



STONEHAVEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF AGM

HELD ON 28th November 2017 AT 7.00PM

AT INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE, STONEHAVEN

Item

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present Trustees	In attendance	Apologies
Jim Stephens (JS) James Douglas (JD) David Fleming (DF) Andrew Newton (AN) John Robson (JR) Stuart Alexander (SA) Bill Allan(BA)	Isabel Munn (IM) Wendy Rudd (WR) Friends of the Open Air Pool Julie Linderman (JL) Lions David Lawman (DL) Lions Martin Anderson (MA) Round Table Nigel Taylor Bob McAlpine (BA) Dalriada Properties Kelly McAlpine (KM) Dalriada Properties Raymond Christie (RC) Douglas Samways (DS) Cllr Sarah Dickinson*	Mike Duncan

2. Minutes of last AGM

	Action
The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as a true record of the meeting. JR Proposed the minutes be accepted and AN seconded the motion. The minutes are already on the web site.	

3. Chairman's Report – Jim Stephen

	Action

Firstly, I would like to thank the trustees for their hard work this year with the projects they have been involved with.

There have been some very positive outcomes with the projects this year.

Stonehaven Court Building

Stonehaven Town Partnership's project team for the court building have moved closer a step closer to being able to take over the Stonehaven Court Building from the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service. The court building, which has been empty since May 2014 has been a priority project for STP as third sector groups such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, PAMIS, AVA, Drugs Action and other groups such as KDP and Horizon and Aberdeenshire Employability Service are struggling to find good office accommodation within the Town for their growth. This project will enable the groups to work closely together for the benefit of their clients. The building also has disabled access which many of the other buildings currently used do not have. As well as office space for these groups hot desk facilities for others to use will also be available.

Once the ownership of the building has been transferred to STP, the initial phase which includes renovations externally and internally to make it suitable as office space will receive funding (which is currently agreed in principle) from South Aberdeenshire LEADER Local Action Group and Aberdeenshire Council of £53,541.13.

Further funding of £8,000 will also be made available from Aberdeenshire Council's Area Committee Budget once the South Aberdeenshire LEADER Local Action Group funding is confirmed.

STP have also secured a loan from Social Investment Scotland of £100,000 which will be used after the initial phase of the project. Other funding will be applied for, to enable additional phases of work to be completed in the future.

The benefit of this project is that a historical building which is currently looking forlorn and is empty, and for which no other use has been suggested, can now be seen to have a productive future for the benefit of the community of Stonehaven and the surrounding area. There is a shortage of meeting rooms and hall space in Stonehaven and the Court Building has Court Room 1 and Court 2 which can be used by many groups in Stonehaven as well as the office space that will be available after the refurbishment has taken place.

The Court Building will be a fantastic community asset and STP are excited by the prospect of delivering this project for Stonehaven.

Land Train

Another good year for the land train which has employed 15 part-time people and has run from Easter to last weekend.

Overall, we have carried almost 5200 passengers during the 2017 season which was down on the previous year but is excellent considering the inclement weather over the summer and the technical issues that kept the train off the road at the beginning of the season.

The Land train has again made a small profit this year after the land trains costs have been accounted for and this profit will help to ensure the long term financial stability of STP, and allow us to continue to invest in the future improvements for the town and surrounding area.

As last year the feedback from the passengers and public has been very positive, which is down to the drivers and storytellers working on the train this year. All who have worked on the train this year have expressed willingness to come back again next season.

Pressure will be kept on Aberdeenshire Council to reverse the decision not to let the train come down the braes as this is one of the best views of Stonehaven for tourists and locals to enjoy!

Improving Our Town Centre

Horizon and other groups are involved with STP and Aberdeenshire Council.

This project had a good start to the year by receiving funding for new information, signage boards at the leisure centre, railway station and town centre, which were sorely needed and for the seagull eggs to be removed in the town centre.

There is still more work to do with the other groups involved to replace the sail banners in market square and STP is pleased to be working on this joint project with Aberdeenshire Council, Horizon Group, Friends of the Open-Air Pool, the SDCC and Stonehaven Business Association.

Grande Promenade Project

Another joint project which is bringing the town together. There has been a successful public meeting and the groups involved in this project will be working closely with Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeenshire Council Flood Prevention Team to make sure that the initial stages of the project which will include the replacement of the boardwalk and new seating, bins and sculptures go ahead.

Flood Prevention widening bridge and heightening it, so timing in this project will be good. Funding will be the big issue.

Other projects for the future

Former gas works – STP are still interested in taking the site over from SSE and hope this project will make headway next year. This has been talked about for several years now.

Cycle Project - this will be an ongoing project this year and we have had some positive feedback from Aberdeenshire Council about the route. Funding is an issue with the new routes and signage although the cycling club might be able to help with that. There is a proposal for a linking cycle path around the boundary of Stonehaven which will be a 15 mile route.

Cruise ships and tourism – we know that this can have a very positive effect on Stonehaven and STP would like to work with Aberdeenshire Council and the Tourism group to make Stonehaven a great destination for people to visit. STP have looked at the feasibility of bringing cruise ships in to Stonehaven although the cruise companies prefer to come directly into a port rather than use tenders. There will be a cruise ships

coming into Montrose next year and Nigg in 2020. John Robson has been in touch with tour companies about bus bays in Stonehaven and is working with Aberdeenshire Council to get designated bus bays for the tour companies to use. .

