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

**Tuesday 28th February 2023**

**7.00pm – Old Swingle Suite, South Road, Oldmeldrum**

**7.30pm - Lower Hall, Oldmeldrum Town Hall, Oldmeldrum**

**DRAFT**

**CC Members Present**: - Shona Presly, Jan Chalmers, John Pirie, Richard Elliott, Gordon Duncan, Murray Tennant, Alistair Massay and Jenny McEwens

**Apologies:** - James Milton, Willie Sinclair, Yvonne Oliver, Ken Gordon, Colin Wallace and Cllr Nicol

**Members of Public: - Around 50 members of the public attended the first meeting in the Old Swingle Suite.** Gary Oliver, Andrew McCartney, Mary Thackwray, Kaye Cowie, Dot Davidson, Sandy Keith, Jack Bell and Conrad Wood attended both the first and second meeting.

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

Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership: Aileen Wilson, Alex Pirrie and Jason Strathdee

**Aileen Wilson and Alex Pirrie, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

Aileen Wilson advised the GP’s at Oldmeldrum/Fyvie medical practice are to be handing back their contract to AHSCP on 17th April 2023. She assured us this process is not just happening in Oldmeldrum/Fyvie and there is a huge lack of GP’s on a national level. AHSCP will be taking the practice through the process.

Gordon asked if there will be improvement in care. Aileen advised the admin burden that lies upon business owners will be removed from the GP’s at our practice and this will be taken on by AHSCP, she stated she is hopeful this will release more time for GP’s during the working day.

Jan asked if there are any other practices run by AHSCP in Aberdeenshire. Aileen advised there are four other practices, one of which is Mintlaw.

Jan asked if the Fyvie practice building is still closed. Aileen advised it was however there will be public engagement carried out in the next few months surrounding this building.

Jenny asked if most of the GP’s arriving to our practice over the coming weeks and months will be locums. Aileen stated AHSCP’s aim is to employ GP’s within practices. She said they advertise broadly, attend recruitment fairs and speak with post graduates to help recruit however this does not always work and there is a chance some locums could be employed at our practice.

Cllr Ritchie asked if the telephone system could be looked at and possible changed due to issues many residents have. Aileen confirmed all processes and systems will be looked at once they take over in April and it will be a transitional process.

Cllr Hassan asked if AHSCP could keep the Ward 7 cllrs informed of what is happening with Fyvie. Aileen confirmed they would do this.

Richard asked if the admin issues and phone lines could be sorted quicker than the recruitment of GP’s. Aileen confirmed the practice wishes to make their service more accessible and the admin issues will be looked at.

Jenny asked if a central reception for all AHSCP practices would be an option. Aileen advised all options will be looked at.

The question was raised as to why there is a shortage of GP’s. Aileen advised us all to write to our MSP’s about this issue as it is a wide spread issue and not just in our area.

Susan Miller asked how other GP practices are managing to attract GP’s. Aileen replied it is a very competitive market and they do their best to recruit in all areas.

Elaine Buck asked what will happen to existing members of staff. Aileen confirmed there is a process where the whole team will transfer across to AHSCP.

Graham Smith asked if the handing back of the contract is an interim move or a final move from our practice. Aileen confirmed it will stay as a salaried practice for the foreseeable future.

A questioned was raised surrounding how AHSCP is going to improve diagnostics in the practice. Aileen confirmed they have plans to develop hubs and more information will be available on this as soon as it’s available.

Mary Thackwray asked if Oldmeldrum/Fyvie practice is taking on new patients. Aileen confirmed they are.

Kaye Cowie asked if the phone message people have to listen to before being able to press for who they wish to speak to can be shorter. Aileen confirmed she will take this information back to her team.

Anne Hart asked if receptionists can give their name when talking to them and if residents will be able to see a GP going forward. Aileen advised she would feedback to the team regarding receptionists giving their name and advised they would be doing their best and working as hard as they can to allow us to see GP’s.

Barbara Elliott asked if they know when the current GP’s we have will be signing contracts with AHSCP. Aileen confirmed this will be in 2-3 weeks time and they are all committed to maintaining a health care provision in Meldrum.

Susan Miller asked if we can register with another practice. Aileen advised this is only possible if you live in an area where there is an overlap in a boundary.

A question was raised as to when the information about the future of the Fyvie building would be. Aileen advised this would be in 3-4 months time.

Kaye asked why other practice patients received the letters meant for us regarding the handing back of the contract. Aileen advised this was a genuine human error.

A question was raised surrounding hospital appointments and if there would be any difference made to these going forward. Aileen confirmed medical care would continue and there will be no difference to hospital appointments.

