



STONEHAVEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF TRUSTEE MEETING

HELD ON 26 APRIL 2016 AT 7.00PM

AT INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE, STONEHAVEN

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present - Trustees	In attendance	Apologies
David Fleming (DF) Andrew Newton (AN) John Robson (JR) Bill Alan (BA) Jane Davidson (JD) Jim Douglas (JDO)	Cllr Peter Bellarby (PB) Cllr Graeme Clark (GC) Cllr Raymond Christie (RC) Mitch McKay (MM) Allan Sutherland (AS)	Knud Christiansen Isabel Munn (IM) Jim Stephens (JS) Elizabeth Havens Frances Swanston Jim Wand Michelle Ward

2. Approval of minutes

	Action
On the proposal of JR and seconded by BA the minutes of the trustees meeting of 22 nd March 2016 were approved. These minutes will now be placed on the website. Matters arising from these minutes are detailed in section 3 below.	IM

3. Matters arising from minutes of 22nd March 2016

	Action
Work is to start shortly on the new business plan; the target is to identify any new projects, assess progress on existing projects and predict budget expenditure.	DF/BA
AN raised the issue of a cycle network with KDP and the latter tasked their Development Worker to contact JS in order to discuss a joint project.	JS to report next meeting

4. Finance Report from John Robson

	Action
There is approximately £56,000 in the current account although £30,000 is ring fenced for the Land Train See also section 7 (Disbursements).	

5. Strategy – David Fleming

	Action
DF reminded trustees that he will be standing down as Chair in June and is looking for a replacement from the other trustees.	ALL

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.

Project	Additional Information	Action
Bervie Braes Road (DF)	See below under 7. Business Items (Discussions with Aberdeenshire Council)	
Court Building (DF)	<p>DF reported that the project is proceeding on track albeit at a slower pace than the community would wish.</p> <p>The Scottish Court Service (SCS) has now finalised their CAT policy and STP fulfil all the criteria.</p> <p>STP has commissioned surveyors to produce a valuation report – this is an essential requirement for funders – and this is expected shortly.</p> <p>Preliminary sketches have been produced to establish what locations each of the potential tenants will occupy and a team of architects will soon be appointed to oversee the CAT if STP is successful with its bid.</p> <p>DF has opened negotiations about the ‘Changing Places’ – a facility which supports disabled citizens visiting or working in the community.</p> <p>An initial financial forecast predicts that there will be sufficient rental income to support the operation of the court building.</p> <p>A group consisting of DF, AN, Ed Garret and Reid Hutchison has been formed to address governance issues.</p>	
Improving Our Town Centre (JS)	In JS’s absence there is no report this month	
Former Gas Works Site (MW)	See below under 7. Business Items (Discussions with Aberdeenshire Council)	
CAT for Beach Toilets (MW)	See below under 7. Business Items (Discussions with Aberdeenshire Council)	
Cruise Ships (JR)	<p>JR reported no new developments but PB raised the potential impact of the new Aberdeen harbour (at Nigg) on this project.</p> <p>JR pointed out that Aberdeen would be targeting the larger ships whereas Stonehaven’s target area was the smaller vessels.</p>	
Plan B (DS)	The Plan for North East of Stonehaven. This project is In abeyance and will be revisited in January 2017.	

7. Business Items

	Action
<p>Report from/items to Community Council</p> <p>Items to CC</p> <p>None</p> <p>Items from CC</p> <p>There were no representatives from SDCC at tonight’s meeting but trustees were not aware of any issues. PB reported that under new legislation each settlement should</p>	

<p>produce a community plan. It is expected that the community councils will take the lead in these plans, in consultation with other local organisations. PB was informed that to date SDCC has not approached STP. STP is happy to help when asked.</p>	
<p>Report on KDP meeting (AN)</p> <p>The last meeting mainly consisted of reports on KDP's outreach activities to the local communities, the successful adoption of a wide range of governance policies and a report on a recent community forum on transport. Whilst the latter was not well attended it did provoke much discussion and a large number of issues and solutions were tabled. The eventual overall success of the meeting will be gauged by the number of positive responses from stakeholders.</p> <p>MM asked if there were any developments on the clarification of the Meikle Carewe guidelines for funding. AN responding by saying that it was a complex issue and despite a number of discussions with relevant individuals there is still work to be done to resolve apparent discrepancies.</p> <p>KDP are now meeting every 2 months with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday 26th May.</p>	
<p>Disbursements</p> <p>JR reported that the independent panel (JR, BA, Doug Samways, and George Strang) had met and assessed all 4 applicants. The committee accepted the recommendations of the panel to award £1000 each to the Fire Balls, Stonehaven Folk Festival, After School Club and Friends of the Pool. Cheques will be issued shortly.</p>	JR
<p>Caravan Site</p> <p>DF reported that the site goes from strength to strength and the new wardens, Sharon and Dominic Van Den Bos, have a very positive attitude to the business.</p> <p>Finally the re-assignment of the caravan site lease to the new STP SCIO has been agreed and the previous STP company can now be de-listed. DF is waiting for signatures from several trustees in order to action this task.</p>	DF
<p>Land Train</p> <p>DF commented that despite the disappointing weather the extra carriage is making a difference with the train well populated with paying customers. Thanks are due to IM for all her hard work in the run up to the new season.</p>	
<p>Reports from discussions with Aberdeenshire Council</p> <p>STP and Aberdeenshire Council have agreed to hold regular meetings in order to discuss various common interest s and to determine the best ways to harmonise and achieve expected outcomes. The initial meeting was held on 8th March and on 25th April Willie Munro (WE) provided DF with an update from AC's side. The following items were updated (information based on text provided by WM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Newtonleys (Pre consultation of Spurryhillock depot replacement) WM confirmed that there is still no date for POAN submission although there are ongoing negotiations with the landowner. WM hopes to have further information by mid May. • Bervie Braes Road Colleagues in Roads are still looking at options for the barriers but there are no firm proposals yet; when they materialise they will be discussed first with the ward councillors. Discussions on the weight limit have yet to begin but this will be a slow process. <i>[Secretarial note. Mark Skilling was invited to this STP meeting but there was no response from his department]</i> 	WM

