

Minutes of Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 28th February 2017

7.30pm

New Sports Pavilion, Pleasure Park, Oldmeldrum

CC Members Present: - James Milton, Lloyd Duncan, Andrew McCartney, John Pirie, Irene Dunbar, Kaye Cowie, Jan Chalmers, Jeff Goodhall, Willie Sinclair, Kevin Douglas and Shona Presly

Apologies: - Simon Kilkerr, Stuart Baird, Patrick Sleigh, David Clare, Alice Hill, Denise Forsyth and Cllr Alan Hendry

Aberdeenshire Council: - None

Member of Public: - Grant Davidson and Blair Davidson

Councillors: Cllr Shand, Cllr Gifford and Cllr Johnstone

Police: None

Planning Report

John gave a very detailed report on the planning. Grant Davidson advised he was in attendance to ask for a letter of approval and support from Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot Community Council towards his planning application within Market Square, Oldmeldrum. Grant stated the plans have now been adjusted from the original based on the feedback received and he is now applying for planning permission for 1 retail unit on the ground floor with two flats above this together with a block of 6 flats at the rear. The number of car park spaces has now increased to 19. The block of flats were originally shown as being detached, however they are now shown as being close to the rear of the property with the gable end facing Barra Hill and the height of them has also been reduced.

Grant also stated there was a concern from the Roads Department regarding the turning of vehicles and this has also been addressed.

Andrew stated in his opinion this application would be extremely good for Oldmeldrum as anything to help the footfall within the town centre can only be a good thing.

James asked Grant if he had anyone interested in the retail unit and Grant confirmed he had.

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of a pedestrian crossing between this property and the opposite side of the road. Jim Gifford confirmed this part of the road has been measured in the past and there is not enough meterage for this crossing.

Jeff asked if a light controlled crossing would be an option and again Jim confirmed there would not be enough clearance and visibility for this.

Jeff put forward a formal proposal to support Grant's application and Andrew seconded it. All other committee members in attendance agreed, James will write a letter to planning department regarding this.

ACTION JAMES

John stated the new co op will now have 96 car park spaces together with 4 class 1, 2 or 3 units available.

John also commented there is a new application for the old post office building in Market Square. The new application is to change from class 1 retail to class 2 financial. Kaye asked how many car park spaces does there have to be for a class 1 and class 2 application and Jim confirmed it was none in both classes.

Minutes of January 2017

Proposed: Lloyd Duncan

Seconded: Shona Presly

Matters Arising

Willie asked if an updated Development Obligation list has been issued.

Jim forwarded the email to Jan who will forward onto all members

ACTION JAN

Andrew asked for an update on when the Town Hall clock would be sorted. James stated he has been emailing Elaine and Claire but has received no reply as yet. James will email Elaine and Claire again regarding this.

ACTION JAMES

Andrew stated the following items are still outstanding:

1. The uplighters situated on the ground facing the town hall are still broken and require to be fixed.
2. There are wires coming out of the ground and also running down the side of the Town Hall so generally looking untidy and a safety issue (opposite where the old telephone box used to be)
3. The benches outside the front of the town hall are desperately requiring to be repainted.

Jan will email Brian Shand and ask for an update on the progress of the above items.

ACTION JAN

James said he has been in discussions with Ian Daniels again regarding Station Lane and his advice was to approach a local group to take on the path and bring it up to an adoptable standard. Kaye asked if Developer Obligation money could be used for this purpose and Jim confirmed that it could not.

Andrew suggested Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot Community Council could try and purchase the lane and start to get it back to an acceptable standard then pass it onto another community group to maintain it but realised this community council then accepted the title and all the responsibility that goes with that. There would also be a requirement for public liability insurance.

James stated he feels there is only one possibly owner of this lane left and that is Meldrum House Estates. Kevin suggested approaching Meldrum House Estates and asking them to bring it back to an acceptable and adoptable standard. James to email Stewart and Watson solicitors to try and find out if Meldrum House Estates does indeed own Station Lane

ACTION JAMES

Police Report

A report was received from Graeme Penny stating the following:

There have only been two reported crimes of note in the last month which is the theft of logs from a garden in Oldmeldrum and a Digger Bucket which was stolen from Daviot. Enquiries are still ongoing for both.

There have been extra patrols in the centre of Oldmeldrum at the weekends in response to complaints of youths congregating and this will continue for a time.

