

**STONEHAVEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON 26 MARCH 2013  
AT THE INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	<p><b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p><b>Present:</b>            Doug Samways (DS)            Wynne Edwards (WE)            David Fleming (DF)            Michelle Ward (MW)            Cllr Raymond Christie (RC)            Alan Sutherland (AS)</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b>            Maureen Newlands (MN)            Lindsay Verstralen (LV)            Karen McWilliam - for Area Manager (KMcW)            Charles Sands (CS)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b>            Alan McConnachie (AM)            Cllr Peter Bellarby (PB)            Frank Budd (FB)            Cllr Graeme Clark (GC)</p> <p>There was a vote of thanks for MN, who will continue to work for us to take us through the next PFR exercise</p>	
2	<p><b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</b></p> <p>The Minutes were approved, subject to changes.</p>	
3	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>Beach Toilets (p1) DS has been sending to Lennie Lawrence's new email address. AS – toilets are getting opened. Still invite LL to come along? Council are opening it up, and someone might take it on. They are still keen to get sponsorship but the Council has found some money for now.</p> <p>Review of caravan park transfer (p2) We need to get 3 directors + 2 others. DS to approach solicitor Keith Allan of RCCW to cover legal side, and secondly someone from business community – maybe David Dobie? FB supported. Mike Robbins is maybe too close but is not directly involved so may be ok. AS said he thought we need to not worry about rocking boats, and MR might not want to be critical of the council. Graham Garden is another possibility if Keith Allan can't. DS to pursue and report back – agreed.</p>	DS

	<p>DS has spoken to Brian Watt, the Council's lead officer, and he can come to the next meeting. His email said he was making some headway.</p> <p>SCIO (p3 &amp; p10). This is on the agenda.</p> <p>AOCB (p10). DS attended the SBA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on behalf of STP. It was a valuable evening. Entertainment was provided by Laurel &amp; Hardy (Donald Mitchell &amp; Charlie McHardy) looking back over shops of 40 years. The differences were interesting. Then was a speaker from Inverurie Business Association (Jackie Allen). Inverurie are aggressive and proactive – we and the SBA could learn from that. And then Willie Munro spoke and his key point was turning challenges into opportunities. Chapelton of Elsick is coming – we have to be ahead of game. The AWPR means we are 25 minutes from Inverurie but equally we are the same from them. We need to encourage their people to come here. And the AWPR means Aberdeen is closer for people from there and we have to be ready for that so we are not left behind. There were some great pointers there.</p> <p>CARAVAN PARK ACCOUNTS (p1) We have contacted Graham Wall and are waiting for a reply.</p> <p>RNLI (p4) We have contacted RNLI – but there has been no response yet.</p>	
	<p>LINSAY VERSTRALEN</p> <p>LV was invited to address the meeting and she said her comments followed on from what was said about the SBA meeting. The development at Chapleton of Elsick is an opportunity, but we have to act fast. People living there could be looking to commute here for work, for example. She has talked with WM and looked at the Sustainable Small Town Strategy "SUSSET" report, a fantastic piece of work. It provides the framework for strategic development plans for small towns across Europe and how similar towns can share ideas. Stonehaven was used as an example. However LV has no hard copy, and is finding it difficult to get one.</p> <p>LV distributed copies of the Sustainable Small Town Strategy – wheel, which she described as "the whole nine yards".</p>	



What is needed is everyone working together. The challenge is getting everyone to buy in to the strategy, and these are "people" around the wheel – not "posts".

And there was a report from 2004 that said exactly the same – we need more leisure facilities, better shops, and a tidier town. We should use the proximity to Dunnottar Castle and the harbour.

7.25.GC arrived

If we can get all the key stakeholders on board to deliver these big projects, it can be a positive. It needs a driver, and STP is the group that makes things happen.

DS thought this was an excellent way of focussing our strategy. It is something we can get people to buy into. Is this the model?

FB – there is nothing that anyone can disagree with – it is admirable. But how do we implement it without cash? All the retailers in particular need to be involved. Since 2006 all the retailers have struggled with and the High Street now only as two shops. Where is the strategy going?

DF suggested an idea to get ahead of the game. The STP will be receiving £27,000 a year - from the Caravan Club and 2 windfarms, and a variety of other causes. Meikle Carewe is going to be paying £22,000 per annum over 5 community councils. Auquhirie is £4,000. The Caravan Club is £5,500 per

annum as a minimum. It is pump priming stuff perhaps?

MW – and we could look for corporate investment to make Stonehaven a destination. Mountain biking, for example.

