

**Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting
Tuesday 26th March 2024
7.00pm – New Sports Pavilion, Meldrum Pleasure Park**

CC Members Present: - Jan Chalmers, Shona Presly, Willie Sinclair, John Pirie, Gordon Duncan, Jenny McEwens, Alistair Massey, Colin Wallace and Murray Tennant

Apologies: - Yvonne Oliver, Richard Elliott and Cllr Johnston

Councillors: Cllr Hassan and Cllr Ritchie

Members of Public: - Andrew McCartney, Gary Oliver, Jack Bell, Vivienne Webster, Gordon Miles, Penny Morton, Mary Thackwray, Caroline David, Karen Duguid, Peter Dingle, Karen Hardie, Dave Hardie and David Clare

Co Option of New Member

David Clare was proposed for co option by Gordon Duncan and seconded by Willie Sinclair. All members present were in agreement with this decision and David was welcomed to our community council.

Minutes of February 2024

Jan stated she had omitted to section from the minutes regarding the CCTV and thanked Alistair for bringing it to her attention. Jenny also asked if it could be noted which date the cc forum took place and who took the minutes. All members present agreed to these changed and Jan will amend.

ACTION JAN

The members present were happy to adopt the minutes after the changed are made.

Proposed: Jenny McEwens

Seconded: Gordon Duncan

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were given.

Matters Arising

Jan is still waiting on confirmation from Aberdeenshire Council if they no longer lock public toilets.

ACTION JAN

Shona advised she has found some prices for flagpoles online. A 20 foot pole will cost £49.99 and a sectional heavy duty kit will cost £59.99. It

was suggested we email Scotia to ask if there are any spare flagpoles on their site. Jan will email Scotia and ask. **ACTION JAN**

Shona will email Graeme King again regarding the town twinning possibility. **ACTION SHONA**

Ken will share the slides and information regarding the ground loop system as soon as he has them. **ACTION KEN**

Cllr Hassan confirmed he is still trying to get a transport officer to attend our next meeting in Daviot and will confirm asap. **ACTION CLLR HASSAN**

John received an email response from Natalie Wood at Aberdeenshire Council regarding our query about traffic coming through the square. The email is attached below:

Aberdeenshire Council: As you will be aware, there is a 7.5T weight limit advising HGVs to use the alternative route. We also must retain access for deliveries, waste vehicles, etc. There are a number of shops in the Square that receive deliveries from HGVs, e.g. butcher, J.G. Ross, Berries furniture shop, garage, chemist, etc. I attach an image of the signage already in place that aims to direct the through traffic away from the centre of the village by using the above noted A and B class roads. Unfortunately we do not hold the powers to enforce this and so, if deemed appropriate, the Community Council should engage with Police Scotland to pass on their concerns regarding this matter.

MB & D CC: I am writing as from Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot CC. At the CC meeting on 27 February we were disappointed by your misinterpretation of our query regarding the number of sub 7.5 ton vehicles which daily pass through The Square in Oldmeldrum. The query had reached you via Cllr Hassan and Philip Leiper. The query is in the attached file, worded so as to make it clear what the issue is. We assume that, regarding Oldmeldrum, you are aware of the number of light vehicles which use South Road/The Square/Commercial Road, in both directions, as a through road instead of the sign posted A947/A920/B9170 route. This latter route large vehicles are clearly directed to and indeed follow. Are you content with this ongoing situation? If not, what measures are you considering which will direct the above through traffic away from the centre of the village by using the above noted A and B class roads?

Aberdeenshire Council: To clarify, the 7.5T limit is enforceable, but by the Police and not the Local Roads Authority. It would be classed as a motoring offence when 7.5T+ vehicles use this road as a through road and not for deliveries, for which the Police hold powers to enforce. We do, however, need to maintain access to these vehicles for delivery purposes. We will notify the Police of these concerns to allow them to take action as necessary.

MB & DCC: I am afraid that you have completely misinterpreted our query. There is no concern with vehicles over 7.5 tons. If you find the message text and that in the attachment difficult to understand please let me know and I will expand them further.

Aberdeenshire Council: Apologies for the misunderstanding. I'm sure you are aware of the other enquiries at the moment relating to larger vehicles, so I apologise for misreading.

I understand now that you are querying the use of the road through the town by cars and other similar vehicles, not LGVs etc. Whilst we can signpost (and have already done so) the alternative route to road users, we are not able to enforce a restriction of using the town centre route to these vehicles. There is known community benefit (for business usage and for the access to other roads within the town centre) for these road users to utilise the route through the town centre. We would not be looking to inhibit the movement of traffic through the town, but current signage is in place to make road users aware of the alternative route avoiding the town centre. If you feel there is a safety concern regarding this, Police Scotland should be consulted.

