

**Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**  
**7.00pm – New Sports Pavilion, Meldrum Pleasure Park**

**CC Members Present:** - Jan Chalmers, Willie Sinclair, John Pirie, Gordon Duncan, Ken Gordon, Alistair Massey and Murray Tennant

**Apologies:** - Shona Presly, Yvonne Oliver, Jenny McEwens and Richard Elliott

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

**Members of Public:** - Andrew McCartney, Gary Oliver, Jack Bell, Vivienne Webster, Mike Watt, Gordon Miles, Marjorie Miles, Penny Morton, Mary Thackwray, Audrey Coutts, Charlene Brownlie, Kenneth Brownlie, Derek Webster, Debra Webster, Martin Kingdon and William Pirritt

**Minutes of November 2023**

Proposed: John Pirie

Seconded: Willie Sinclair

**Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were given.

**Matters Arising**

Shona and Richard have to put some information together regarding the town twinning to be placed on the website and noticeboard. It will advise residents of the proposed twinning and ask for interest to set up a group within the town to facilitate this. We will get an update on if there has been any interest in this at our next meeting from Shona and Richard.

**ACTION SHONA/RICHARD**

Discussion around a small sub group for the CCTV will be brought forward to the January meeting. The toilets not been locked at night was brought up by members of the public so Jan will ask Aberdeenshire Council if they no longer lock public toilets. **ACTION JAN**

Shona will ask Doug Smith about the flagpole at Bruce's seat. Shona hasn't been able to contact Doug as yet so will keep trying. We will get an update from Shona at our next meeting.

## ACTION SHONA

The Pothole outside Berry's was brought up again. The cllrs urged us all to keep reporting these potholes. **ACTION ALL**

The question was raised if claims can be made against Aberdeenshire Council for damage to cars from potholes. Cllr Johnston confirmed there is a process and he will get a copy of the policy for the cc to circulate.

**ACTION CLLR JOHNSTON**

The issue of glass being smashed and drug taking at COutens was raised. Cllr Ritchie said he would take more details from the members of the public and follow up on this with the police. **ACTION CLLR RITCHIE**

Jan asked if Matt Clubb has managed to get in touch with Benn Sievewright at the Legion yet and if there was any update. Ken advised he hadn't heard so will speak with Matt before our next meeting.

**ACTION KEN**

### **Discussion around flooding in our area**

Gordon opened the discussion by reading the following information:

#### Flooding Points

1. Becoming an increasing problem throughout the UK Just look at the news on TV to see major problems through out the UK. Nearer home river Urie and Don at Inverurie and Kintore. And Oldmeldrum near Chapel park, St Mathews church Benview gardens, Howe view, etc.
2. The 100 and 200 year storms seem to be happening with increasing frequency every year now
3. Increased surface water run off due to new developments
4. Old drainage systems may have been OK years ago but not good enough for conditions today
5. Maintenance regime for old drainage systems may be ineffective leading to partly blocked drains which can't cope with original design flow let alone greatly increased flow rates today. Particularly with new drains connected into them. I know the council is short of money and this can have an impact of maintenance work

6. Authorities (council) need to increase their review of new drain design. And increase their inspection supervision of drainage construction work. Ensure compliance with the health & safety or work etc act 1974. ( duty of all employers to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their employees and others who may be affected by their work.)

7. Visit carried out on Tuesday 9th Jan by a few of us to review the flooding problems around St Mathew Episcopal church yard and Chapel Park development.

8. Evidence seen of flooding in the church yard with graves having being under water. It looked as if the drainage system around Chapel Park was not yet complete and fully installed. An open ended drain pipe was seen and we were told that the SUDs pond had overflowed which would indicate that there may be a possible design / construction problem. These are all problems that require to be rectified now ASAP before they escalate.