AS – my problem is there are 18 segments. STP has picked things and made them work. The words are the background. AS thought the way MW is talking is right. Pick a few things. Pump prime the few things. Get ideas from wheel and do them.

DS – when we explain, we can say projects are part of a bigger picture.

AS – but what we need are specific things we are trying to get to. Say three out of them all that would be growth things.

DS – that goes into a bigger picture and gets other people to contribute.

WE – I suggested an energy cooperative with a wide range of objectives. That as a project would fit very well in to this strategic document. The energy cooperative would generate significant income and that kind of money could be reinvested and is self-sustainable. Who do you represent?

LV said she was not part of a group. She got involved in Town Hall on Christmas Eve and as a result is now Chair of the Flood fundraising group.

WE – has DS approached you about becoming a director of STP? He will soon!

DS – we need more people, but you have to be nominated by a group.

LS – that is flattering. This wheel is a structure within which to make strategic plans. It is more for other people coming in. If it gets people onboard – gives them something to hang their hat on. You can fit your energy proposal into it. MW and I have a selection of possible projects. What you need is a facilitator – someone to sit down and apply. Coastal communities funding – a gigantic amount by 26<sup>th</sup> April. Very few people can do that with costings in place by then. So my thoughts are create the project and then match the funding to the project.

DS - This is a model I would recognise and support, but this is a turn-off for Joe Bloggs in the street. You need excited people to get things to happen. This will maybe identify areas when we should get someone on board with one. Town House and improving town centre and two we have started.

LV – so four potential projects could be

- sports & leisure
- harbour
- mountain bike trails
- food town.

DS – suggested we look at this further and asked LS to come back with something more concrete. STP could, for example, have a paid “facilitator”.

FB asked if this was a BIDS scheme and it is perhaps part of a project.

	<p>DF – what do we do for the next month? It was premature to ask LV to come back next time on one of those projects. We need to have a discussion about how a proposal fits in. MW thought we needed something quick and queried what is deliverable quickly. ? MW and LV to talk (<a href="mailto:linsypins@hotmail.com">linsypins@hotmail.com</a>) and since she knows PFR it was agreed to keep MN in the loop too.</p>	MW/LV /MN
4	<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER</b></p> <p>Already dealt with at previous meeting.</p>	
5	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p>DF advised that we should be recovering costs of PFR. We needed to pick up invoices to the value of £750 and send them to KMcW</p> <p>The legal fees of £4000 + vat remains outstanding - we should write a cheque.</p> <p>In view of the receipt of grants for forthcoming year DF thought that we should have a budget arrangement. CS to draw one up – rough and ready at this stage</p>	CS  CS  CS
6	<p><b>PRESENTATION ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION STONEHAVEN (SEAS) -RACHEL SHANKS</b></p> <p>SEAS Ditta Neumann and Rachel Shanks introduced themselves as the two directors. SEAS is a not-for-profit company looking into renewable energy and changing to a CIC so that profits that are made then have to be spent for the benefit of the community.</p> <p>The origin of SEAS was Brian Menzies' 2005 proposal and came from his knowledge and passion. In 2008 SEAS got a grant of £12,000 to look into specific projects. The Report is on the website <a href="http://www.seasuk.org">www.seasuk.org</a> and looked at 6 schemes including heating the pool, a wind turbine at Mackie, and a wave rider out in the bay. SEAS went into the schools too. The Report was well received and had some community support. However a heat exchanger for open-air pool was the only thing that was viable and nothing proceeded at that time.</p> <p>There is a major opportunity just now – however it is highly commercially sensitive. SEAS has been awarded a £150,000 grant which is rapidly being used looking at various studies to bring this opportunity to fruition. It is a wind scheme. Most schemes just now are commercial and give a pittance back to the community. As a community group we can give our entire share back into the community. We are a company limited by guarantee. CIC's didn't exist when SEAS was set up, but changing to one will avoid any possibility of a hostile takeover</p> <p>SEAS hoped to be able to go public on the current opportunity in 3 months time. It will make a big splash when it happens.</p>	

WE asked if SEAS was aware of his Stonehaven Energy Cooperative proposal. There were not and WE didn't know of SEAS until recently. WE said SEAS funding reinforced his belief that a wide spectrum of funding is available, His idea was broader – that the cooperative would look at (1) energy cost reduction through community purchasing scheme (2) create an option for 2 pronged (a) energy conservation requirement to reduce wastage, making it affordable for a group of customers again using buying power. And to coordinate a grant application to support that, and (b) a drive towards net energy export within Stonehaven from a broad range of sources. WE said he was against wind farms as they are not efficient - so ultimately we would look at a range of resources within the cooperative, and we would be opening up the range for investment – it pays returns that would be higher than from current investment but also when married with other aspects there would be money left for the area.

