

**STONEHAVEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP**  
**MINUTES OF TRUSTEE MEETING**  
**HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.00PM**  
**AT INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE, STONEHAVEN**

**Item**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

<b>Present Trustees</b>	<b>In attendance</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Jim Stephens (JS) Stuart Alexander (SA) Andrew Newton (AN) Bill Allan (BA) John Robson (JR)	Raymond Christie (RC) Wendy Rudd (WR) Ian Balgowan (IB) Graham Clark (GC) Phil Mills-Bishop (PMB) Tony Zaccarini (TZ) Mitch MacKay (MM)	Isabel Munn (IM) David Fleming (DF) Jim Douglas (JD)

**2. Approval of minutes of Trustee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

	<b>Action</b>
On the proposal of SA and seconded by JS the minutes of the Trustees meeting of 17 <sup>th</sup> January were approved. These minutes will now be placed on the website.	IM

**3. Matters arising from the AGM**

	<b>Action</b>
These were dealt with as the committee moved through the agenda	

**4. Finance Report from the Director of Finance - John Robson**

	<b>Action</b>
JR reported that the current account contained £23K and £49K existed in the deposit account. Therefore salaries for the current financial year are covered.  STP received a total of £9,487 from the Caravan and Motorhome Club for 2016-2017.	

**5. Strategy – Jim Stephen**

	<b>Action</b>
<b>Business Plan 2016-17</b> This is still ongoing. DF has been working on a draft and JS will now work on completing the document.	JS
<b>Disbursements</b> Every year STP disburses some of the income from the caravan park and JR will shortly place an advert in the Mearns Leader seeking applications for the current financial year. The committee that makes the recommendations on disbursements will consist of 2 STP trustees and 3 from outside organisations. JR will canvass relevant organisations for names. JR will also decide on the grand total to be disbursed after a closer examination of the finances.	JR

<b>Sea Cadets</b> No discussion – see AOCB	
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## 6. Business Plan Items

Report of progress on individual projects has been circulated and is on website. What follows is an update on that information.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>	<b>Action</b>
Bervie Braes Road (DF)	<p>JS reported that PMB had been quoted in the press as wishing the Bervie Braes to be open to 2-way traffic. This is in contradiction of the STP stance which accepts the current downward travel only. RC stated that Aberdeenshire Council (AC) would not return to 2-way traffic. BA reported that he has been in touch with AC in regard of providing further information on painting the barriers but stressed that this was a difficult area as he believed that any solution to the problem would require sand blasting, application of a primer and then a top coat. TZ inquired whether the barriers were owned by AC or merely on long term loan. If the latter, the cost of utilising the barriers must be extremely high. This point to be raised at the next meeting with Willy Munro (WM).</p> <p>TZ went on to suggest a one way system from the Castle in order to improve the flow of visitors into Stonehaven. JS pointed out that there was very limited space for coaches in Stonehaven and the infrastructure needs to be improved before serious attempts can be made with tour operators regarding making Stonehaven a major tourist destination.</p>	Next AC Meeting
Court Building (DF)	<p>Sale of the building has been agreed by Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service (SCTS) but STP is still awaiting the final ministerial approval. Heritage Lottery Fund is meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March when a final decision will be made on STP's funding application. If the application is refused STP will seek contributions from local organisation in order to start essential repairs. PMB offered to supply a spreadsheet detailing backlog of maintenance requirements.</p>	
Improving Our Town Centre (JS)	<p>SDCC, Horizon, STP and AC are all joining together to form a pro-active group. Work has already begun on improving signage, both in the Square and at the Railway Station. The position of the signs by the traffic lights in the Square will be slightly re-adjusted and renewed. New plants and benches will also be provided.</p> <p>JS explained that he was making progress on the provision of additional illuminations in the harbour area and he hoped that the use of LEDS would significantly reduce the power take from AC lamp posts. This could trigger AC support for the project.</p>	
Former Gas Works Site (DF)	No progress in last month	
Cruise Ships (JR)	JS has produced another list of benefits to cruise operators, visitors and Stonehaven and will circulate to relevant	