9. There has also been flooding on the A947 road on the Aberdeen side of the Meldrum house hotel roundabout. This I believe then flows into Benview Gardens causing flooding problem of a few properties. We were advised that this problem was due to the existing drainage system that passes under the A947 road from Meldrum House being designed and installed years ago before the golf course was built. The extra water drainage from this area in severe weather nowadays is more than the existing old drainage system can handle so it backs up and overflows onto the A947 road. I believe that the water drains away fairly quickly after rain stops. There also are a large number of drains near the roundabout so this maybe a known problem. However it's an example of a current flooding problem that requires sorting out as I believe it will get worse in the future.

10. We would like the council to arrange a supply of sandbags to be stored in this area for use of residence. This is a matter that we will be raising at our resilience meeting with the council on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is with Louise Muirhead, Colin Anderson, Aimi Blumen

12. I would like to take this opportunity to ask for volunteers say 2 or 3 to act as coordinators key holders for the issue of sandbags. During a flooding event.

There was a discussion with all present surrounding general flooding in our area. Residents from Howe View advised a lot of the embankment around the burn that runs along the back of their houses has been washed away and this has caused severe flooding into their gardens and garages as well as bringing rats to their gardens. Audrey Coutts advised she has flooding to her property in Benview Gardens from both the front and the back.

Jan confirmed she has a meeting set up with Alison Moore, one of the Meldrum House Trustees and can update everyone on the outcome of this meeting after it takes place. She asked if any members of the public specifically wanted updated then to leave their email address with her at the end of the meeting.

There was a discussion around the Chapelpark flooding into the graveyard and neighbouring properties. The cllrs present confirmed they are waiting on updated information from their ward meeting with Paul Macari on the flooding to send out.

**ACTION ALL CLLRS**

Murray asked if there is anything can be done at Barra Berries and the Co-Op as these are B Class roads. The Cllrs present said the road officials know about Barra Berries and they will find out some more information on this to report to us at our next meeting.

**ACTION ALL CLLRS**

Mike Watt advised us the drains from the top of the bypass right to the bottom are completely blocked. Jan will report this to the service.

**ACTION JAN**

John advised us that the Scottish Government has a waste water drainage policy consultation open at the moment. There are 37 questions and it closes on 21<sup>st</sup> February. John will send the link around all members and we will post onto Facebook and our website.

**ACTION JAN/GORDON**

### **Statement of Outstanding Business**

Nothing new to report this month

### **Police Report**

Nothing to report back to the police this month except the drug taking at coutens and Baker Street which Cllr Ritchie will speak to them about.

**ACTION CLLR RITCHIE**

### **Members of the public**

The mess and debris continually in and around the square in Meldrum was brought up again. Jan asked why we can't seem to see a copy of the sweeper schedule for Meldrum and the cllrs present didn't know why but said they would ask for this again.

**ACTION ALL CLLRS**

Cllr Ritchie also said he would email Andrew Sheridan and ask for a sweep of the square to be done by hand as the sweeper is too large to go past most of the shops. It can only do the roads and in front of the town hall.

**ACTION CLLR RITCHIE**

Jim Bruce gave us some information on the recent bus forum. He said he felt we still didn't have satisfactory answers regarding the services and asked for any help the cc can give. Jim also said the online format used at the last meeting is not suitable going forward. Jan asked Cllr Hassan if he could invite a member of the transportation team along to our April or May meeting to discuss matters further. Daviot residents have lost 9 services from their area and a number of them heavily rely on public transport to reach healthcare appointments and collect prescriptions etc. Cllr Hassan confirmed he would ask Euan again as he was booked for last September but was unable to attend at short notice.

**ACTION CLLR HASSAN**

### **ELECTED MEMBERS**

The cllrs present advised us they have been dealing with a lot of correspondence over the last few weeks regarding missed bin collections. Discussions are ongoing with Aberdeenshire Council to ascertain how they can stop this happening again. Extra bin collections were arranged by the cllrs for all areas across Formatine.

Cllr Ritchie confirmed the medical practice building in Fyvie will not be reopening.

