

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 23rd November 2021

7.00pm

Online Zoom Meeting

DRAFT

CC Members Present: - Shona Presly, Jan Chalmers, John Pirie, Yvonne Oliver, Gordon Duncan, Jeff Goodhall and Alistair Massey

Apologies: - Nick Forbes, Willie Sinclair and Barry Howard

Members of Public: - Gary Oliver, Ian Milton, Richard Elliot, Barbara Elliot, Kaye Cowie and Irene Dunbar

Councillors: Cllr Hassan, Cllr Powell and Cllr Gifford

Declarations of Interest

None given

Minutes of October 2021

Proposed: Yvonne Oliver

Seconded: John Pirie

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the last minutes.

Cllr Gifford advised all members of the public to get fire alarms kits ordered ASAP if they still need to do this to ensure the kits can be fitted before February.

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan advised there is nothing new to report this month.

Police Report

The police report for November was not available at the time of our meeting.

Update on Town Hall

Shona advised we had hoped for an update from Cllr Johnston this evening however he is unable to attend the meeting. Shona suggested we move this item onto the January agenda. **ACTION JAN**

Kaye Cowie asked if the community café is opening again. No one present at the meeting knew the answer to this but we will ask Cllr Johnston at the January meeting. **ACTION JAN**

Members of the public

Kaye Cowie stated the speeding within the town and the bypass is getting worse. Shona advised we have reported this direct to Inspector Young at the last meeting and he will keep us updated on the police findings.

Cllr Hassan stated he has flagged this up to the police many times and Oldmeldrum is not the only town having issues. It is talked about all over Aberdeenshire.

Jeff asked if we could put in a request for the speed checkers again, on the bypass and on Urquhart road and Albert Road. Jan will put in this request. **ACTION JAN**

Ian Milton stated Perth and Kinross has a 20mph zone in all towns and asked if this could be adopted in Aberdeenshire. Cllr Gifford advised this has been spoken about the ward meetings however Aberdeenshire Council follows the government legislation and this is not part of it. Cllr Gifford urged everyone who sees a vehicle speeding to report it. Take the time, date and registration number and call it in to the police. He said he cannot stress enough how important it is for people to report speeding as the police work on intelligence and are working on building up databases for this issues.

Gary Oliver asked if there is going to be a solution shortly with the Barra Castle footpath and asked if there speed limit could be reduced there. All Cllrs present were unsure.

Kaye Cowie stated there are unruly hedges on Kirk Brae and Eavern Place both requiring to be cut back. Richard Elliot suggested using the report it function on Aberdeenshire Council's website as hedges can be reported here. Kaye will get more info on this topic and come back to us with more information.

Cllr Gifford stated the team responsible for this within Aberdeenshire Council have a large amount of hedge and tree reports being filed at present.

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Gifford advised his topics have already been spoken about.

Cllr Hassan informed us a number of unsatisfactory posts appeared on Facebook on 30th October surrounding elderly members of the public having to wait in the rain for long periods of time for their vaccine. Cllr Hassan wrote to the Health and Social Care Partnership and he relayed the info from them directly back to those affected.

Cllr Hassan also laid the wreath at Meldrum on Remembrance Sunday.

Cllr Hassan informed us Formartine Area Committee meeting is on 16th November and Full Council meets on 18th November. He confirmed Aberdeenshire Council continues to support the community Covid testing kits and asked if anyone knows a place in Daviot or Bourtie where they could set up to hand out kits to please email him direct.

Cllr Powell said she wished to bring up speeding but this has already been talked about. She also confirmed she laid the wreath at Daviot on Remembrance Sunday.

MAIG

We finally have the Solar Panels fitted and commissioned onto our Garaging shed this will provide the energy to charge our electric vehicle which means we will have achieved zero carbon emissions. Surplus energy generated will be fed back into the Golf Club.

The containers in Market Square and elsewhere have been planted out with pansies for a spring show and the Urquhart Road border and the Sailor Mannie border will be planted out this weekend.

We had a very successful plant sale which will help to raise funds for the Christmas Illuminations.

The Christmas Illuminations will be erected on Sunday 28th November, because of the present Covid restrictions there will be an abridged switch on event at 4pm on Sunday 28th November. MAIG committee members have been busy producing Christmas Lanterns which will be on sale at the switch on event to raise funds for the Christmas illuminations.

The community Christmas Tree which once again has been donated by the Golf Club will be lowered into position on Wednesday morning 24th November

The MAIG 2021 AGM took place on Wednesday 17th November. All office bearers agreed to stand on for 2022.

We are not yet at a crisis point but we sometimes struggle for volunteer help at peak times and any additional help would be greatly appreciated. Contact Moira Gregg on 872711 or email blankets@btopenworld.com

At our October Committee meeting I suggested we might apply for grant funding for an electric Pavement/kerb sweeper which could be made available for future village orderlies. The MAIG committee were hesitant and suggested that the Community Council should be consulted to seek their view. It would be appreciated if the CC would discuss this proposal and revert back.

Shona started the discussion on the electric pavement sweeper as Andrew requested. Some members of the CC wanted to know who would fund and maintain this sweeper and also where it would be kept prior to making a decision. It was agreed we would put these questions to Andrew at the January meeting. **ACTION ALL MEMBERS**

Barbara Elliot the co-chair of MAIG stated that some MAIG members were not very keen and were asking the same questions surrounding maintenance and where it would be kept.

