

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 26th January 2021

7.00pm

Online Zoom Meeting

CC Members Present: - Shona Presly, Jan Chalmers, Willie Sinclair, John Pirie, Stuart Singer, James Milton, Yvonne Oliver, Gordon Duncan and Nicola Currie

Apologies: - Lloyd Duncan and Alistair Massey

Members of Public: - Murray Tennant, Gary Oliver, Andrew McCartney, Kaye Cowie and Irene Dunbar

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

Police: None

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were given.

Shona advised she would like to begin the meeting tonight by handing over to Jan to read out an important statement received from Aberdeenshire Council with regards to the Transport Interchange.

Jan read out the following:

On Monday 25th January 2021 the Council intimated to the Landowner's solicitor that it shall no longer be proceeding with the Transport Interchange and bus layby at the Chapelpark location. Agreement on the terms to acquire rights to construct the Transport Interchange and bus layby at Chapelpark could not be reached.

The Council will now consider alternative locations for the Transport Interchange and bus layby.

The question was raised by members with the councillors present why this has happened and what impact this will have now on the housing application that has been passed as the community was offered this as a package with houses, hub and a road widening.

Cllr Gifford advised the negotiations have not been going well and nothing has been able to move forward for some time. Cllr Johnston

stated there will be no effect on the planning consent for houses as they had been determined as a separate application.

The councillors present also stated that using the land proposed for the hub as an emergency access for the houses was not safe.

Kaye asked for the total amount of money this has cost the Council including officer's time. Cllr Gifford stated he would try and find this out for the next meeting. **ACTION CLLR GIFFORD**

Kaye and Irene asked if the Council could compulsory purchase the ground for the hub as it has been stated at previous meeting by the councillors that this could happen if required.

Cllr Gifford advised a compulsory purchase cannot be done if negotiations are still going on.

Jan stated she has looked back through old minutes for the last 5 years and this community council was informed on 12 separate occasions the land for the transport interchange and road widening would be gifted to the community. The councillors present asked Jan to forward the extracts from the minutes to them. **ACTION JAN**

There were a numbers of questions raised that couldn't be answered this evening so Jan will draw up a list and email to Elaine Brown. Jan will report back at the next meeting with the response. **ACTION JAN**

Minutes of November 2020

Proposed: Stuart Singer

Seconded: John Pirie

Matters Arising

Jan went through all matters arising from the previous minutes.

The three quotes for the finger post signage were emailed out to all members to vote on. The majority of members voted for Gary Oliver so he will be awarded the work. Jan will begin looking at funding options through the Formartine Partnership.

Willie and Nicola advised they are still looking to get some volunteers organised to help with the Church annexe car park work however it is extremely hard due to Covid so will look at this again in the spring.

Willie advised he is still waiting on a letter back from the electric company re the Daviot village defib. He will write to them again and report back at the next meeting. **ACTION WILLIE**

Jan has asked Ian Daniels advice on the issue with HGV's parking in the layby beside Kirk Brae. Ian asked if there was a particular company that was always parking there and if so to let him know and he will have a word with them.

It was asked if "Resident's parking only" signs could be placed there. Cllr Johnston advised a traffic order would be required for that.

Jan advised she has written to Note, the company who now run Clydesdale Bank's machines but has had no response as yet.

Shona asked for members support in gifting the Meldrum food bank £300 towards the Kids snack packs that they are going to be offering when kids are being home schooled. All members present agreed. Willie will organise a cheque and Shona will post. **ACTION WILLIE/SHONA**

Statement of Outstanding Business

Jan advised there was nothing new to report from the statement.

Police Report

No report provided. Jan advised the new website where the police reports are going to be uploaded to should be active very soon and she will forward these to all members when they are available.

Members of the public

Shona said she has been contacted by a member of the public who is requesting a new handrail on the bridge at Barrahill. Gary Oliver said he has walked it and can't seem to find a problem. He has asked Shona to provide him with more details so he can look again.

