

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 25th January 2022

7.00pm

Online Zoom Meeting

DRAFT

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

Apologies: - None

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

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

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hassan read out the following:

Earlier today I announced my intention to contest the Aberdeenshire Council election in May.

However any contribution I make in tonight's meeting is in my capacity as your currently elected Councillor.

In the Planning Report, you may have discussion on the Change of Land Use Application for Meadows Vale, as Aberdeenshire Council's Elected Member representative on the Oldmeldrum Allotments Group I would declare an interest (as I would be doing at any stage this comes in front of elected members) however I will remain in the meeting as my interest to the group is advisory.

Minutes of November 2021

Proposed: John Pirie

Seconded: Yvonne Oliver

John reminded everyone that the heritage group have confirmed the Sailor Statue is to be called The Sailor and not the Sailor Mannie

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the last minutes.

Yvonne asked if the speed checker at Whiterashes is owned by their own community. The cllrs confirmed it was. They advised the accident record on that stretch of road was so high they were able to purchase their own checker. They also advised a community owned checker is only permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan advised there is nothing new to report this month.

Police Report

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

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Gifford informed us the smoke detector kits that are required to be fitted in all homes by end of February 2022 are not being made at the moment so people are struggling to meet the deadline. As far as Cllr Gifford is aware the government have not moved the deadline as yet. Cllr Gifford also brought up the storm damage Aberdeenshire has been left with and the fact there is a lot of tidying up still to be done.

Cllr Powell said she agreed with Cllr Gifford about the amount of work that still requires to be completed after the storms.

Cllr Hassan provided the following report:

Formartine Area Committee was held on 7th December –

A number of roads papers discussed –

A new road sign policy is under review currently, we made the following points:

On street signage -

- we asked for it to be recognised that when naming streets that Community Council consultation comments be prioritised over Area Committee comments.
- Asked to scrap the proposal for Tourism signage to be removed outwith settlements themselves.
- Ask officers to use local knowledge to remove existing signs to sites no longer in operation

On Electric Car Charging -

- Electric Car Charging – should consider siting car charging points as part of developments – particularly new community buildings etc.
- Look at how the charging mechanism works – we don't pay for unleaded fuel for private citizens cars, so when & why should we start charging for the electric as these vehicles become the higher used vehicles.

Also, The Boundary Commission are holding a public consultation on it's proposals for electoral boundary changes in mid February – conveniently the nearest sites for us to attend are either at Perth or Inverness. Aberdeenshire were not asked on venue availability.

Cllr Gifford commented that members of the public can, if they wish, put in a request to speak at the boundary commission consultation or sit in and listen to the meeting.

Cllr Johnston advised us he has spoken with Aird Buist about MMB hosting the connection for the CCTV that we can site at the public toilets. Cllr Johnston advised us to speak to the Council to accept the offer of CCTV then speak to MMB.

ACTION JAN

Cllr Johnston stated the phoenix fund money for the town centre regeneration group is now ready to be handed over so the group will be holding a meeting shortly to move things forward.

Cllr Johnston then issued a plea over woodland areas in Aberdeenshire. He advised Haddo House is open but there is no access to the woods due to the still being unsafe.

Jan asked if there is any update on the Chapelpark road widening. The cllrs present advised there is no update at present.

Update on Town Hall

Cllr Johnston gave a report on the Town Hall which included the following points:

1. An inspection of the roof has been carried out and a contract for the work has been set.

2. A project officer within Aberdeenshire Council has been liaising with MMB directly
3. There was a financial issue between MMB and Aberdeenshire Council however thanks to Elaine Brown this has now been resolved.
4. The café is hoping to reopen at the end of March 2022.
5. Most of the internal work has now been completed however the external work still requires to be completed

Shona asked if the rooms within the Town Hall are now available for booking. Cllr Johnston said they weren't quite ready for letting but it wouldn't be long until they would be.

Members of the public

Kaye brought up the subject of the blocked drains and the issues they cause again. Kaye stated the drains around the town centre are solid to the top with mud and therefore causing major problems with drainage. Cllr Hassan said he will check the council's workplan and let us know any information from that at our next meeting.

ACTION CLLR HASSAN

Kaye also brought up the subject of litter all over the town and particularly in front of the shops. Andrew McCartney also stated he felt the same as Kaye about the untidiness of our town.

Shona stated our village orderly did a very good job of keeping on top of the litter in the town however we do only have funding for 3 months for a village orderly.

The question was asked if the business owners are responsible for keeping the front of their shops tidy. The cllrs replied not officially but it is good practice for them to do so. They reiterated everyone should be looking after the town and ensuring they tidy up after themselves.

Kaye stated we need to keep pressing the Council for the street cleansing rota so we can see when the sweeper is in Meldrum. Cllr Johnston said he is happy to keep making this request as well as ensuring the priority route from the square to Meldrum Academy is kept as a priority.

ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON

Andrew McCartney said a repair was completed last week north of the Meldrum House roundabout and the gully on the left hand side of the road is now collapsing. Cllr Gifford asked Andrew to report this direct on the council website. Cllr Hassan reported this during the meeting on behalf of Andrew McCartney.

Andrew McCartney asked the cllrs present if it is possible a draw in layby can be constructed on the Meldrum to Inverurie road for tractor and slow moving vehicles to stop the long lines of traffic.