There have been regular speed checks done by officers as part of their patrols on Kirk Brae in Oldmeldrum. However he is not aware of any offences detected but has confirmed the police will try and get some more speed checks done again before the next meeting in March.

Treasurers Report

It was reported the Bank Balance as at 28th February is £8,451.40. Kaye asked how much of that is allocated to the defibrillators. Willie to check this and email Kaye

ACTION WILLIE

Secretarial Report

Please see attached.

Andrew asked if any member knew when the applications for the Tidy Village Scheme would be open. Kaye thought it would be March but was unsure of the exact date. Kaye asked if there was a possibility of a higher grant as the money that is currently awarded only covers a village orderly in Oldmeldrum for three months and this community council has to approach other community organisations in Oldmeldrum e.g. Making Meldrum Better and Meldrum Business Group to put forward £300 each to pay for another month of the village orderly's time.

Jim thought Oldmeldrum, Bourtie and Daviot would be allocated the same amount of funding as previous years.

Andrew commented there are numerous visitors coming into the town visiting places like Meldrum House Hotel and Glen Garioch Distillery and the town shouldn't have to ask community groups within Oldmeldrum to pay for the town to be kept tidy. Jeff suggested volunteers get together and keep the town clean and tidy, even if it's just in the winter months.

Jan commented that she had spoken to Paul Gray of Waste Services regarding the "deep clean" taking place in Oldmeldrum again this year after the success of the one last year. Paul said he was hopeful he would manage to get money allocated to complete the deep cleans in the towns he was allocated but would confirm this to me in the near future.

Kevin asked if it was possible to invite Paul Gray along to one of this Community Council's future meetings to give a small presentation and answer questions. The members present felt this was a good idea and Jan is to email Paul to invite him along.

ACTION JAN

Reports from Elected members

Cryle reported that at the budget meeting on 9th February 2017 it was proposed to increase the Council Tax in Aberdeenshire by 2.5%. Cryle also reported officers were instructed to look at which sectors were most affected by the business rates increase and hospitality was noted to be the most affected. Cryle confirmed £3million mitigation set aside to help businesses was decided upon however this was before Derek Mackay's announcement to cap office premises and hospitality premises increase to 12.5%. As the mitigation fund was already voted upon and decided Cryle commented there will be a scheme coming in the near future, using this money, to help businesses.

Jim reported the issues with King Street and Gas Street in Oldmeldrum was still ongoing. He also reported complaints of speeding at the bottom of the town and around the bypass. Jim asked if any member knew when the last traffic survey was completed. Kaye thought it was roughly 18 months ago as it was completed in the October school holidays. Kaye also commented there have been complaints regarding HGV's together with tractors and trailers travelling through the centre of town instead of using the bypass. There has also been complaints of speeding through the town centre and not stopping at the pedestrian crossing to let people cross the road.

James will email to get exact date for the last traffic survey that was completed and also to get a date for the next survey that will be completed in the near future.

ACTION JAMES

Paul reported the Community Power Act is coming into force soon. This act allows Community Councils to put in participation requests and involve them with regards to items like grounds maintenance and street cleaning spending.

Paul also encouraged all members of the Community Council to respond to the Community Engagement Strategy document as the more information the council can get from members regarding this subject the better. James suggested members respond individually however if there is any subject anyone feels should be particularly responded to by the group as a whole they should let James know.

Paul informed members that hare coursing is still on ongoing issue in and around the Tarves area. He advised anyone who witnesses' any suspicious activity not to approach the individuals but to take photographic evidence and/or number plates and forward onto the police to deal with.

Cryle reported the licensing committee met recently to set the licensing fees for this year. The fees have increased for some events. Cryle will forward the email with all the information to Jan who will then send out to all members for information.

ACTION CRYLE/JAN

Standing Committees

Future Vision

Andrew reported the next meeting of Future Vision will be held on Tuesday 7th March. The main issues that came up in the survey will be identified with a public meeting hopefully going to be organised for April to feed this information back to the public and community organisations.

Community Organisations

Forum Meeting

Kaye reported there have been five new sergeants employed by the police in this area.

All other community council's in the area have been very busy in the past few months.

Tarves has a community cafe which will be opening in May this year.

Ythan community council reported they have appointed a new chairperson and commented the Brewdog development is having a significant impact on them at the moment.