ACTION SHONA/GARY

Shona has had another question regarding potholes on the Lochter road and stated she advised the member of the public to report online for Aberdeenshire Council to fix.

Finally Shona wanted to say well done to the Daviot residents for getting lots of gritting done in their area when it was icy. Nicola commented that

she wanted to thank Aberdeenshire Council for arranging the supply of grit for them to do the work.

Nicola asked if there is a possibility of getting the slowing measure across from the hall removed or moved to the other side of the road. Cllr Johnston advised this issue has been ongoing for many years and it gets as far as the roads department and they advise it meets regulations. He suggested to the councillors they put this item on their next ward meeting agenda for discussion. Cllr Adam agreed with this and so it will be taken for further discussion at ward meeting. Cllr Adam also asked if the Police and Roads department have been asked to track the speeding on the road. Nicola advised there was slow down signs 2 years ago but it didn't record any date.

ACTION ALL CLLRS

Andrew McCartney asked Jan if she had received a reply from the Medical Practice regarding the covid injections for over 80s yet.

Jan stated she has had a number of calls from over 80s in the town concerned about a few things with the programme so she emailed the practice manager and received the following response:

I am very sorry this may have missed some of the patient population. As with the Flu Vaccination Programme this year the clinics are being run by NHS Grampian and in turn their communications team are issuing statements through the local press and social media. Due to the practice not receiving confirmation of the vaccination delivery for our over 80's clinic until last week I was concerned nothing had yet been shared with the patient population.

Due to the very short turnaround time given to us I felt it important to get some information out, I do agree however we need to look at other forums to share the information I can look at adding this to our web page too, I am concerned however what other options we have for those who do not have access to the internet as up until now we have depended on the great community spirit we have within our villages and people sharing information. We also shared this information with our local chemists in case any of our patients enquired there whilst collecting prescriptions.

Due to this very short timescale the decision was taken by the Health and Social Care Partnership (NHS Grampian) to call patients rather than send letters to ensure that we did not encounter the same problem that arose with the flu clinics where patients were receiving letters after their actual appointment times.

The NHS Grampian led Clinics for the **under** 80's will all be held at NHSG Vaccination Hubs across Aberdeen City and Shire, patients will all receive a letter advising them of their appointment. These letters are going to begin being sent over the next week or so and will offer patients from our practice an appointment at the Vaccination Hub at Inverurie.

There will be both a telephone number and also a web link that can be used to change the appointment or location if the one provided is not acceptable. Other hubs include, Teca (the P&J Arena), Ellon and Huntly.

The calls to the over 80's commenced this week and will continue over the coming days to ensure everyone is contacted. For anyone who we have been unable to contact we will ensure they are not missed and alternative contact will be made.

I suggested our community notice board and the Kirk News as options for Kerry to feed into. She has replied and is agreeable to these so have passed her details to Simon Hill the editor of the Kirk News.

Reports from Elected Members

Cllr Gifford stated he and Cllr Johnston were on the panel for the Meldrum Academy Head Teacher post and Ian Jackson (the Acting Head Teacher) was successful and has now been appointed.

Cllr Adam said she has been very busy helping answer questions from parents in our area that are home schooling.

The following reports were received from the community groups:

MAIG

With the continued lockdown I am afraid there is not a lot of activity at this time and little to report.

It was unfortunate that the town's Christmas Illuminations were very much restricted this year. The main reason being that we were limited to the social distancing as we did not have sufficient qualified persons to operate the second erection team.

The few Illumination we had up in the square of which 3 of them failed because the trip circuits to the outlet plugs had not been reset. This despite a number calls to Aberdeenshire Council Roads lighting department by our lighting convener to have the trip circuits reset. Two of the columns have been out of operation since the winter of 2018.

Our AGM this year was a Zoom virtual event. The office bearers elected were Barbara Elliot Chairman, Moira Gregg Vice Chairman, Stuart Mitchell Secretary, Alan Buck Treasurer, Andrew McCartney Administrator, Bill Duncan MAIG Draw Fund, Norman Miller Mailing Secretary.

