

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

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**7.00pm**

**Online Zoom Meeting**

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

**Apologies:** - Nick Forbes

**Members of Public:** - Gary Oliver, Richard Elliot, Jenny McEwens and Andrew McCartney

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

### **Declarations of Interest**

None Given

### **Minutes of March 2022**

Proposed: Yvonne Oliver

Seconded: Willie Sinclair

Shona opened the meeting by giving a thank you to Cllr Gifford for his help and hard work over the years as he will not be returning to Mid Formartine as a Cllr after the election.

Cllr Gifford thanked all cc members for their hard work as community councillors. He commented Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot CC is a fantastic group with a great working relationship.

### **Matters Arising**

Jan went through all matters arising from the last minutes.

Yvonne and Shona advised they didn't find the hedge overgrown at Gas Street however they will look at it again when it is cutting season.

Richard Elliot suggested reporting it on the Council's website.

Cllr Johnston confirmed he has spoken with Ian Jackson and he is aware and dealing with the issues of bullying at the school. He advised the first

port of call for patents is to contact the school and the school will contact the police if required.

### **Statement of Outstanding Business**

There is nothing new to report from the outstanding business this month.

### **Police Report**

There was no police report this month.

### **Members of the public**

Shona stated she has been approached by a member of the public about people using Cromlet Place/Mill Road as a throughway and how dangerous this is for pedestrians. There was a discussion around this and it was agreed we would look at this further in the future if there is still an issue.

### **Reports from Elected Members**

Shona thanked the other 3 cllrs for their hard work and wished them well in the election.

Cllr Hassan advised us there will be no changes to the gritting arrangements this year and the snow warden scheme will once again be running.

Cllr Hassan confirmed the Meldrum House Estates planning application was approved at area committee with the additional condition of an archeological assessment between the 5<sup>th</sup> hole on the golf course and plot 30 being carried out.

John said he was very pleased to hear this recommendation had been included and thanked the cllrs for this. John asked for the timescale for this being carried out however the cllrs present were unsure. Cllr Hassan asked John to send the email trail he has regarding the subject to him so he can follow this up. **ACTION JOHN**

Gary Oliver asked if there are any paths included in the application that was passed. Cllr Johnston confirmed the issue of access to the estate was raised however no extra paths are being included in the plans.

Cllr Johnston reported he felt the Meldrum Day was excellent and was great for the town and the community groups.

### **Jubilee Update**

Jan advised the lighting of the beacon will be at the whin road from 9pm-10pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Jan will send info to Richard to post on social media

**ACTION JAN**

### **MAIG**

All the new season plug plants have now arrived from Aberdeenshire council Nursery at Aden Park and have been planted out for growing on to be planted into their display containers later in May ready for going out in early June.

Materials required for repairing the dodgy Christmas Illuminations have been ordered and repairs will be carried out in the next few weeks. Consideration will also be given to replacing some of the lights.

Group members continue to assist with the development of the William Forsyth “Forsytharium” in the community garden.

We recently cleaned up and planted out the floral display in the area of the Iconic Sailor statue.

As previously indicated the Group recently undertook to clean up Sir Patrick Manson’s Memorial stone plinth, we also cut back some of the overgrown shrubberies and placed a floral container which will be replanted with summer plants later.

In preparation for the Meldrum Community event, last Saturday we find it extremely disappointing to discover that Aberdeenshire’s deep clean policy as indicated some time ago is no longer available to the town but grateful that the Community Council was able to recruit last year’s town orderly to carry out a kerb and pavement sweep-up which I believe he did at his own expense. Our volunteers spend many hours in “Making Meldrum Beautiful” it is disappointing that Aberdeenshire’s Street cleansing department does not undertake and give the basic support to keep our town free of the unsightly kerb and pavement detritus, particularly in and around the town centre.

We still have to have a committee meeting following the Meldrum open day but the consensus would indicate that this was a worthwhile event in promoting the various organisations and their activities. MAIG were fortunate to signing up 6 new volunteers on the day.

### **Daviot Community Trust**

[www.daviotcommunitytrust.org](http://www.daviotcommunitytrust.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/155911276525675/posts/217652583684877>

### **Work Parties**

The new path connecting Beech Walk and the recently completed path behind Glack House is now progressing at pace with good turnouts of volunteers.

Much of the remaining storm damage has been cleared and grass cutting of verges etc. is well underway.

### **Other Activities**

The Chris Smith Memorial 5K Run will take place on 27<sup>th</sup>. August (now to be an annual event) and detailed planning is in course. It is hoped that this will be another enjoyable event for runners of all abilities. Children's Races including a biathlon will also be included.

In conjunction with DAIG the Trust is exploring ways to incorporate permanent attractions for children within the wooded areas and this may include Animal Carvings, making use of the storm damaged timber.

### **Meldrum Paths Group**

Gary confirmed 3 E bikes have now arrived and another 2 will arrive shortly. The container for storing them will arrive in July. There is an email address set up for any queries which is [ebike@oldmeldrum.org](mailto:ebike@oldmeldrum.org)

### **Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space**

Gary advised the members present they have had an objection regarding flood risk on the area of ground they are hoping To gain planning on for the allotments. Although this is disappointing for the group they are hopeful they will still manage to gain the planning they require.

Jan suggested this cc writes a letter of support for this planning application and all members present agreed. Jan will write draft letter and send to the members for comments. **ACTION JAN**

## **Treasurers Report**

Willie emailed the members with the report prior to the meeting. The balance in the account as at 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 is £20,271.85. He confirmed we are still holding the grants for the Town Centre Regeneration Group.

## **Secretarial Report**

Jan asked the members present to make a decision on when we wanted the village orderly to work this year as we only have enough money for 4 months. It was decided he would work May, June, August and September. Jan will contact Chris and ask him to begin in May.

**ACTION JAN**

Jan asked for support from the members present to apply for funding for the erection of the finger post signage from the area committee budget. Jan confirmed we could ask for £546 from the budget (75% of the total) and suggested the cc pays the remaining £138. All members present agreed. Jan will apply for the funding.

**ACTION JAN**

A discussion was held around the town twinning email we received. Jan will find out more about what is involved and report back to the members.

**ACTION JAN**

Jan advised she had received an email from Andrew McCartney asking if developments still require to provide 40% open space. Cllr Johnston advised each planning application is looked at individually however 40% open space is still a policy within Aberdeenshire Council.

Jan advised she will be organising a town centre regen meeting once the election was passed. The main thing people are asking for is a market/craft day in the square.

## **Planning Report**

John gave a report on the planning applications for April 2022.

## **AOCB**

Andrew McCartney asked for an update on the hub. Jan advised Jim Bowe is hoping to present some options to the cllrs in May or June. After this he will arrange to present to the community council.

Cllr Johnston wished to advise us of a plant swap idea. He thought it might be a good idea for MAIG or OGGs to try this. Shona thought a plant stall at the Meldrum market day would be a good idea.

Jan asked which organisation is responsible for organising the school inspections as she has noticed Meldrum Primary, Daviot Primary and Meldrum Academy have not been inspected since 2012. Cllr Johnston and Richard Elliot both confirmed it is the Scottish Government School Inspectorate Team and inspections had been paused due to Covid however they are now carrying out inspections again. Cllrs Johnston and Hassan both said they were hopeful Meldrum and Daviot would be inspected soon.

Richard Elliot asked if the community group reports could be emailed to him so he can publish them on the website along with the agenda. All members present agreed to this so Jan will forward the reports to Richard as she gets them. **ACTION JAN**

**Date and time of next meeting**

24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00pm