Elaine Buck asked if there are any data protection issues with the moving over of all our data. Aileen replied there are no issues with this.

Kaye stated locums are highly paid and this must be draining money using them. Aileen advised us all again to write to our MSP regarding this national issue.

Cllr Ritchie thanked Aileen, Alex and Jason for attending our meeting and for providing as much information as they could as well as agreeing to take issues we have raised back to their team.

**Minutes of January 2023**

Proposed: Gordon Duncan

Seconded: Jenny McEwens

**Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were declared.

**Matters Arising**

Richard confirmed he now has a full quote from Mikey Green and they are going to approach John Ross chemist to ask if they can place a camera on their building. ACTION RICHARD

Cllr Johnston will ask if there is a report from the ward meeting being sent out to this cc regarding Chapelpark.

ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON

Jenny agreed to send any bus timetable info around the members for us to read and discuss at the next meeting. ACTION JENNY

**Statement of Outstanding Business**

There was nothing to report this month.

**Police Report**

There were no questions on the police report this month.

**LDP discussion**

A brief discussion was held around the work we need to do for the LDP 2028. It was suggested a sub group is set up and it will report back to this cc as and when required. Jan, John, Shona and Jenny agreed to be on this sub group as cc members. The members present invited Jack Bell onto this sub group and he accepted. Jan suggested someone from Meldrum Paths Group on the group would be beneficial. Gary Oliver agreed to ask the question and will advise the outcome by email to the sub group.

ACTION GARY OLIVER

**Members of the public**

Gary Oliver asked if it was possible for the walkway to be extended down Mill Road. Cllr Ritchie will add this to the list of incomplete walkways he has within Meldrum and bring these forward with Aberdeenshire Council. ACTION CLLR RITCHIE

Kaye Cowie advised Baker Street car park doesn’t exist on the Aberdeenshire Council online map. Cllr Johnston said this has been known to be an issue in other areas and he will alert the Aberdeenshire Council team to the issue ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON

Jan advised Lorna Hogg has sent a link that we can use to report any issues in Aberdeenshire Council car parks. Jan will forward to link to all members ACTION JAN

Andrew McCartney said he thinks the no through road at the entrance to the Balcairn road off the A947 shouldn’t be there. He said the road through Balcairn is a through road. A discussion was held around this and it was agreed Jan would write to Philip Leiper to check. ACTION JAN

Sandy Keith stated arctic lorries are heading down Rosebank more often due to sat nav issues. Jan said this was brought up before and advice given was to write to our MSP about getting the sat nav changed. Jan will write to Gillian Martin ACTION JAN

**Reports from Elected Members**

Cllr Ritchie reminded us the alternative fuel allowance deadline is the beginning of March and urged anyone who is entitled to apply for it.

Cllr Johnston asked Jan if the orchard group would be interested in social juice helping out. Jan said yes and Cllr Johnston will email them back.

CLLR JOHNSTON

Murray asked if the Council would be more grit bins into Daviot and Daviot estate for the residents to do their own gritting in the winter. The cllrs present said he would need to show on a map where they wanted the bins and send to the service for their comment.

Murray stated DAIG has to pay VAT on the new play equipment for their park however if the council paid the invoice there would be no vat. He asked if they transferred the money to the council account or even the community council account could this be done to save the vat. Jan will make some enquiries. ACTION JAN

Murray asked Jan to send the Snow Warden info to him ACTION JAN

**MAIG**

Due to Storm Otto on Friday 17h Feb. one of our Polytunnels sustained severe damage to the extent that the fabric was damaged beyond repair. With a good turnout of volunteers the following day we were able to salvage and transfer all the contents to our other premises. However, never miss an opportunity and the crew has repainted the timber frames and allowed us to make some structural modifications. A new cover has been ordered from our horticultural suppliers which will cost £390.

Unfortunately, with past experience in obtaining quotes from our insurance brokers to obtain cover for storm damage, the premiums have been extortionate. Would it be possible to obtain some financial help from the Common Good Fund to help with this unexpected burden?

2023 Floral Displays

Our floral Convener and the committee are extremely disappointed that our programme has had to be partially replanned owing to the latest communication from Landscape Services.

We are given a list of available plants in early September and are to return our order by mid-September.

It is totally frustrating and disappointing that at this late stage, we received an email from Landscape Services (22nd February) informing groups that bedding allocations will be substantially reduced. However, our concern is not that our plant numbers have been reduced, we have been allocated more or less the number ordered, it is that the plants we have been allocated bear no relation to the plants we have ordered. As most of our displays are hanging baskets and barrier containers. Many of the plants which have been allocated to our group are designed to be planted in ground border plantings.