There was an overlap with SEAS. Ditta Neumann said they are taking their current project to planning. The profits would then go to a trust to be disbursed. And maybe the STP's project could apply for funding so there are overlaps.

AS – said he had no feel for the numbers now. SEAS confirmed it wouldn't cover just Stonehaven but the return to the community would be several hundred thousand pounds a year.

WE – repeated that were a number of other proven technologies. Rather than focus on one solution such as wind, if you adopt a range the potential return is higher. But you have to get people on board and this is the main reason for part 1 – to show people a return. He asked if STP we were to proceed, would SEAS affiliate to it or be connected with that cooperative as a venture going forward?

Ditta Neumann and Rachel Shanks confirmed that SEAS had members, who would require to be consulted. In principle SEAS and STP are not doing anything opposite. We would certainly not to be competing. DN thought SEAS would never be doing an energy cost reduction project. SCARF does that in Aberdeen, for example. Others are doing that so in 2007 SEAS decided not to do that.

SEAS is a very small group of volunteers working in their spare time. – and because of the scale of their project SEAS had no spare resources .

AS – thought a "shovel ready" project is what STP needed. He asked roughly how much would an energy cooperative save us. WE thought 10 to 20%

SEAS concluded that it would welcome new member. The results of the previous Fesibility Study and other updates are all on the website. That included a very full report on Cowie study as well as the open air pool. It makes an interesting read – but it doesn't make pretty reading, unless you want to put a roof on the open air pool. See [www.seasuk.org](http://www.seasuk.org) In 3 months we will be running consultations on the current project.

GC said he was a member of SEAS. He though wind power was an easy technology to do. Maybe it was only an interim technology but we are well located for that, he thought.

7	<p><b>REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p>WE reported that the Minutes etc. were now on the website. Draft minutes that need to be accessed only by directors will be in a private area with logon id. He will email everyone.</p> <p>AF, DF and FB requested their log-in details be sent and/or needed help with logging in.</p> <p>WE reminded directors to email replies from STP using STP email accounts. Email must reflect fact it is from STP.</p> <p>AS and FB queried if they needed another email address. WE advised that once it was established, it is easy to manage through outlook. But communication from STP should be readily identifiable as such.</p> <p>DS queried if we needed that. DF said yes – it had caused me grief – which hat are you wearing, David? WE reminded those present that it had been put forward and accepted. AS agreed to along with that.</p> <p>WE said the chat room is private so you can let off steam there</p> <p>DF asked if CS had an STP email account, and WE confirmed he did and there was no reason he should not also be able to log in. He could email small documents and upload larger ones to the website.</p> <p>WE said he was looking at adding a cloud-based location for large documents, and said people who are authorised can use and edit them.</p>	<p>WE</p> <p>WE</p> <p>All</p>
8	<p><b>REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY</b></p>	
	<p><b>LONG TERM USE OF FUNDS UPDATE</b></p> <p>DS suggested possibly appointing someone to communicate with members on which projects they might put forward for funding. DF said he had received a call from Gillian Christie – who has young offender clients one of whom is a journalist, Can we use him? DF suggested he could help writing up PFR and secondly to talk to all our members and make sure they are ready to apply for funding, when appropriate.</p> <p>WE confirmed that within the website there is a newsletter facility and that we are looking for reasons to send it out. DF thought if we write it and send it out, and then you can then follow up the newsletter without it being “cold calling” and it was agreed we consider that too.</p>	
	<p><b>BERVIE BRAES</b></p> <p>MW was at the Kincardine &amp; Mearns Area Committee meeting. GC suggested the road should be opened and monitored over the summer period. The</p>	