Fyvie community council has also appointed a new chairperson and they are currently at full capacity for members. They commented that speeding on the Fyvie to Cuminestown road was an issue at the moment.

They also commented concerns were raised regarding the closure of their post office and now only receiving the post office van three days a week.

Turriff community council reported they are having issues with the bad access roads in the housing estates and they are still having an ongoing problem with cars racing through the centre of town during the day and at night.

Kaye also reported the Scheme of Establishment for Community Council's was the main discussion of the meeting. James proposed a small group of members create a sub group to go through this document. James asked for another three people to join him, Andrew, Willie and Jan agreed to join this sub group.

Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group

Andrew reported MAIG has been very busy refurbishing equipment and confirmed the baskets with tulips will be out within the town in the next few weeks.

Heritage Society

John confirmed the date for the opening of the Whin Roadie is May 2017.

Daviot Community Trust

Willie reported 200 trees are currently being planted and he confirmed a maintenance plan has been set for the next 12 months. Willie informed the members they completed and submitted the application to the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme through the Formartine Partnership in the hope of gaining funding to renew the wooden tubs used for flower displays in Daviot.

Correspondence

Jan received an email Debbie Murray regarding a safety concern on a path at the top of Grezcylo Gardens, Oldmeldrum. There was a detailed letter together with a photograph of the area concerned attached to the email and Debbie states she would like to see a “kissing gate” installed at the bottom of this path which leads from street directly onto the bypass pavement. Debbie has issues with allows her children out to play as they run up this path and can be in a dangerous situation if they go as far up as the bypass. Debbie states she has been in contact with Ian Daniels of Aberdeenshire Council, Chris from Greenbelt and Fiona in the planning department at Wimpey Homes in the past regarding the issue of safety and all three agree but there is nothing they can directly do to help the situation. Debbie stated she had been in contact with Paul Johnston regarding the issue who had suggested sending the letter and photograph to the community council for their consideration.

It was felt by some members the community would benefit from the “kissing gate” to allow the public access but prevent children running onto the road. Jeff proposed this and Kevin Seconded it. James asked the remaining members to vote and the outcome was 6 members for and 3 members against. James will contact Debbie Murray directly to help move this matter forward. Jan to send details for Debbie to James.

ACTION JAMES/JAN

Andrew commented in order to pursue the work of the Future Vision Group it would be helpful if we could obtain an update on the Improvement Strategy for the A947 and in particular that section from the new AWPR now under construction to Oldmeldrum. It would be most helpful if a letter requesting the latest update was forwarded from the Community Council to the Director of Infrastructure Services, Strategy Manager, Mark Skilling .It is emphasised that such correspondence is aimed at obtaining any short or

long term future plans which might give assistance and guidance to the Future Vision Group.

James agreed to write to Mark Skilling.

ACTION JAMES

AOCB

Jeff asked if any of the elected members knew why there were still ongoing issues with broadband in rural areas. He commented there are lots of boxes around the countryside however none of them seem to be activated. Jim replied the roll out of rural broadband just hasn't worked like it was supposed to. Paul commented the provider will switch on boxes based on the level of people asking for rural broadband in their area. Paul also commented there is increasing pressure on mobile phone providers to put together a 4G package for users in rural areas.

Kaye commented the parking attendant's presence in the square again is working. He is in Oldmeldrum most days and has issued a number of fines already. It was noted however that only the police can deal with an obstruction ie cars parked illegally.

Andrew said he believed an order for waiting restriction was discussed at the December Area meeting under Item 8 on Streets within the town but wanted to clarify if this was the case. Andrew also wanted to know the timeline for implementation of the restrictions and if implemented how will they be policed. Jan to email Claire to gain information. **ACTION JAN**

Kaye reported an issue with a garage at the bottom of Barrview. A man has approached Kaye and the community council for help as he has been trying to find out about taking on the lease of a garage at the bottom of Barrview for nearly a year now and it has been lying empty all that time. Six weeks ago he was forwarded another application form to fill in and send back to the council, which he did. He was then informed he was number 16 on the waiting list and he was told exactly the same thing 1 year ago when he started his original application. Kaye has informed the gentleman we will look into this for me and reply to him when we have any information. The elected members suggested sending all the details to them and they would look into this on the gentleman's behalf.

ACTION KAYE/ELECTED MEMBERS

Time and date of next meeting

28th March 2017 at 7.30pm in the New Sports Pavilion, Oldmeldrum