are still ongoing. The CPO is still running parallel to this.

All members present confirmed they are content with the new disable parking space that is proposed at Wyverie.

Date and time of next meeting

26th October 2021 at 7.00pm