



STONEHAVEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF TRUSTEE MEETING HELD ON 17th January 2018 AT 7.00PM AT COMMUNITY CENTRE, STONEHAVEN

Item

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present Trustees	In attendance	Apologies
Andrew Newton (AN) Jim Stephens (JS) Stuart Alexander (SA) Jim Douglas (JD) Mike Duncan (MD)*	Dave Lawman Julie Lindeman Bob McAlpine Kelly McAlpine	Cllr Dickinson Martin Anderson

***Mike Duncan was appointed a trustee in section 4**

2. Approval of minutes

	Action
Subject to a report on the finances to be inserted by JR the minutes of 24 th October 2017 were approved on the proposal of JS and seconded by SA. The minutes of the November AGM will not be approved until the next AGM.	JR

3. Matters Arising

	Action
<p>A number of action points were to be undertaken by Isabel Munn but these need to be re-assigned after her departure from STP. Other action points were:</p> <p>QR Codes. SA has discussed with Alan Craig and the relevant web site has been updated but still needs further development. SA will meet with Alan again to flesh out the project.</p> <p>Land train storage. The train will not be stored in Groundwater's facilities but work is proceeding on acquiring covers.</p> <p>All Weather Pitch. SA attended the AGM and it transpired that the only sports using the pitch are football clubs. The local rugby club had other financial commitments and found the hire of the pitches too expensive; however, the rugby club will look again at the possibility of using the pitches. The AGM reported that the cost of maintaining the pitches is high as they need to be certified and a sinking fund will have to be created as the artificial grass will need replacing in 5/6 years. Additional funding will have to be sought.</p>	

4. Appointment of new Trustee

	Action
AN proposed the appointment of Mike Duncan (Table Tennis Club) as a new trustee and this was seconded by JD.	

5. Finance Report

	Action
In JR's absence there was no financial report this month.	

5 Business Plan Items

Project	Additional Information	Action
Bervie Braes Road (JR)	JS reported that STP is still trying to get Aberdeenshire Council to amend the weight restriction to one based on axle weight in order that the Land Train can come down the Braes. JS will raise the issue at the next liaison meeting with the hope that a meeting can be arranged with the Roads Dept. In the interim the recent winter weather has not caused any slippage on the Braes so STP will continue to push for a relaxation of the weight restriction.	
Court Building (DF)	JD reported that ministerial consent for the asset transfer for £1 was finally granted the previous week. The transfer is now in the hands of solicitors. LEADER and Social Investment Scotland have been advised of the delay. Negotiations are continuing with various prospective tenants but Citizens Advice Bureau is demanding a rate that is below the viability threshold; consequently STP will have to seek a new anchor tenant. The trustees approved a proposal to circulate the prospective office accommodation to all the solicitors in Stonehaven. Currently JD is awaiting a decision from the Council of the Rateable Value of each room.	JS
Improving Our Town Centre (JS)	Isabel Munn was the co-ordinator for STP but as a consequence of her resignation this role has been taken up by JS. JS reported that he is still hopeful of getting new sail banners by the Spring but this is heavily dependent on sponsorship. Perhaps organisations could sponsor individual banners. The R W Thomson Society has agreed to renew the 'Thomson' sign in the square. This project is a good example of various organisations, such as STP, Horizon Group, Landscape Services and the Road Dep., coming together for the benefit of Stonehaven	
Former Gas Works Site (JS)	During the planning for the Fire Balls JS succeeded in opening a line of communication with SGN and is hopeful of further fruitful negotiations with the company. One of the options for the site is additional car parking for the harbour area but BA will meet with Willy Munro to discuss all options. STP will not progress this project until the Council puts firm options on the	

	table.	
Cycling Project (SA)	<p>SA reported that the leaflet produced in late 2017 was slightly disappointing and needs a re-vamp.</p> <p>JS expanded on his vision of a cycle path 'looping ' around Stonehaven taking in the harbour, Dunnottar Castle, Dunnottar Woods, Fetteresso, Ury estate, Rickarton and back to Stonehaven. The local land owners are enthusiastic but JS thought the path needed signage which could be provided by individual landowners, together with contributions from Lions Club, Cycle Club, Rotary etc. MD questioned whether expensive signage was necessary as most enthusiasts would use GPS and cheap signposts could be adequate.</p> <p>JS also hinted at a possible linkage to the proposed mountain bike course at Durris but with high set up costs the latter is obviously a long term project.</p> <p>JS will re-do the proposed cycle path map and circulate to trustees.</p>	JS
Cruise Ships (JR)	In JR's absence there is no report.	
Grande Promenade(JS/JR))	This is a multi-organisation project with Sheila Howarth in the lead. Due to Christmas and New Year Sheila has had to put it on hold but activity is beginning to pick up again. Sections of the boardwalk have probably reached the end of their useful life and need re-building. This will be expensive. Cllr Robertson regards it has a necessity for the town and is using his old contacts at Holyrood to establish what funds are available. In parallel, work on a new bridge over the Carron will commence soon.	
Beach Toilets	This is mainly a concern for the commercial enterprises in the vicinity. It is recognised that the major cost of keeping the toilets open is that of cleaning. Various options have been mooted. STP submitted a CAT 1 transfer request in order to ascertain the owner(s) of the property but will not proceed to a CAT 2 request.	

6 Business Items

	Action
<p>Report from/items to Community Council – MD reported</p> <p>The twinning arrangements with Achères are progressing and SDCC hope to send four delegates to this Paris suburb in May for an initial signing of the agreement. It is hoped to arrange a reciprocal signing in Stonehaven in June. SDCC is now looking for funding for commemorative plaques, etc.</p> <p>SDCC continues to oppose the setting up of an arms-length leisure and cultural trust.</p> <p>SDCC are meeting with Aberdeenshire Council to discuss the recent level of gritting on roads and pavements.</p>	
<p>Report on KDP meeting (AN)</p> <p>KDP is currently discussing a draft SLA with the Council which will cover work for the next two years.</p> <p>Work continues on the application to the LEADER fund for a Senior Development</p>	

Worker to investigate potential areas of growth. KDP are currently negotiating to take office space in the re-vamped Court House but these are at an early stage.	
Membership Approval JS proposed to accept the application of Stonehaven and District Lions Club for membership; seconded by SA and approved unanimously. The trustees also had an application from Stonehaven Paddleboarding but a decision was deferred until the next meeting when it is hoped that a representative can attend. JS to facilitate.	JS

7 AOCB

	Action
Green Hut A question was raised from the floor on the current situation with the Green Hut. JS gave a quick resume of the history. The hut was declared surplus to Council requirements in June 2017 and offered to Men' Shed as a CAT. Some of the existing users were unhappy with this decision and STP offered to facilitate an umbrella group meeting. This offer was not taken up although a CAT 1 was submitted in October from another group. STP gathers that the offer was 'too little, too late' and that the Green Hut was to be offered to the Men's Shed but to date no offer has been made and no offer accepted by Men's Shed.	

8 Date of meetings

Next Meeting – 27 February

Subsequent

4th Tuesday of every month in the Dunnottar Lounge (Invercarron Resource Centre).

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

Andrew Newton

Secretary STP

23rd January 2018