



STONEHAVEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP
MINUTES OF TRUSTEE MEETING
HELD ON 28th JUNE 2016 AT 7.00PM
AT INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE, STONEHAVEN

Item

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present Trustees	In attendance	Apologies
David Fleming (DF)	Cllr Peter Bellarby (PB)	Elizabeth Havens (EH)
Andrew Newton (AN)	Cllr Graeme Clark (GC)	Michelle Ward (MW)
John Robson (JR)	Stuart Young – Dunecht Estates	Cllr Raymond Christie (RC)
Isabel Munn (IM)	David Harper (DH)	Bill Alan (BA)
Stuart Alexander (SA)	Douglas Samways (DS)	Iain Balgowan (IB)
Jim Douglas (JD)	Mitch Mackay (MM)	Knud Christiansen (KC)
Jim Stephens (JS)	Phil Mills-Bishop (PMB)	
	Chris Simpson (CS)	

2. Stuart Young Chief executive, Dunecht Estates

Stuart gave a talk on how Dunnottar Castle is currently doing and its challenges and what Dunecht Estate are thinking of doing in the future.

There were 90,000 paying visitors 2015 with 10,272 this year to the end of May, which is the best year so far.

The Castle is managed by Jim Wands who took over from Wendy Sylvester. Currently it employs 5 full time members of staff and some seasonal staff.

They are focusing on Social media which is proving to be successful and are marketing it as the 8th wonder of the world, its recently been used for filming Frankenstein, and RBS were filming last week.

The new website had 10,000 hits last week. There is a Dunnottar Castle app, which is getting good feedback as is trip advisor.

2016 3 projects.

There is ongoing survey work looking at the stability of the cliff and buildings. The conglomerate rocks have regular remedial work. On the North range, where there was land slip after Storm Frank the area is being monitored and cliff stabilisation work is being carried out.

Some of the issues have included getting the septic tanks emptied which used helicopters. The path from the car park to the cliff above the Castle is very uneven making walking difficult. Dunecht Estates are looking into laying a new surface which is likely to be composite and needs to be matched to stones already there. Work is likely to start on this after the high season (i.e. in September 2016).

Visitor Centre

Detailed proposals and presentations have been made to the Community Council and Cllrs.

No planning applications yet as Dunecht Estates are looking at the feasibility of spending £1.8 million. Dunecht Estates have employed Jura Consultants to look at this.

DF asked about the visitor centre, link with land train and cliff path.

SY confirmed that Jura are looking into revenue streams, entrance fees for a café and shop.

Land Train

IM confirmed she is in direct liaison with Jim. On site discussion with Stuart and Jim required re turning for Land train at the Castle if possible.

PMB asked where figures are from. SY confirmed Jura have details of rates per spend etc. that they use. PMB asked about the archaeological finds to the South. SY confirmed Dunecht Estates are enhancing the path network north and south.

DF asked about the Grande Promenade. SY confirmed that the cliff path from the Castle to Stonehaven Boat club is all owned by Dunecht Estates but is part of Aberdeenshire Councils Core Path network.

JS – mentioned IOTC which is working with other groups, setting up new signage in Market Square, better cycle paths and wheel chair access. He thought a map to include paths would be useful. JS queried whether anything can be done in short term for the path to the Castle from the car park. SY thinks not as its high season and would like to focus on what can be done more permanently.

JS mentioned the pathway from war memorial which council tried to make safe but unfortunately they have little money for this. It was thought that AWPR would donate some materials PMB to provide phone numbers to check this out.

SY comments on promenade were positive and he confirmed he would be happy to participate in this project. Well done to John Findlay for his work.

MM mentioned using a turning circle near war memorial which could be looked at in the future.

SA asked what the timescales are. SY reported that they didn't have any at present although the toilet facilities outwith the castle would be improved. Also confirmed that they are looking at the Lodge house improvements for their staff. Their architects are looking at phased implementation.

DF commented that the attitude to Dunnottar Castle has changed in the last few years and that Town is now behind it. He thinks the changes are due to their staff.

SY is happy to come back and speak at later date to update trustees.

SY Left meeting

Dr. Chris Stirk

CS thanked STP Trustees for sponsoring the FAME banner.