There is a lot going on that STP is involved with and it is a credit to the 7 trustees that as a partnership we have managed to do so much this year! I hope that we can continue to do as much, if not more for Stonehaven next year and in future years and manage to maintain the good working relationships we have with Aberdeenshire Council and the other groups in the town.

Aberdeenshire Council know that STP is working hard for the good of Stonehaven and that we aren't going anywhere! going anywhere, and are working closely with other groups in the town to bring more projects to fruition.

I would like to thank David Fleming, who is going out on a high. He has worked very hard to secure the Court Building for Stonehaven and on many other projects in Stonehaven and although is stepping down from STP after 10 years will continue with other work in the town. He has made my job easy this year as his hand over was perfect and thanks to Doug Samways as well with what has been put in place by them for the smooth running of STP.

Doug Samways gave a presentation of the projects David has been involved in over the years

David thanked Douglas for his kind words and said he has enjoyed working for STP and especially working with the other trustees on the projects.

*Cllr Dickinson arrived

4. Treasurer's Report– John Robson

	Action
John Robson reported that there was a healthy £19k in current account. £14k has been set aside for the Court building phase 1 and there is £24.5k in the wages account Accounts up to 31 March 2017 were made available for anyone to look at. JR confirmed that there was £9.5k received from the caravan club last year and expects the same if not more this year as they have had a busier year. He also mentioned that the Land train had made approximately £3.5k profit this year, which goes back into funds.	

5. Presentation of annual accounts

	Action
These were made available at the meeting for all to see and were proposed by BA and seconded by AN	

6. Appointment of External Examiner

	Action

Charlie Sands was nominated and accepted to carry on being the external examiner, on JR's proposal which AN seconded.	
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7. Motion approving the setup of a new company called "Stonehaven Town Partnership Operations Ltd", of which the single shareholder shall be STP with the power to borrow money, to have at least 2 directors who are trustees of STP and at least 1 independent director.

	Action
<p>JR explained that this is for a separate operational company for the court building project. JR and JD will be the initial directors on the board of the new company with others to follow.</p> <p>JR and JD are currently speaking to tenants and discussing rentals with them.</p> <p>DM Hall have provided current rental values.</p> <p>Everything is very positive at present.</p> <p>An architect has been appointed who has spoken to contractors, with the aim of starting work in Feb 2018. Potential tenants will be able to move in to the building in July 2018 if everything goes according to plan.</p> <p>David Fleming expressed thanks to Scottish Courts and Tribunal Services as they have been very patient while STP have been getting funding in place. They have been very supportive and helpful.</p> <p>AN noted that the new company wouldn't have to pay tax on profits as they could be gifted back to STP.</p> <p>All trustees were in favour of approving the motion.</p>	

8. Election of Trustees

	Action
<p>AN noted that one third of the trustees must stand down every year</p> <p>DF is standing down permanently.</p> <p>JR, SA, JD and JS stood down and can stand for re-election. All were voted back on, on JS proposal which DS seconded.</p>	

9. Future Meeting Dates

	Action
<p>January 16th (4 trustees can make this date)</p> <p>All other meetings will take place on 4th of the month although there are no meetings in July and December. IM to book dates with Invercarron Resource Centre and circulate to trustees.</p>	IM

10. AOCB

	Action
<p>New Member Groups</p> <p>Language Travel Tours have been accepted as new member of STP. Web site to be updated.</p>	
<p>Christmas Tree and lights</p> <p>JS reported that he had been working with lots of different groups in Stonehaven to get the tree and lights up and the Christmas event in the square which had street dancing, pipe bands, stalls and was a great community event.</p>	

<p>He was working with the Rotary, Round Table and Lions and didn't realise how much work goes into everything they do and how much they put back into the town. He would like to invite lions, round table and rotary to a meeting with the other groups involved with improving our town centre and the grande promenade project to see if there are projects they would like to get involved with to fund. He intimated that STP would be missing out if they don't all work together.</p> <p>There was some discussion on this and the groups thought that if there was a "shopping list" made available of what the projects needed this might be the best way forward. JS to take this forward.</p> <p>JR mentioned the Cruise ships in 2020 and reported that the companies would be making excursions up next year so now is the time to get the businesses involved to accommodate the visitors. "Tartan effect". Everyone agreed that this is necessary to do now.</p> <p>JS thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the previous chairmen and trustees.</p>	JS
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Meeting closed at 20.40

Trustees Meeting after AGM

Present:

Present Trustees	In attendance
Andrew Newton (AN) Jim Stephens (JS) John Robson (JR) Stuart Alexander (SA) Bill Alan (BA) James Douglas (JD)	Isabel Munn (IM)

1. Election of Office bearers

	Action
Nominations for Chairman – Jim Stephens was proposed by JR and BA seconded. Nominations for Treasurer – John Robson was proposed by AN and SA seconded Nominations for Secretary – Andrew Newton was proposed by JR and JD seconded	

2. AOCB

	Action
David Fleming – removal from bank account As DF has resigned the other signatories are JR and AN. JR will arrange with the bank to have JD and JS included as signatories on the account and have access to internet banking.	
OSCR annual report AN noted that the accounts need to be signed by John Robson and Charlie Sands and then given to him for sending to OSCR.	JR

Court Building rental SA queried how much the rental needs to be to make the project viable. JR and JD confirmed that they have information from DM Hall and are negotiating with the potential tenants.	
Cruise Ships BA has drawn up a job description for someone to head up the cruise liner visit “challenge” to bring excursions to Stonehaven. IM will explore what funding there might be for this.	IM

Meeting closed at 21.15pm

IM 29th November 2016