MAIG Committee Members are extremely pleased to be informed by Aberdeenshire Councils Landscape Department that communities throughout Aberdeenshire will be supplied with summer bedding plants. We understand that Meldrum will receive 1500 which is down from previous years. However, as previously reported we have retained many of the Begonia tubers from last year which will go some way to make up the shortfall.

We expect to receive the first of the plug plants in late March.

Our project to establish our Cycling Without Age has had a setback as our Grant Funding Application to Foundation Scotland's RRR Fund has not been successful. However, we are undeterred and 2 further applications have been submitted and we expect to learn the results by mid to end February.

Following Shona's comments at the last CC meeting I understand that the results of our monthly draw are now submitted on a regular basis to Stewart & Watson for posting on the Community Notice Board and they are also posted on the MAIG Facebook page.

Daviot Community Trust

With the winter weather, no maintenance has been undertaken. The paths continue to very well used and it is likely the Covid – 19 restrictions have increased usage as more people are at home. Due to the extremes of rainfall experienced in the latter part of 2020, considerable damage was caused to some paths, especially the newly constructed Chestnut Walk Path. Cross drainage was installed after the flooding and this was successful for the two third of the path but the lower flatter part still suffered damage due to run-off from the adjoining field.

Our Civil Engineer Director recommended a large drainage system with an extensive soakaway, with an overflow piped to the existing small holding reservoir. Weather permitting this project will be commenced in February. Funding of 75 per cent of total cost has been received from Aberdeenshire Council Formartine Area Budget with an element of matched funding from Formartine Rural Partnership SCIO. The directors are very grateful to both organisations for their support. Once this is

complete, and assuming no more exceptional rain storms occur, repair work to the damaged path will be undertaken by our “in-house volunteers”.

DAIG

It has been a quiet time for us. We have begun the ordering process to get the first play equipment frame for the park in Daviot. This has taken a good amount of fundraising. The play frame costs almost £8000. We hope to be able to fundraising again this year to work towards another piece of play equipment in the future.

We are due a meeting very soon to work on our plans for the year.

Meldrum Paths Group

Survey - 158 responses. We looked at the data on Monkey Survey on our monthly meeting on 18 January, however decided to devote another evening i.e. 1 Feb to come up with a presentation format for the report. Hopefully, we get the report circulated soon.

Meldrum Meg Way - Continue discussion with Land Owner to get their updated views.

- Preferred route of A96 will now not go through the proposed route of the path at Lenthenty.
- Alternative route/s being considered.
- Zero Carbon Daviot will be the Daviot Group to partner with MPG to work on Daviot to Oldmeldrum/Inverurie active travel route/path.
- Awaiting update from Council Officials with regards the installation of the footbridge over the Ury joining Portstown to Uryside, and the development of the path to the link road.

Red House Track - Repairs to the track are complete which has made a huge improvement, and people are very much using the track again for walking etc. The grant application to Fortmartine Partnership was approved for MPG. This is the community contribution for the

repairs, more than 80% of the costs were met by David Stephen. We are thankful to parties for making the repairs happen.

Community Path links - Daviot/Oldmeldrum/Inverurie - awaiting to see how MMW develops. Zero Carbon Daviot are to partner with MPG to progress/develop this link.

Oldmeldrum /Pitmedden/Udny/Tarves . Land owners are being contacted with regards to their views on a proposed route.

Benview Gardens – Distillery Path. Repairs being carried out by Tim Wood, Benview Gardens resident are almost complete. MPG to contact the distillery to ask if repairs can be done to the path by their pond . The Path has been churned up contractors access to do ground maintenance on the pond grounds.

Agri Environment Climate Scheme. The rural payment is open again for a short period of time ie 25 Jan – 30 June. It will be interesting to see if any land owners apply to improve public access. Copy link below.

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/>

E-bike No progress made, awaiting network meeting with Huntly Partnership.

Denwood - Good news in that Woodland Trust are very interested in developing active travel link with Oldmeldrum.