CS explained the reasons for the meeting taking place with Tom Buchan from the Property Department at Aberdeenshire Council scheduled for 7pm Thursday 30th June at Upper Town Hall

Aberdeenshire Council are planning to increase charges from £13 to £39 per hour for anyone with a bar at their function or who charges at the door.

She mentioned a number of functions that charge and have a bar that are put on for charity purposes which would lose out on income for their charities with the new charging system. DF asked the Cllrs if they know about the issue. PB confirmed he has spoken to WM and would like to hear outcome of meeting. DF had spoken to Clare Lasells, and asked for the criteria being used, but nothing has been produced. It would appear that all officers have been implementing charges differently. DF felt that the changes reported just replaced on set of unfairnesses (variability across the shire) with another (different communities being penalised). The changes were not delivering value either to Aberdeenshire Council or to the community.

JS will attend meeting on STP's behalf.

CS Left meeting

3. Election of Chair Designate

	Action
DF asked for nominations of Chair designate. JS asked if DF will continue but DF confirmed that he won't although he will continue leading the Court Building Project. He has asked all trustees to think about standing as Chair with a decision to be made at the next meeting in August.	ALL

4. Approval of minutes

	Action
On the proposal of AN and seconded by JR the minutes of the trustees meeting of 24 th May 2016 were approved. These minutes will now be placed on the website. Matters arising from these minutes are detailed in section 5 below.	IM

5. Matters arising from minutes of 24th May 2016

	Action
Former Gas works Site WM has reported that AC can't progress with the former gas works site as a car park and has asked whether STP can purchase through the Land Fund. STP to wait to hear back from Mark Skilling before progressing as he raised many issues at the last meeting. IM to write to MS and WM asking for draft report.	IM
Business Plan There have been 2 requests sent to member groups for information about what they have planned to do in the next 1 to 5 years and only Horizon Group has come back with information. DS mentioned that the Burns Group had some memorabilia that they were looking to house somewhere PMB mentioned the Community Plan from the Community Council which STP are still waiting for information from the CC about.	DS Commun-ity Council
Caravan Site	

CCGB are looking at the banking, to see if alterations can be made to allow tents to be put up there, as originally planned CCGB opening 2 weeks earlier in year. Friday 3 rd March 2017, because of the success of the site. DS asked whether there were any statics on site and it was thought not.	
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6. Finance Report from John Robson

	Action
£64K is in account at present £43k has been ring fenced for salaries and land train in sinking fund in 2017. Deposit account to be opened for this. £20k in general fund for other projects at present	JR

7. Strategy – David Fleming

Business Plan 2016 -19	Action
Not started as yet as still waiting for information from other groups. Will be commenced after summer holidays.	ALL

8. 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 10.	
Court Building (DF)	Article in Mearns Leader this week showing work done to date. Photos from PMB of Court Building and passageway	PMB
Improving Our Town Centre (JS)	JS reported that he had spoken to Steve McHaffie about the Illuminations and he is providing more visuals. JS thinks they will be able to get power for these Tap at top of slip way is progressing and RNLI have suggested they will use it for getting sea water off boats. IOTC walk about with Diane. Kwik Fit's looking good after the refurbishment. Bervie Chipper flats have been approved. More work to be done with the layout at South side of Market Square with the signage and seating to be updated.	
Former Gas Works Site (MW)	See below under 10.	
Cruise Ships (JR)	Nothing further to report.	
CAT for Beach Toilets	See below under 10.	
Plan B (DS)	The Plan for North East of Stonehaven. This project is in abeyance and will be revisited in January 2017.	

	<p>Recreation Ground Trust</p> <p>It was agreed that STP would get in touch with the Recreation Ground Trust and have a meeting about what they are trying to do to develop the site. JR and JS to set up meeting and see the RGT.</p> <p>PB mentioned that Cllrs have been requested to go on to the RGT committee and this will go to full council this week for approval(Thursday), Cllrs would be on committee to represent the public interest.</p>	JS/JR
New Cycling Project	<p>SA confirmed he has not had much time to do much yet.</p> <p>JR spoken to cycle club chair and he would be happy to take people on tours.</p> <p>JS to meet with Jackie Niven from KDP.</p> <p>JS thought there could be more joined up cycle events with other events in the town. E.G Thompson Rally and the beer festival</p> <p>SA mentioned that at family cycling events access across A92 is not easy.</p> <p>GC trying to get money from SUSTRANS to increase the cycle paths north of Stonehaven.</p>	
Grande Promenade	Already discussed	