<p>Signage – see AOCB</p> <p>The cliff footpath from Dunnottar to Stonehaven has been inspected and found to be in acceptable repair but if there are specific concerns please get in touch with AC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Lamp posts for Christmas lights <p>With permission from owner, festoon lights could be mounted on private buildings and should either have their own independent electricity supply or be fed from the buildings involved. Connection to the street lighting supply is necessary for festive lights mounted on street lighting columns but is undesirable elsewhere as it is preferable for it to be possible for the supply to be isolated separately from the street lighting. Although there are some locations where decorative lighting is fed from the street lighting supply, in general it is considered better to avoid this and to have a separate supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Gas works site <p>The challenge here is to find a financial model that will stack up. As you know, in response to feedback from a consultation on car parking, the Council has introduced a free 30 minute period in its pay and display car parks across Aberdeenshire. This has reduced overall income which in turn means that funding which we had in mind for this project is no longer there. There is however a keenness to see this happen somehow and we are keeping in touch with the site owners. By the end early June we should be in a position to know whether this will be a project that can be promoted and be financially sustainable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Toilets <p>I would emphasise that the decision to close these and other public toilets has been made and implemented. If we can find a way of keeping them which is cost neutral to the Council, then that would be good, but we cannot reverse the decision nor incur unbudgeted costs. There are signs in the window advising that they are closed and that there are other toilets available at the leisure centre, harbour and Margaret Street. Having seen it myself, last week, I am going to ask that the signage makes it clear that the leisure centre is the closest facility and explains which building it is. Quotes have been obtained for the improvements to the toilets at the leisure centre and this is awaiting approval. I will chase that up. Also, I can advise that staff at the leisure centre are aware that the public are welcome to use the toilets.</p> <p>WM has tried to arrange a meeting with Neil Graham who has expressed an interest in operating the Beach toilets but so far communication has proved difficult. AS suggested a crowd funding scheme to raise £5K which is evidently the annual running costs of the toilets. After an intense discussion it was agreed that this was a 'plan B' and firstly WM should progress with discussions with Neil Graham over the latter's intentions for the toilets. JR will help to facilitate a meeting and GC will confirm with WM the exact running costs. Failing this approach AS will be asked to seek alternative funding.</p> <p>The following item is not on the Liaison Meeting agendas but the information was imparted at the same time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational Ground Trustees <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Following the implementation of the Long Leases Act Aberdeenshire Council have imposed a burden on the Recreational Ground which states that it 'will be occupied solely for recreational purposes incidental thereto' 	<p>JR GC AS (?)</p>
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<p>2) The solicitor advising the Trust had written to AC requesting the appointment of 3 trustees from among existing councillors. This was debated at the last Area committee meeting but some issues were thrown up and it has been referred back for further discussion.</p> <p>The next Liaison meeting will be in early May.</p> <p>MM expressed concern at the fact that STP was the only organisation represented at the Liaison meetings and thought that the meetings should be all inclusive. It was pointed out that these meetings only discussed projects being led by STP and that other organisations were perfectly at liberty to arrange similar meetings with AC.</p>	
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8. AOCB

	Action
<p>Signage Francis Swanston of AC has requested help in creating signage for a plinth at the War Memorial. All STP member organisations have been circulated and we await feedback.</p>	
<p>Dunnottar Castle Unfortunately no representative from the castle could attend this meeting but Stuart Young (CEO Dunecht Estate) has indicated that he wishes to attend the May meeting to discuss future plans.</p>	
<p>Relationship with SDCC PB inquired whether the relationship between SDCC and STP had been formalised. It was pointed out that there had been a draft MOU but SDCC had not wished to progress the topic further. STP is open to renewing discussions if SDCC wish to 'return to the table'.</p>	
<p>Men's Shed 36 people attended a recent Men's Shed Association meeting in Stonehaven and all were keen to create a Stonehaven branch. The first task is to identify a suitable site. This is not a STP project but STP is happy to help.</p>	

9. Date of next meetings - 4th Tuesday of every month

All to take place at the Invercarron Resource Centre in Dunnottar Lounge.

24 th May	28 th June		
No Meeting in July			
23 rd August	27 th September	25 th October	22 nd November (AGM)
No meeting in December			

Meeting Closed at 9.00 pm

A Newton

Secretary STP