Barra Hill Path - being well used incl the circular route via Mill Lane/Scout Bog

Shona commented there has been some great work done on the red house track.

Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space

Inverurie Men Shed - Allotment project. Gary Oliver and Sandy Scott had a phone meeting on 11 Jan with their project co-ordinator as part of a networking / information gathering exercise. Site visit to happen after lockdown.

Public Meeting Prep - A meeting has been arranged with Aberdeenshire Officers on 28 Jan to discuss OGS proposed project, site options, actions, and framework for a Public meeting.

A96 Dualling

Shona thanked both John and Gordon for emailing their thoughts on this. Jan advised the online forum is on 29th January in the morning and said we have been asked for a maximum of 2 reps from our cc to attend. Gordon Duncan advised he can attend and Shona said she could possibly attend.

Jan will email Billy Gordon of Amey Arup with these details.

Treasurers Report

Willie emailed round a copy of the current account and the balance as at 26th January 2021 is £12,700.13.

Secretarial Report

Jan reported the following:

- I reported 5 sets of potholes last week – 1 on A947 at Newbarns junction, 1 at the top of Distillery road and 3 before turn in to Westend Gardens. I have received an email back about the Newbarns one only so far. They have advised they are looking into it.
- The Woodland Trust is keen to see a pedestrian link from Den Wood to Meldrum. After some calls with Gary Oliver, Roslyn Purdie from Aberdeenshire Council Planning we have decided to set up a meeting on Thursday 4th Feb at 6.30pm to discuss initial options. Woodland Trust, Roslyn, Core Paths Team member, Meldrum Paths Group and any cc member or member of the public as well as cllrs will be invited to join. I will get a meeting set up and zoom link sent out
- Andrew McCartney has brought to our attention about the Government Levelling up fund. This fund was meant to open for requests at the beginning of 2021 but this has changed and there is no date been set yet. One of the main things the fund will cover is a bypass so Andrew has very kindly pulled together all relevant

info on the previous work the cc did on the southern bypass and forward to me so we can look at this in more detail once we hear if the leveling up fund is still going ahead.

- The card and gift we decided to give David Clare was delivered at the weekend by Nicola Currie of Nickytams – it was a prosecco afternoon tea for 2 and we received this from David to read out – Just a quick email to thank you and the CC for the wonderful gift of Afternoon Tea from Nickytams. I was very touched by your thoughtfulness. After Nicola delivered it, Lynette and I sat and had a little party all to ourselves! Life goes on here in Daviot and we are hoping for it to warm up so that we can enjoy more outdoor activities and get to see our grandsons. Hopefully vaccination soon! Stay safe and please pass on our appreciation to all members of the CC.
- I attended the online Scotland Loves Local webinar run by Audrey Michie. Richard Elliott was there too and it was a very informative hour. Aberdeenshire is being allocated money from the campaign this year and the idea is to make Aberdeenshire like the NC500. We have been asked to make a list of the attractions we feel should make the list for our area. I am waiting on more info from Audrey but would like to propose we allocate time on our next agenda to draw up this list – that will give everyone time to think on what they feel should be in for Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot

Planning Report

John gave a report on the planning applications for December 2020 and January 2021.

AOCB

Shona asked if all members had read the email with info about transportation to vaccination clinics. We are being asked to provide a list of names of people who would be willing to drive people to their appointment if required. A number of members said they had concerns about safety etc. Nicola suggested we put something on our facebook and website and see if we get any response. Nicola will then feedback any names and we can forward on.

Cllr Johnston advised the newspapers might cover a story from the last Infrastructure Services Committee. There will be a consultation coming up shortly for a pilot scheme and he advised us to put this on our agenda when it is available.

John asked what has happened to the Coat of Arms committee. James said he will set up the first meeting of the group asap. **ACTION JAMES**

John commented there are mole hills appearing at the Bruce Seat once again.

Date and time of next meeting

23rd March 2021 at 7.00pm online via Zoom