Barbara also advised us the area close to Blankets was meant to be made into a wildflower area so she has spoken to the Greenspace Officer and they confirmed Aberdeenshire Council will undertake to do this in the spring.

Daviot Community Trust

The AGM was held in the Daviot Hall on 21st October, 2021 followed by a Board Meeting.

At the Board Meeting on 18th November it was agreed that a number of trees donated by Paul Fraser, Retired Helicopter Pilot, will be planted in early December in addition to essential maintenance and repair work that will be done during the winter period.

Since October, more wildflowers have been planted and it was mentioned that one of the recently planted apple trees had borne fruit!

The Trust was well represented at the Daviot Day event in the Daviot Hall on Saturday, 13th November when some new volunteers were recruited and a number of new members joined.

Meldrum Paths Group

Community E-bike /Bike Scheme

Funds have been secured to create a base for the bike operation which includes a container, training and conventional bikes. Working is getting done in establishing prospective suppliers.

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 be looking for people and groups to get involved.

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

The contact for the new path construction at Uryside to link with the new Ury pedestrian bridge has been given the contactor with the work to be done in Spring 2022.

Awaiting updates as to when the new Ury pedestrian bridge will be built.

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 - further discussions with land owners have been postponed pending sale of land on part of the proposed route.

Active travel route to Denwood from Oldmeldrum

Awaiting confirmation of meeting date from MDBCC.

Barra Hill Path

New path direction sign have been put on the path route.

Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space

Site – Meadows Vale

Lease. Expression of interest form for the lease for Meadow Vale is in the system for processing with Aberdeenshire Council.

Planning Application and Design.

Draft plans for phase 1 are 90% complete.

We are grateful to MBDCC for agreeing to process/lodge the planning application on OGGS behalf when ready to do so.

It is our objective to get the planning application lodged by mid-December.

Prior list for capital spending has been established.

Budget prices being got from suppliers for must have items.

We had an interesting presentation from Matthew Clubb from Zero Carbon Davio which gave some ideas to incorporate into our proposed Hub/community building for phase 2.

Banks Account

Bank account has now been granted to OGGS.

Media sites

Our Media sites are being worked on.

Funding rising

Funding applications are being worked on, however hampered somewhat as we don't have the lease of the land confirmed by Aberdeenshire Council yet.

Noted interest for an allotment

A list of names for noted interest in an allotment has been started.

Treasurers Report

Willie emailed the members with the report prior to the meeting. The balance in the account as at 23rd November 2021 is £16,939.37.

Secretarial Report

Jan advised she has contacted Susan Watt from Aberdeenshire Council regarding the buses meeting again in the square and causing traffic congestion after being approached by a member of the public about it. Susan has responded stating she will contact Stagecoach and get back with us with their response in due course.

Jan also advised that she met with Gary Oliver and Ian Milton along with Shona to discuss the Future Vision document and how to move it forward. Some good ideas came from the meeting. We will put this topic onto a future agenda (March or April hopefully depending on when the LDP report is finalized) so all members can discuss and we can plan how to move it forward.

Planning Report

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

CC Forum

Inspector Mark Young, Police Scotland, gave a talk on Policing Issues and policing reports.

He covered the following points.

Licensed premises are getting back into full swing. Policing these is back to normal. A good proportion of callouts/time involves poor mental health. There are relatively low crime/theft levels.

Community surgeries are taking place and the Community Constable is out and about in schools. Some officers have been deployed to COP26.

Priorities for the area – Violence. Serious assaults are up from the last C.C. Forum meeting. He could not go into descriptions. Early intervention will hopefully reduce this problem.

Domestic Assaults – alcohol involved. Safeguarding people is important.

Licensed Premises – being monitored for violence.

Theft (generally). We are fortunate in our area to have relatively low numbers. Alcohol theft and hardware stores were mentioned. On the odd occasion there are house break-ins – garages and sheds mainly. Inspector

Young talked about opportunistic theft and thieves “trying their luck”. He went on to say that the Crime Prevention Service is available to the public.

E-crime/fraud still seen. Anti-social behaviour is very low in our area. The sale of alcohol to people under age is being looked at. Anti-social driving and speeding is being targeted. The Police Service is prioritising areas that are considered black spots. Inspector Young would like the public to make the police aware of speeding issues.

Controlled Drugs – no massive problems. Some drugs are seen and the police work with The Royal Mail to intercept parcels where necessary. Drugs for personal use are the main issue.

Inspector Young was thanked for his informative talk.

Under Matters Arising 20mph speed limits were briefly discussed. This subject could possibly be put on a future agenda and discussed further then.

AOCB

Gordon asked if the cllrs present knew the date the 3 week bin collection schedule will be starting. The cllrs present advised there is no date fixed at present but Aberdeenshire Council has secured the funding for it.

Gary Oliver wished to advise he had heard the community cafe will open again when the dishwasher is fixed.

John wished to bring up the blocked drains all over Oldmeldrum and the surrounding area. Shona replied the drains are on the list to be dealt with by Aberdeenshire Council and they have all been reported many times.

Kaye asked if there are any assurances can be given that they will be done in 2022. Cllr Hassan said he would look into this and report back to us.

Date and time of next meeting

25th January 2022 at 7.00pm