MB & D CC: We respond to your position as follows:- One – No, we are not aware of the enquiries relating to larger vehicles. Two - We are well aware of the signposting on the approaches to the village. Three – As we asked, we now take it that you are content with the ongoing number of sub 7.5 ton vehicles which choose to transit the Square in Oldmeldrum as a through road. Four – You have no intention to take any measures to persuade the above through traffic to follow the signposted routes. Five – Whether the community benefit of the through traffic outweighs the hazards and lost ambience it brings to the community is not accepted by many.

To date there has not been a response to this email. John will keep us updated if he receives another response. **ACTION JOHN**

The members present discussed how we can help MAIG with the KSB campaign. Jan informed the members we have enough money in our tidy village pot to have a village orderly from May – September this year and asked for approval from the members to place an advert on facebook and the notice board for this. The village orderly we have had for the last 2 years has now got a full time job. All members present agreed. **ACTION JAN**

Jan also suggested we write to community payback team and ask for some help with this work. All members present agreed. **ACTION JAN**

Jan confirmed the letter to the planning department regarding the proposed crematorium at Glack has been approved by all members and sent.

Cllr Hassan confirmed a sign advising parking is for residents only at Barnett Court has been authorised and will be in place soon.

Cllr Hassan is still awaiting a response on the possibility of the steel mesh fence being extended and will report back to us next month. **ACTION CLLR HASSAN**

A discussion was held around how we can help Meldrum Primary School with the lollipop post being removed. Colin suggested we email MPIP and ask if we can help in any way. Jan will send the email. **ACTION JAN**

The members present decided to add the need for a crossing on commercial road and Urquhart Road at Chapelpark to our outstanding business.

ACTION JAN

Jan will email Dr Fawcett back and set up a meeting to further discuss the options to ensure the donated money is secure. **ACTION JAN**

Statement of Outstanding Business

Nothing new to report this month

Police Report

We haven't received a report however there are still issues with drug taking and Cllr Ritchie will go back to the police to ask what more we can do as they advised they couldn't find any evidence. Jenny stated she remembered when the police attended our meeting last summer and they advised us then to take details and send in for them to investigate.

ACTION CLLR RITCHIE

Cllr Ritchie also confirmed the black Peugeot still hasn't been moved from James Street and he has written again to request this.

ACTION CLLR RITCHIE

Members of the public

Dave Hardie from Mill Road spoke on behalf of Mill Road residents present. He advised us Mill Road has now been fully closed for nearly 8 weeks and the council have advised them there are no funds to repair the road at the current time. He advised it is a 2.1 mile detour to get to Meldrum square and they have had issues with bins not being collected, medical supplies that are depended on not being delivered and he also informed us of a large safety concern as the junction onto the A947 (part of their detour route) is unsafe to exit onto. Emergency services are unable to access Mill Road too. Mr Hardie confirmed he has contacted our MSP and is awaiting a response.

The members present agreed to write to Jim Savege about the situation. Jenny and Jan will draft letter and send to members for approval.

ACTION JENNY/JAN

Peter Dingle asked if a mirror could be placed on the opposite side of the road from the Mill Road exit towards Meldrum square. Jan will ask the question and reply to Mr Dingle.

ACTION JAN

Jack Bell said that pothole at the crossing is very bad again. Jan will re report.

ACTION JAN

Andrew McCartney said the large van is parking at the bottom of Kirk Brae again and causing issues for cars exiting Kirk Brae. Cllr Ritchie will see if anything can be done about this.

ACTION CLLR RITCHIE

ELECTED MEMBERS

Cllr Hassan informed us a community waste officer will be in Meldrum Library from 3-6pm on 30th April to answer any queries about the new bin collections. He also confirmed the waste bin at the bus stop has been moved back to the correct place next to the defib.

Cllr Hassan advised us grants of up to £500 are now available for work to do with local place plans.

He also advised us a high number of adverts are going out for teacher posts. The capacity of Meldrum Academy forecast for 2028 is 107%, Meldrum primary school is 70% and Daviot primary school is 45%

Jack asked if these figures included Kirkwood Development at Newbarns and Cllr Hassan confirmed these houses are included in the forecast.

Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group

Litter Pick Saturday 23rd of March: Around 14 volunteers showed up on a windy and rainy start to the day. Attention was on the bypass and Station Road, collecting 25 bags of litter, a discarded catalytic converter, half an tyre (why only a half?), and small car battery. A staggering, but ultimately not recorded, number of wine bottles were picked up in the area adjacent to the co-op. Likewise, much of what was collected came from this area. Similarly, beer bottles and soft-drink cans also dominated the litter. The litter collected on the bypass, from between the Co-op roundabout and the Meldrum House roundabout, was mostly made up of items probably discarded from cars driving along that route. We may have another litter picking event in the Autumn. A re-education campaign on the use of bins and taking litter home could be a worthwhile exercise? Jenny will speak with the chair of MAIG about writing a letter. The members of the community council felt this would be better coming from MAIG as they did the litter pick and then the Community Council can write at a later date if required.