	<p>motion was well supported and approved 7-4. PB has been off sick. The proposal now goes back to Policy and Resources on 18<sup>th</sup> April</p> <p>4 councillors had been for (permanent) opening immediately. 7 had supported a 6 month opening only.</p> <p>£300,000 will require to be spent, and that is the same money for both options. Either way it would still have had to go to Policy and Resources. The funding is for barriers and signage.</p> <p>RC's view is that there is risk involved, and that the road should be open for the summer and then the position reviewed. WE said he had read the document and the level of risk was less for vehicles than pedestrians.</p> <p>DS said we had to accept that that is where we are and consider what we needed to do to make sure Policy and Resources backed up the Area Committee decision. The likelihood was of it going through.</p> <p>RC confirmed that once Policy and Resources had made that decision the barriers and signage would go up. DF asked to find out that timescale.</p> <p>FB said he was not happy the road was opened for the summer only. He hoped that the decision might be reconsidered before the winter. The shoulder months are important, he confirmed. The SBA tourism group had distributed 1,000 maps in the month of January. Those 1000 visitors can again have "the magic of the Braes".</p> <p>DS asked what we should do. The consultant Mark Kummerer of MKA was still available to present that economic argument on 18<sup>th</sup> on our behalf.</p> <p>AS thought it would be better for FB and MW to present a passionate case, which could be anecdotal as well as analytical. We would have 10 minutes. The committee could do that the Area Committee suggested, or to shut the road. Chances are officers will stick with option 8 and all we would be able to add to are economic impact and tourism aspects. There was nothing in the report to the committee from Economic Development within the Council.</p> <p>The consensus was not to mention safety, and not to push to open all year round. Our presentation to Policy and Resources had to be along the lines of thank you – but – look at it again for the shoulder months. That is the time that matters.</p> <p>DS would therefore request slot through STP. But it is still up to P&amp;R to decide if you are heard or not. FB and MW to speak – no need to pay MKA to attend if they were not speaking.</p> <p>FB further commented that the coastal path had been damaged and GC confirmed that we needed to find money for that repair.</p>	DS
9	<b>BUSINESS PLAN ITEMS</b>	
	<p><b>QUEEN ELIZABETH CARAVAN PARK</b></p> <p>DF said there had been a site meeting today. Date for opening as things stand</p>	



	<p>is earlier than originally proposed but not yet for publication. There will be a soft (unpublicised) opening as soon as they can.</p> <p>The static caravans will get on from 6<sup>th</sup> of May. They were told that date this evening. They are considering opening for Hogmanay (December 2013) and will discuss and come back to us.</p> <p>Drainage. They have done a lot of work and cleared out 2 blocked pipes (£70k). They have decided all the hard surfaces will be permeable to minimise the effects of heavy rain. But no drainage system would have coped with last December anyway.</p> <p>They have started to repair the Den of Logie Road. The Council has "nicked" 3 metres of land. There was no consultation and they appropriated land they don't own. Tony Barnett was furious. He has written but not yet sent letter a letter of complaint. It will cost them £500,000 in fees over 60 years. As far as the caravan club is concerned it is an actionable act. DF thought we just had to wait for the Caravan Club to act.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire council – or at least part of the Council - knows that this is a matter of dispute. Correcting that – taking the earth back – is a cost the council were not expecting to have to pay. DF thinks we should not get involved today. Apart from the loss of the income, the number of tent pitches goes down from 8 to 2. In terms of representing the community, the commitment to 8 pitches was an important one.</p> <p>FB wondered if we could afford to stand back on that? DF didn't know what a solution is. FB said not to wait until the contractors had gone, but DF pointed out that the contractors could not make changes without a design plan.</p> <p>WE also thought the time to do something is now and that it was incumbent on us to formally tell the council. MW and DS agreed. Did the Council know? DF said solicitors would then be needed to write to the Council and say they are in formal breach of the lease. However it was a different thing to inform the Council. So we should write a formal letter – but not a lawyers letter – advising of our concern.</p> <p>AS – asked about drains and whether the December 2012 problems had been remedied. DF thought no road drains would cope. WE said there were specific blockages and people have seen the work and the area of the site. What is different is that it is now known where the blockages were. The drainage is more effective and so it will cause more problems for Cowie, not less.</p> <p>DF repeated that the caravan club had increased the permeability of the site and that will help, and we need to publicise that fact.</p> <p>FB asked about working on a marketing plan. DF said his contact was with Tony Barnett, and FB should therefore to contact him direct.</p> <p>AS left.</p>	<p>DF</p> <p>FB</p>
	<p><b>ALL WEATHER FACILITY</b> DS and WE attended a meeting of a steering group. The project is dominated</p>	