	<p>operators. Aberdeen Harbour Board has set up a new group to work with cruise operators and STP is in touch to ascertain whether STP can join the group.</p> <p>Stuart Young (Dunecht Estates) is also interested in increasing Stonehaven's profile to cruise operators.</p>	
Plan B (DS)	Trustees agreed in January to delay any work until January 2018.	
New Cycling Project	<p>SA has had no news over the last month and was surprised when AN stated that one person had apparently been conducting a traffic survey in the harbour area in the previous week.</p> <p>GC intimated that AC had found sufficient funds to undertake a survey on a new cycling path from Stonehaven to Muchalls.</p>	
Grande Promenade	<p>This project is gathering momentum with Sheila Howarth (Chair of local Tourist Group) prominent in setting up a new group which includes STP, Men's Shed and other organisations. The first meeting of this group will be held at the Belvidere on 13<sup>th</sup> March. STP has commissioned preliminary drawings on the central Boardwalk section and Dunecht Estates are proposing a new road to the War Memorial. JS has been in discussion with AWPR and whilst the latter will not make a financial contribution they are willing to supply rock armour to protect new sections of the Boardwalk and help to widen the bridge over the Carron. PMB questioned AC's commitment to the Boardwalk and asked what is happening at the northern end (Cowie to Golf Club).</p> <p>JS responded by stating that the initial work will concentrate on the middle section of the existing Boardwalk with work on the northern and southern sections to follow.</p>	
Green Pavilion	See AOCB	

## 7. Business Items

	Action
<p><b>Report from/items to Community Council</b></p> <p>PMB reported that much of the last meeting revolved around the AC's proposed relocation of services which probably involve the existing Spurryhillock depot, East Newtonleys and Red Cloak. PMB stressed that no decisions have yet been made but he questioned whether SDCC would have any input into the final decision.</p> <p>IB remarked that Stuart Young (Dunecht Estates) made a very good presentation in regard to Dunnottar Castle and the proposed Visitor Centre. SDCC are also keen to improve the south bound slip road at the A90/Spurryhillock junction.</p> <p>PMB spoke about improving the relationship between SDCC and STP and suggested 3 co-operative projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A joint approach to Craigneil Wind Farm to become the recognised distributors of the expected £75K per annum community money</li> <li>• Work on the Twinning between Stonehaven and Achères</li> <li>• Run the annual New Year Dip</li> </ul> <p>TZ suggested that a MOU was required for such activities. PMB was not keen on a formal document but would consider revisiting a document tabled a couple of years ago (but not agreed) which outlined the functions and areas of activity of both organisations.</p>	

<b>Report on KDP meeting (AN)</b> The February meeting of KDP was an informal, low key meeting with mainly a general discussion on administrative procedures within KDP. The only item of note was the imminent signing of a contract with the operators of the St John Hill Wind Farm which will permit KDP to administer their Community Fund.	
<b>Caravan Site</b> Over the past year the site has been very busy and is now about to open for the start of the new season. The operators have changed their name to 'Caravan and Motorhome Club'.	
<b>Land Train</b> The Land Train has passed its annual safety check and has already had one commercial hire. Scheduled service begins in April.	

#### 8. Items from STP/Aberdeenshire Council.

There has been no meeting since September 2016; consequently there is nothing to report.	<b>Action</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IM has let Willie Munros Office know when trustees are available for meetings date and times to be confirmed. <i>[Now confirmed for 13<sup>th</sup> March]</i></li> </ul>	

#### 9. AOCB

	<b>Action</b>
<p>JR asked who had put re-cycling glass bins in front of the Courthouse as he considered the area a dangerous area for re-cycling due to the proximity of the busy High St/Dunnottar Avenue junction. Others present pointed out that similar bins had suddenly materialised in other areas of Stonehaven. RC intimated that the bins were part of an initiative to improve glass re-cycling but he had been under the impression that the community were to be consulted over their locations. Obviously this has not happened.</p> <p>JS informed the meeting that the Sea Cadets were looking for additional funds to fire proof the steel structure of the new build at the harbour. JS encouraged the meeting to publicise this request.</p> <p>RC and GC spoke of an application before the Area committee for a large commercial event in the Square on 31<sup>st</sup> December and asked for STP's opinion. The Trustees had no knowledge about the application except for a brief news item in the local paper. Accordingly they were unable to express an opinion. JS offered to contact the Glasgow based promoters for further details bearing in mind that the application will be re-considered at the Area committee on 21<sup>st</sup> March and RC/GC would welcome an opinion before that date.</p> <p>SA raised the issue of the Green Pavilion's future and had there been any developments? RC confirmed that it was on the list of AC properties that would be disposed of if all organisations currently using the premises could be adequately re-located. JS was of the opinion that many such organisations had not been consulted over the plan. AN asked whether STP had submitted an EOI for the Pavilion and Shepherd's Hall. JS will consult with IM over the matter.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JS</p>

#### Date of next meeting

28 March 2017

**Date of future meetings**

4th Tuesday of every month –All to take place at the Invercarron Resource Centre in Dunnottar Lounge.

25 April	23 May	27 June		No meeting in July
22 August	26 September	24 October	28 November AGM	No meeting in December

**Meeting Closed at 2130 hrs.**

**Andrew Newton**

**Secretary**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2017**