### **MAIG**

The main physical activity in December and early January was successful erecting and taking down of Christmas lights. Both operations were efficiently executed thanks to the pre planning and organisation lead principally by Allan Buck, Colin Chalmers and Sandy Keith. The Sunday afternoon switch on event was very well supported by the community and the feedback has been very positive. The donations raised have covered the costs. Floral activities were limited this being the winter period, but seed selection for trial in the new propagators is under way. End of February will see the beginning of repotting the begonia tubers. Cllr. Judy Whyte, Provost of Aberdeenshire, during her visit to switch on the Christmas lights, suggested that she and the local councillors should make a visit to MAIG to get an understanding of what we do and how we do it. This will be discussed at our MAIG committee meeting and a date for such a visit set up. Plans are under way for full entry in Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) competition in the Beautiful Scotland category. Tony Denison will be addressing the CC on this in more detail in February. We also plan to hold a litter picking session, also within the realm of KSB,

For information the following MAIG office bearers were elected at the 2023 November AGM:

Chairman – Barbara Elliot

Co-Chair– Tony Denison

Vice Chairman and Flower Convener– Moira Gregg

Secretary – Stuart Mitchell

Treasurer and Christmas Lights Convener – Alan Buck

Administrator – Andrew McCartney

Mailing Secretary – Norman Millar

Draw Fund Manager– Norman, Millar

Maintenance Conveners – Sandy Keith & Colin Chalmers

Watering Coordinator – Shona Wilson

Events Convener– Jenny McEwens

### **Daviot Community Trust**

Work on the plans to develop the upper terrace and area around and below the Maintenance Building is still to be finalised but the decision has been taken to plant around 1,300 new trees around this area to form a wildlife hedge. Planting by volunteers will take place possibly in early March.

The recent storms e.g. Gerrit etc. caused some surface damage to some paths which will require repairing once the better weather comes

The Chairman continues to emphasise the urgent need to recruit more volunteers from the community to assist with ongoing maintenance and other duties as a number of the current team have been involved for over fifteen years and are getting less able. If you think you can help us, please ring Peter McHattie on 07923452733 or email: pmchattie@hotmail.co.uk

Oldmeldrum and Distric Rotary Club

Penny confirmed the Santa Sleigh collected £2,816.00 in December 2023.

She advised local groups can apply for small funding grants through the community fund. Application forms are available by contacting the rotary through their facebook page or by emailing them direct on rotaryomd@gmail.com

### **Treasurers Report**

Willie emailed the members with the report prior to the meeting. The balance in the account as at 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 is £20,842.44. Meldrum 2030 has £9,000 of this and £5,703.13 is general funds.

### **Secretarial Report**

Jan informed the members she has a meeting set up with Audra Booth to discuss the potential of a sports hub in our area. Jan will report back with any information at our next meeting. **ACTION JAN**

Jan asked the cllrs present if they could try and get an answer to the question we sent in to roads regarding the traffic coming through the square. The cllrs asked for a copy of the email and they will try and get an answer for us. **ACTION JAN**

Jan also brought up there are 2 conditions that are currently not being adhered to from the Chapelpark approved planning. There are more than 50 houses occupied so a secondary access should be completed as well as Lovers Lane. Jan said she has asked the planning service for an update on this on a few occasions since Autumn 2023 (and has copied the cllrs in) but no response. The cllrs present advised it would be best for us to write to either Paul Macari or enforcement about this. **ACTION JAN**

### **Planning Report**

John gave a report on the planning applications for December 2023 and January 2024.

### **CC Forum**

Cllr Hassan confirmed an officer from Waste Services will be attending the next forum on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

### **AOCB**

Mike stated parking signs have been placed at the entrance to King Street however nothing else has happened regarding them. He asked if anyone can shed any light on when they will be taking effect. The cllrs present said they would find out. **ACTION CLLRS**

Willie said the potholes at Sandy Bryce Drive are getting worse and he asked Cllr Ritchie if he could chase the works order for these again.

**ACTION CLLR RITCHIE**

Neil Weightman gave a short talk on his ideas for an online platform which would host a number of things including local news and a categorised section for all local businesses. The members present felt it sounded like a good and interesting idea however asked Neil if he could come back with some examples and pricing etc when we have more of our members present. Neil agreed to this and Jan to invite Neil back to either April or May meeting.

**ACTION JAN**

**Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024