We cannot understand why, given that our order was submitted in September that it has taken this length of time to revert back with the changes.

Unlike other towns and villages, it should be noted that MAIG relieves Aberdeenshire Council from many of the overheads incurred by the Landscape Services in that by receiving the plants as plugs the Council have no expenditure in compost, fertiliser, pots, trays, heating, transport, and virtually no labour input.

The MAIG volunteer team are dedicated and enthusiastic about keeping our town beautiful during the summer months, we have a considerable outlay on our site, and it is regrettable we do not obtain adequate cooperation from the Council.

We would be grateful if our Elected Members could look into the circumstances of why this has happened and if possible help with resolving these issues, otherwise it will not be possible to carry out our extensive programme this year.

At this stage, we are also unclear if, next year, we have little or no say on what plants we need.

Jan suggested this cc donates £100 to the work that needs to be carried out on the polytunnel. Richard declared an interest at this point and all other members present agreed with the £100 donation. Jan and Willie will do the cheque. ACTION JAN/WILLIE

**Meldrum Paths Group**

**Community E-bike /Bike Scheme**

Bikes are still available for hire, with an offer of 3 weeks for 4 during March.

We are awaiting the outcome of our discussions with representatives of Aberdeenshire Council with regards to the proposals for cycle hoops, cycle repair station, cycle hire lockers in the town centre area.

The purchasing of 2 conventional cycles and equipment for storage/base container are being worked on.

Some members of our group will be attending Cycle Scotland Leadership course on 25 March.

**Small Path Improvements - Forsyth Drive to Meldrum Academy playing Fields**

Communication is being made with Taylor Wimpy seeking permission for this path improvement project.

A meeting and walk around Oldmeldrum is planned in March with Yvonne MacLeod from Paths for All to identify protentional path route/ improvements projects to encourage active travel in our community.

The group fully supports the Community Councils investigations in creating a path from Mill Road to Cromlet Place.

**Route Publicity**

Work is ongoing to progress the project.

**MMW (**Oldmeldrum/Daviot/Inverurie Active travel route)

Discussions continue.

**Community Path Links**

Daviot/Oldmeldrum/ Inverurie – see comment in MMW.

Oldmeldrum/Pitmedden/Udny/Tarves - Awaiting feedback from Landowners.

**Active travel route to Denwood from Oldmeldrum**

Awaiting confirmation of meeting date.

**Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space**

**Groundworks and Site Development**

We are excited to report groundwork started on the site on Thursday 23 February. The vegetation has been scraped off the allotment area and turf taken from the access roadway off Millburn Road.

This basic ground work done makes the area look like allotment (green growing space) area. After the ground is ploughed, the sub-base and topcoat for the road will be laid. Only the first 5m off Millburn Road will be tarred. Some vegetation and turf scrapings are to be used to build small mounds for Pumpkin growing.

**Procurement -** Items confirmed to date

Groundworks and roadway/carpark

Perimeter fencing and gates

Storage container

Storage Shed

Allotment sheds

Polytunnels (Polycarbonate)

Solar water pumping system

**Woodland Area**

Maintenance work continued on 4 February to tidy fallen branches and trees, and pruning lower branches to allow light in to stimulate plant growth on the floor of the wood.

Various idea to encourage plant growth and wildlife are being considered.

A few trees have been uprooted with the recent storm which will be dealt with.

**AGM**

Our first AGM as Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space SCIO took place on Monday 13 February.

**Daviot Community Trust**

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

Work Parties

Still stopped until Spring except for any essential maintenance but will be resuming shortly.

Committee Meeting

A Committee Meeting is planned for 1st. March to firm up on plans for the year ahead.

**Treasurers Report**

Willie emailed the members with the report prior to the meeting. The balance in the account as at 28th February 2023 is £20,474.82. Jan confirmed £9,000 of this is being held for Meldrum2030 group, £6,153.94 is restricted funds being held of the defibrillator maintenance and tidy village scheme. This leaves £5,320.88 of unrestricted funds. Jan explained this primarily is made up of the yearly admin grant that neither our secretary or treasurer takes and therefore we are able to use this to make contributions, where we can, to community groups.