9. Business Items

	Action
<p>Report from/items to Community Council</p> <p>Items to CC None</p> <p>Items from CC Reported by PMB</p> <p>WIFI in Invercarron Resource Centre. CC has funds for large flat screen but not for monthly fees and wondered if STP could help with these.</p> <p>JS and JR get information re costs for Wifi</p> <p>WIFI in Square – there might be commitment from developers for wifi</p> <p>Gary Black is assisting the CC with planning for defibrillators in Market Square and at the Boat House</p>	JS/JR
<p>Report on KDP meeting (AN)</p> <p>Last meeting was held 4 weeks ago. KDP think they will get further funding from another windfarm.</p> <p>Going back to monthly meetings.</p> <p>KDP have been out visiting other groups.</p>	
<p>Caravan Site</p> <p>STP the company has now been struck off.</p> <p>Wardens away in 2 weeks' time for a break so temporary wardens will be on site</p> <p>£3250 will be paid by CCGB to STP in June.</p>	
<p>Land Train</p> <p>Extended hours from Saturday 2nd July and will be running daily in July and August</p>	

Coastal Communities Fund New project officer, Michael Phillip will be taking over Destination Stonehaven project. His contact details are as follows: Michael.phillip@biglotteryfund.org.uk 0141 242 1214	
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10. Items from STP/Aberdeenshire Council meeting 28th July

Update from William Munro, Aberdeenshire Council on 27th June	Action
<p><u>East Newtonleys</u> – There is nothing new to report here. The negotiations over the site are proving very lengthy and have not yet been concluded. Until they are concluded no further progress will be made on the POAN. At our last meeting you also asked about documentation relating to Redcloak. It is my understanding that everything that was available was provided at that time and that a commitment was given to have a further meeting following the conclusion of the more formal consultation through the POAN process.</p> <p><u>Bervie Braes</u> – I have had the opportunity to discuss this with the Director of Infrastructure Services. I think we will probably be able to make some progress with the appearance of the barriers and will be able to look at the possibility of extending the opening period given that the road can now be physically closed off. The question of the weight limit remains a more difficult one to resolve but the discussion is underway. Unfortunately progress particularly on the barriers has been slow mainly due to considerable staff turnover in the Stonehaven office within the team which at the moment is running below capacity and having to focus on the annual road maintenance programme. I will not lose sight of this though and will try to see that there is some progress.</p> <p><u>Gas Works site</u> – I am afraid that I am not so optimistic about this now and have told Kathleen Hutcheson of SSE that the Council will not be in a position to make a firm commitment within the timescale that she was looking for. However, in the meantime I have forwarded to Isabel a possible funding stream which might make it possible for STP or indeed some other body to acquire the site. I think we should remain open minded on how this is delivered and I certainly wouldn't want to give up hope that somehow we can get to a point whereby a car park is delivered on this site.</p> <p><u>Beach Toilets</u> – I think at least for this summer the issue is closed but we do need to find a more sustainable way of running these in the future. At the moment there is no Community Asset Transfer application and I think that in the longer term it is more likely to be sustainable if it is run by a community body rather than business. It may be that Calum and Lesley can set up such a community body but I would hope that there is some dialogue between STP and Calum and ourselves so that the most appropriate solution can be found.</p>	
Cycle Paths and Grand Promenade on list for next liaison meeting	

11. AOCB

	Action
<p>Renewable Energy JS wondered whether any work had been done on using renewable energy in Stonehaven. DF recommended that he speaks to Ditta Newman who worked for Sustainable Energy Association Stonehaven</p>	JS
<p>Policies A set of policies was generated and updated to accompany various funding bids. The Board was asked to approve them, AN mentioned some slight changes to the policies and to mention the accident book is kept on the train. Subject to these editorial changes, the polices were approved.</p>	

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

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

No Meeting in July

23rd August 27th September 25th October

22nd November AGM

No meeting in December

Meeting Closed at 9.00