	<p>by the football club, and they don't want a debate about whether it should be situated at Mackie rather than Mineralwell. £300,000 will give them what they want so they don't need a more imaginative plan. We need to determine if the Mackie site is going to be available for an all inclusive opportunity.</p> <p>FB – Graham Garden came to first meeting. John Robson is interested but maybe MW's emails have not go to him. FB to contact John Robson. Sarah (?) would be interested.</p> <p>WE's concerns are shared by Michael Innes has the same concerns. We need more people involved – maybe more groups. 3 members of Cowie netball will be at the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup>. Maybe Rachel Shanks can represent badminton. We should encourage them to send representatives.</p> <p>The group also needs to be properly constituted, but it is not our place to write it for them.. Michael Innes is to speak to Fraser Govan (sports development) about surfaces.</p> <p>GC – it ticks more boxes if it is a "sports hub" for the Scottish government commonwealth games. WE – the demand for recreational space is increasing.</p>	<p>KMcW</p> <p>FB</p>
	<p><b>TOWN HOUSE / CLOCK TOWER</b></p> <p>Covered already. Brian Watt will attend the next meeting</p>	
	<p><b>STREET AUDIT / IMPROVING OUR TOWN CENTRE</b></p> <p>MW confirmed we had identified what needs done. A presentation can be done on Powerpoint and this will go onto the website. We have identified addresses and now need to identify owners. Groundwater will assistance give for free. Community service will help. We should contact the Horizon Project. Landscape services need spoken too about trees and street furniture.</p> <p>The Bervie Chipper DF advised that they won their case against their insurance company but are still battling to see what they can get from the contractors.</p>	<p>MW</p>
	<p><b>PLANNING FOR REAL – NEXT DATE / REPORTING</b></p> <p>The dates for the PfR consultation are 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of May. All please reserve some time to help. It is to be held in the upper room of the Royal Hotel. The outcome of all 3 PfR consultations will be combined. This one is the Town Centre - up as far as Gurney Street? How far should be go? It was agreed that this should be Carron to Cowie, and Beach to Gurney Street.</p>	
10	<p><b>BUSINESS ITEMS</b></p>	
	<p><b>CONSTITUTION / SCIO APPLICATION</b></p> <p>DS has already sent out a copies and will submit it now.</p>	<p>DS</p>

	CS is to check hourly rate MN was previously paid.	CS
	<b>WEB SITE</b> Covered	
	<b>DISBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR QECPS INCOME</b>  MW still waiting for Stonehaven Festivals & Events VAT refund.	
	<b>RUNNING THE WARD FORUMS</b>  Local community planning group has discussed the ward forums, their future and how to engage the community. DF took the view as long as they are doing it, they are not engaging the community.  The second issue is do we cover Stonehaven but ignore Drumoak? So DF had conversation and yes they do cover them sometimes. DF to look into this further and set out a plan. And then DF will propose we do more about the ward forums. There is no point in running this if no-one turns up.  In Marr and other areas, there are forums but maybe only 1/2 the community councils turn up and other groups are not invited. It is under consultation but the Council may decide to have two community council forum consultations are year. It is a muddled and murky area.  They are forums – Police. Fire, and what is aired goes in the exchange of views are part of an input into the community plan. Police  KMcW - This dialogue shows we are not hitting the mark.	
	<b>STONEHAVEN AS A FAIR TRADE TOWN</b>  PB was not present. He is keen on Stonehaven as a Fair Trade Town, but DF was not. It was decided to leave it until next meeting. GC is a member of fair trade committee and PB will be putting it to the area committee for approval.  The STP noted PB's desirer for Stonehaven to be a fair trade town.	**
11	<b>AOCB</b>  EMAILS When sending out emails we should all be careful not represent ourselves as speaking on behalf of STP when we are not.	All

	<p>KMAP Marr has strength in its rural partnerships. We are becoming a SCIO. Do we need to set up a rural partnership for Kincardine and Mearns? We need clarity over what STP and KMAP and MAP actually do. The STP is not a rural partnership. This may become an issue when funding is decided. We need to watch the impact upon us.</p> <p>HARBOUR MEETING GC queries if a marina was feasible. There is a plan. Indeed there was a plan some years ago.</p> <p>DF thought it had been tried before and would not work. The fishermen will be against it, but it might be on the agenda for the future.</p> <p>The harbour needed £1½m before the storms. The marina cost was of the order of £10m. LV may want to consider this as a project and we will need to look at it.</p> <p>Stonehaven needs to make itself something special.</p>	
12	<p><b>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month</b></p> <p>Future meetings are on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 April 2013</li> <li>• 28 May 2013</li> <li>• 25 June 2013</li> <li>• 23 July 2013</li> <li>• 27 August 2013</li> <li>• 24 September 2013</li> <li>• 22 October 2013</li> <li>• 26 November 2013 (AGM followed by brief directors' meeting)</li> <li>• No meeting in December, then back to 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 25 January 2014 onwards</li> </ul>	