

STONEHAVEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP
MINUTES OF TRUSTEE MEETING
HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2017 AT 7.00PM
AT INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE, STONEHAVEN

Item

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present Trustees	In attendance	Apologies
Jim Stephens (JS) David Fleming (DF) Stuart Alexander (SA) Andrew Newton (AN)	Clr Graeme Clark (GC) Bill Emslie (BE) Wendy Rudd (WR) Alan Penny (AP) Christina Hardy (Mill O Forest) Emma Hamilton (Mill O Forest)	Bill Allan (BA) John Robson (JR) Jim Douglas (JD) Kate Garrow (Homestart) Isabel Munn (IM) Clair Dingwall

	Action
JS commenced proceedings by advising that this was his first meeting as STP Chair and that he hoped everything will go smoothly. JS paid tribute to the sterling work done by DF during his tenure as Chair.	

2. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 22 November 2016

	Action
On the proposal of DF and seconded by SA the minutes of the AGM of 22 November 2016 and the Trustees meeting of the same date were approved. These minutes will now be placed on the website.	IM

3. Matters arising from the AGM

	Action
The Grande Promenade presentation is still to be placed on the website.	IM

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

	Action
In JR's absence DF confirmed that the main account has a balance of £21,801 and the reserve account contains £53,746.	
DF confirmed it will be the task of the trustees at the February meeting to work out how much is available for disbursement, salaries, new work etc. This will also be after the accounts have been agreed.	JR

5. Strategy – Jim Stephen

	Action
Business Plan 2016-17 Member organisations have been contacted for suggestions for future years and only two replies have been received so far. There are a couple of large projections in gestation but no firm plans with funding allocated by STP. DF did not believe that a	

large strategy document was required and SA advised that as a first step a financial projection was required for the next couple of years. The committee agreed and tasked JR and Charlie Sands (CS) to produce a financial plan.	JR/CS
Disbursements On his return from holiday JR will be asked to decide on the level of disbursement in 2017. The committee was reminded that £4K was distributed in 2016 and STP is advised by an independent group comprising of 2 Trustees and 3 non-STP individuals.	JR

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)	There has been no progress with Aberdeenshire Council but Stuart Young (Dunecht Estates) has met with Phil Mills-Bishop (PMB) with the intention to push for longer opening times which would be constrained in the event of prolonged rain. The committee agreed that more pressure needs to be applied to gain a satisfactory solution to the problem. Stephen Archer and Stuart Young to be contacted. DF is stepping back from this project.	JS
Court Building (DF)	Various bodies within the Scottish Court Service have agreed the transfer to STP and in early October the necessary paperwork was passed to the Minister of Justice for final approval. So far there has been a deafening silence. DF has contacted local MSPs in a bid to speed up the process as confirmation of the transaction is required by end January in order to be eligible for a grant from HLF. Rory Dutton of the Development Trust is also applying pressure on behalf of STP.	
Improving Our Town Centre (JS)	JS will attend the next meeting at Viewmount on 18 th January. There a number of suggestions on the table, e.g., improving signage, a letter concerning nesting seagulls, improving the boardwalk, creating a parallel cycle path beside the boardwalk. SA expressed concerns about some of the proposed text on the boardwalk sign which he considered too proscriptive. SA suggested: <i>Please use your common sense and let all users enjoy the boardwalk and Take care when wet.</i> JS has decided to include Harbour Illuminations under IOTC. A lot of preliminary work has been done on improving the ambience at the harbour – lights will be installed along the Old Pier and that section of Shorehead occupied by the Ship and Marine. This will require a formal approach to various individual house owners. Offers of support have been received from the Lions Club and the Fire Balls Association. WR raised the state of the boardwalk by the yachting station and it was agreed that it was an eyesore and potentially dangerous and perhaps this section should be removed completely.	JS JS

Former Gas Works Site (DF)	The issue will be raised at Wednesday's meeting at Viewmount	JS
Cruise Ships (JR)	JR is following up one enquiry. The committee noted that the planned expansion of Aberdeen Harbour commences in March 2017; part of the expansion is to cater for the expected increase in cruise liners docking in Aberdeen and the committee believe that this is an appropriate time to contact Aberdeen Harbour Board with the view of establishing a joint approach to entertaining cruise liner passengers.	JR
Plan B (DS)	This is a project to improve the north end of the town but DF suggested that any renewal of the project should be deferred until January 2018 as he questioned whether STP currently had the energy and support for Plan B.	
New Cycling Project	Aberdeenshire Council are carrying out improvements on how individuals get around the shire. A survey of Stonehaven is planned for this year and SA is already in touch with Claudia Sterck. It was considered that the Stonehaven Cycling Club should be consulted – SA to action.	SA
Grande Promenade	Sheila Howarth (SH) has made presentations to various organisations in the town and JR has been discussions with an Edinburgh firm regarding design. The committee feels that it now the time to take the project forward and the question was raised whether STP should assume leadership. STP would probably have to seek an individual keen to lead; also set a budget. However, the first steps are to engage with SH and to hold a public meeting to gauge support.	Who ?
Green Pavilion	A new project. Aberdeenshire Council are in the process of creating a list of AC owned properties and under the new Empowerment Act the Council is obliged to consider offers for underutilised properties from community groups. There are fears that the Green Pavilion and Shepherd's Hall could fall into the category of 'not wanted'. The committee decided to lodge an Expression of Interest in both properties in order to be legally involved in any future negotiations. JS to raise matter with Willie Munroe.	JS

7. Business Items

	Action
Report from/items to Community Council In the absence of IB there is no report	
Report on KDP meeting (AN) KDP have appointed David Nelson as Chair with Dave Ramsay as vice Chair. Ian Hunter and Mairi Eddie remain as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The Meikle Carew Windfarm Community Fund awarded a number of grants at the end of 2016.	
Caravan Site The site is fully booked for Hogmanay 2017 and will be opening earlier this year in order to accommodate the number of bookings. Some minor improvements are scheduled for the site.	
Land Train A very successful year and will start again at Easter. Consideration is being given to re-arranging the starting station in order to better accommodate the caravan site visitors.	IM

AP voiced concerns that keeping the same route year on year would create a 'stale' attraction. He was re-assured that this was not experienced by land trains operating elsewhere but the situation would be monitored.	
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8. Items from STP/Aberdeenshire Council.

A meeting was scheduled for December which was cancelled and Aberdeenshire Council have so far failed to provide an alternative date. JS will raise the issue at Wednesday's meeting.	Action JS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Newtonleys • Bervie Braes • Gas Works Site • Possible new projects - Cycle Paths; Grand Promenade 	

9. New Membership Applications

	Action
<p>Tooters (Sole Trader)</p> <p>Refused as a Sole Trader is neither an incorporated nor unincorporated organisation and thus does not qualify for membership under our constitution. However, the individual can be co-opted as a Trustee. To be informed.</p>	IM
<p>Carron Stroke Group</p> <p>DF proposed and JS seconded. Unanimous approval. To be informed.</p>	IM

10. AOCB

	Action
<p>This year will be the 40th anniversary of the Thomson Rally (the last Sunday in June) and attempts are being made to increase the profile of the event. STP are asked to consider running the land train into the Mineral Well Park. JS is trying to involve the Stonehaven Cycling Club and will being meeting to plan other activities.</p>	IM JS
DF offered his apologies for the next meeting	

Date of next meetings

Tuesday 28th February

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

28 March 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 2110 hrs