Cllr Gifford Aberdeenshire Council must follow NFU's guidance on this and at the moment that road doesn't comply with the guidance.

Shona asked the Cllrs if there was any update from Oliver Deeming on the ownership of the hedge at Benview Gardens. Cllr Hassan advised there is no update as yet but he will email Oliver again to request an update.

ACTION CLLR HASSAN

Kaye asked if the CCTV at the public toilets could cover the defib aswell. It was agreed we would ask for this.

ACTION JAN/SHONA

MAIG

The Christmas "Switch on event" because of Covid rules was a much smaller event as per the year before. Nevertheless, there was a good turn out from members of the public for the actual switch on and there has been many favourable comments on MAIG's Facebook for bringing some cheeriness into the town during these troublesome times.

A number of the illuminations are coming to the end of their life and will have to be replaced. Katrina McCartney is organising a Quiz night and supper in Morris's Hotel on February 25th for 6 pm to raise funds for the Christmas lights.

The committee are grateful for the excellent turnout of volunteers during the erection and dismantling the illuminations.

MAIG from time to time organise litter picks in and around the town. We are currently trying to set up a sub group of volunteers "Meldrum Litter Action Group" If successful in obtaining a number of volunteers MAIG

would co-ordinate the sub group and provide equipment such as High vis jackets, protective gloves, plastic bags and pickers. Anyone interested in registering should contact Andrew McCartney on 873473 or email a.mccartney642@gmail.com

Although there is not much MAIG activity to report at this moment we will soon start to prepare for the first of the plug plants due to arrive in February.

Shona asked Andrew McCartney to give the members present some more information on the sweeper he suggested last month to the council.

Andrew informed the council the cost is £23,500 and he would hope to get this through grant funding from Vattenfall. Vattenfall are keen to support anything electric. Andrew stated there will be no maintenance costs in the first few years and confirmed the company would be prepared to come and demonstrate the machine to us.

Andrew suggested the old wash house in the Legion car park could be repaired and brought into use to house the machine when asked about where it would be kept.

Andrew agreed to see if he can get the funding and report back to us in due course.

ACTION ANDREW MCCARTNEY

Daviot Community Trust

Willie advised there was very little to report apart from some damage by storm Arwen. A number of very old tall trees were uprooted. Those blocking paths were quickly removed allowing free movement along all routes. Two signs were also damaged.

Meldrum Paths Group

Community E-bike /Bike Scheme

A third pilot trial currently in motion where by 4 e-bikes are available for weekly hires during the months of January, February and March. The trial is geared towards encouraging people to use the bikes for active travel, health and wellbeing.

Funds have been secured to create a base for the bike operation which includes a container, training 2 x e-bikes, and 2 x conventional bikes. 2 x e-bikes will be purchased in the immediate future.

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

The group is still actively looking for people to get involved.

MMW (Oldmeldrum/Daviot/Inverurie Active travel route)

Discussions are ongoing to try ng get this route established.

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.

Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space

Site – Meadows Vale

Lease. Application for the lease of the Meadow Vale site is being processed by Aberdeenshire Council.

Project ready - work is ongoing to the basic requirements project ready to await confirming of the lease and planning approval.

Planning Application and Design.

Planning application of phase 1 has been lodged and being processed by Aberdeenshire Council. The group is grateful to MDBCC for lodging the application on behalf of OGGs.

Plans, design, etc of the site can be seen on Aberdeenshire Council's planning website.

Media sites

Our Media sites are being worked on.

Noted interest for an allotment

We have now over 20 names of noted interest in an allotment

Funding

Funding concepts being worked on albeit somewhat hammered awaiting lease and planning approval.

Spring 2022

It is still the group's goal to have basic allotments available for the community for spring 2022.

Treasurers Report

Willie emailed the members with the report prior to the meeting. The balance in the account as at 25th January 2022 is £16,339.37.

Secretarial Report

Jan asked Cllr Hassan for an update on Back Wynd being repaired. There are a number of deep potholes causing significant issues for residents. Cllr Hassan said he would chase this up as he, along with Kaye and Jan, have been reporting this since August 2021.

ACTION CLLR HASSAN

Jan informed the council about the email we have received regarding the Queen's Jubilee. The sub group of this council who organize such events have decided not to hold the lunch so the sub group would like to ask the community council if they would consider lighting the beacon. This can be done on 2nd, 3rd 4th or 5th June. Jan also advised we have the option of planting a tree for the jubilee too. The members present had a brief discussion surrounding this and we agreed to put it onto the February agenda for further discussion

ACTION JAN

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications for December 2021 and January 2022

AOCB

Shona mentioned the importance of swift nesting boxes and suggested we request them to be included when we are commenting on planning applications.

The cllrs present advised the Council is aware of this topic and boxes are already being built into planning.

Shona commented we are looking for new members to join this community council and asked everyone to make contact with people they know to ask if they might like to join.

Kaye asked if there is any update on the path to Barra. Cllr Johnston advised he would investigate and report back to us at the next meeting.

ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON

John asked if anyone has been along to Newwells track recently. As no one present had been John informed us the fence wires have been cut and a post snapped in half to allow easier access up the track however 3 large stones have been placed there to try and stop this.

Alistair asked if Meldrum House planning has been approved yet. Cllr Johnston confirmed it hasn't and it will likely go to area committee.

Date and time of next meeting

22nd March 2022 at 7.00pm