ACTION JENNY

Flowers: Work continues to prepare the Poly tunnels for receipt of plug plants from mid-April. The new hot beds/propagators are in action. There has been some mid-week work on the beehives and planters in the square Regular work parties will start shortly.

General: MAIG has been chosen by Foundation Scotland for a Case Study of a volunteer group having positive environmental benefits in multiple ways. Andrw McCartney and Tony Denison had a Zoom meeting with Foundation Scotland highlighting the successful grant applications to Vattenfall “This is Your Future” for the Electric Utility Vehicle, the Solar Panels, and the Propagators and how these had benefitted both MAIG and our community.

Daviot Community Trust

The sapplings, mentioned in the last report, were planted along the boundary of the Trust property running from Beechwalk down to the road entrance of Glack House. A double row, hedge has been created, made up of flowering and fruiting trees to create a haven for birds and wildlife.

The Trust is very grateful to the large number of volunteers who turned out to help despite the poor weather.

The surface damage to some paths caused by the storms will be attended to 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

Zero Carbon Daviot

Jan read out the following email from Ken:

- Community Heating: No further update on the community heating proposals, I’m planning to get some traction on this when we move into the new financial year;
- Proposed Crematorium: 98 public comments are now visible. 87 objections, 10 supporters and 1 neutral. Most supporters would not be affected by the traffic /pollution and only one of them lives in Daviot. Much more detail provided by the objectors than the supporters. A lot there for the Planning officials to consider.

- Zero Carbon Daviot: our plans for a community electric car are no longer looking viable. We have the funds in our bank but there are no insurers for any community car clubs throughout the UK. Moray Car Share has worked successfully for the past few years but is now being forced to close.

Meldrum Paths Group

Gary Oliver said their new paths leaflet is progressing well and he asked for support for the community council for a financial contribution towards the printing costs. The members present agreed to this on the basis we are able to view a copy in draft prior to the printing.

ACTION GARY OLIVER

Treasurers Report

Willie emailed the members with the report prior to the meeting. The balance in the account as at 26th March 2024 is £20,663.49.

Secretarial Report

Jan advised she is waiting a further update from Robin Currie on Chapelpark and will share this as soon as she receives it. **ACTION JAN**

The path that runs along the back of Meldrum Glebe has been confirmed as being owned by Meldrum House Trustees by Registers of Scotland. Jan will ask their solicitor for a letter confirming they are happy with the community carrying out the work. **ACTION JAN**

Jan confirmed she completed an online call at MAIG's request to give a community view on the work MAIG does in the community.

MMB have advised the upper hall is available to us to meet in for our May and June meetings. Members present asked if there is a cost involved and Jan confirmed it would be £75 for the 3 hour slot we need. The members present voted to stay in the sports pavilion. Jan will let MMB know. **ACTION JAN**

Jan advised she has been made aware of a defib being sited at the end of Greenford Road in Bourite. The members present were delighted to hear

of another defib in our area and especially at Bourite at we have been trying to site one in that area for some time.

Jan asked for support to write to Keith Paterson to ask if we could discuss “The Bothy” being sited on the land that is protected in the LDP and was meant to be the hub land. The members present agreed. **ACTION JAN**

Jan was asked by members of the public if there is any update on the hub. Jan replied nothing more to report but she will ask Jim Bowe for an update before the next meeting. **ACTION JAN**

Jan asked if our cc area could get public bins with a section for cans etc and a section or general rubbish like Ballater has. Cllr Hassan will investigate. **ACTION CLLR HASSAN**

Jan informed the members only 4 people attended our recent resilience event which is disappointing however we have a couple of more people happy to be added to our resilience whataspp group. Jan will look to setting this up now. **ACTION JAN**

Gordon confirmed he has gained funding from the council resilience fund to buy hi-vis vests, thermal blankets, lights etc. They will be stored in Daviot Village Hall and Meldrum Town Hall to be used in emergencies.

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications for March 2024. John gave us a detailed history about the planning for wind turbines at Mains of Cairnbrogie. Gary Oliver confirmed Meldrum Paths Group will be making comments to the planning service. The members of this community council that were present voted to not make any comments.

AOCB

It was queried if the 40mph speed restriction on the B9001 is to do with the proposed crematorium. The cllrs present replied this was not the case. Murray invited the cllrs to meet at the entrance to Daviot Estate to look at the safety issues there. The cllrs present agreed to this and Murray will arrange this with them. **ACTION MURRAY**

Colin said the spring is still running down at the bottom of the Parcock tree. He has reported it but it is still running over the road and he

believes it needs cleared. The cllrs present said they would write to the service about this. **ACTION CLLR HASSAN/RITCHIE**

Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 23rd April 2024