Writing to the shop owners requesting they keep their shop front tidy was discussed again. Shona will draft the letter to send

ACTION SHONA

Kaye asked if we have ever seen the timetable for the sweeper again. Jan confirmed we hadn’t but would write to waste to ask again. ACTION JAN

**Secretarial Report**

Jan gave an update on the following items:

1. There is currently no date for when the Common Good Fund will be on.
2. The pothole outside Meldrum Academy has now been filled.
3. There are some new potholes at the entrance to Meldrum Primary and Jan has reported these.
4. Jason Strathdee has provided a report on Westbank Care Home and it is available to read on oldmeldrum.org website
5. The Coat of Arms new artwork and flags is going to cost £880. Jan applied to ACT 2 and we have received £622.46 from this fund. Jan then applied to FAC and we have received £257.54 from this fund.
6. FAC have awarded us £525 towards our finger post signage. This cc had previously agreed that we would fund the remaining £175 as FAC award 75% of projects.
7. Jan advised she asked Adam Sime at the CC Forum if every development has to pay the same DO contributions. Adam confirmed they do and there is a formula the DO team uses to work this out.

**Planning Report**

John gave a report on the planning applications for February 2023.

**CC Forum**

The first presentation on the agenda was from Police Scotland - Northeast Early Intervention. Amanda Richardson and Inspector Mark Young both contributed.

Youth annoyance is a problem and they were asked to attend to discuss youth offenders and Amanda’s role in this. Her job is to engage with and speak to young people coming to the police’s attention. There is a C.L.D. team (Community Learning Development). They try to speak to youths one to one to help solve problems. The police also wish to provide youth provision in the area, engage with young people and ask them what they would like to participate in. The Pitch Football Programme is a 10-week youth related antisocial behaviour programme using football to help tackle problems. Meldrum Academy has attended. The police wish to know the trend in antisocial behaviour – it might be coming our way! Youths do engage with officers. They do not want to criminalise youths but work with them to become responsible adults. Any ideas for “safe spots”, suggestions other than sport and any help from us would be appreciated. The police want to work with boys and girls. Youth volunteer work was mentioned and the police can give guidance on this.

The second presentation was from Adam Sime, Senior Developer Obligations Officer. Donna Sutherland also contributed.

Developer Obligations. When a proposal for a residential development is received many things are considered – primary education, secondary education, community facilities/halls, sports and recreation, waste, healthcare, transportation, policy requirements and affordable housing.

What can funds be spent on? Provision of an extension to a community hall/sports pavilion. Reconfiguration of existing space to create additional capacity. Works related to increase usage. Internet access to a hall (hardware and installation only). What can’t funds be spent on? To pay for stand alone equipment. To pay for revenue costs, running costs and repairs. Staffing arrangements. To account for an existing shortfall.

Allocation of Monies. Unallocated ‘Older Monies’ – defined as monies accrued before being obliged to allocate to a specific project prior to the release of a planning consent being issued. New Unallocated Monies – must be given a project prior to a planning consent being issued, although there is always the caveat ‘or other such facility serving the residents of the development (should a project stall or not go ahead).

Up to date Intel is important. The importance of not missing out on opportunities/money and identifying potential projects is important.

How to Access Monies. Funding towards potential projects should be run past the Developer Obligations Team to make sure they meet the criteria for spend. Potential projects will also be signed off by the Area Manager.

Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023. Future opportunities to capture developer obligations through the release of new development sites/ sites carried forward from the previous plan was covered.

Keep in Touch – it’s good to talk. Adam likes to hear of good ideas, to get enquiries and then he can highlight them. Questions were then taken. One about Oldmeldrum was asked - whether feeder school towns’ developments (within catchment) contribute the same as a Meldrum development to Meldrum Academy. Yes, everyone makes a proportional contribution.

Community Council Reports/A.O.C.B. One councillor informed us of school pupils becoming town orderlies and helping in the community. A lady has created the enthusiasm and is driving the engagement with the children, S1-S6, forward. It was also asked what has happened to the A947 Safety Group. This will be looked into. Progress with the Pop-up Bobbies was discussed and Inspector Young said they are with him at the moment but no more details were given.

**AOCB**

Shona advised there has been damage to the notice board in the square. It could be possible vandalism or wind damage from Storm Otto. It has now been fixed though.

There is still some graffiti on the town hall. Cllr Johnston will ask estates to look into this. ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON

Gary Oliver said the signs at the entrance to Meldrum at the Methlick and Turriff sides are damaged and have algae on them. He asked if there could be some maintenance done on them. Jan to ask the roads departments ACTION JAN

John mentioned the planned maintenance on the blocked drains has been ongoing and they have been three times to South Road. He also mentioned there is still water ponding at the old seweage works.

**Date and time of next meeting**

28th March 2023 at 7pm