

Meldrum and Bourtie Community Council

Meeting Tuesday 22nd February, 2000, Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Bisset, Paul James, Kevin Douglas, Mrs. Margaret Green, Wullie Law, Frank Mathers, Stanley Niven, John Pirie, Gordon Stephen, Mark Young.

1. **APOLOGIES:** John Wilson, A. Manson

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor John Loveday, Mike Newman.

2. **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - Approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 20TH JANUARY, 2000**

Police Matters - Paul James reported he attended the inaugural meeting of the Formartine Community Safety Group. Very poorly attended with only 4 parties who were unrelated to the organisers being present. A Constitution was adopted. Notification of the next meeting date is awaited. If P. James is unable to attend at any time, S. Niven will be happy to deputise.

Barra Projects - It was noted from J. Pirie no reply had been received from Historic Scotland and a reminder is to be sent.

Heritage Project - It was noted A. Manson was pleased to take on the convenorship and a meeting took place about two weeks ago. Six people attended that meeting and minutes are available. W. Law was one of those attending who confirmed that the Group was now up and running. Other communities have similar groups and it was noted some of these had received lottery funding.

Christmas Lights - Letters of thanks were sent to G. Ross, G. Presley & Neil Cruickshank. Payments from certain sources, including from the Common Good Fund, are awaited by M. Young to settle costs in this case. Delivery of the lights are awaited from Neil Cruickshank as are the lights from the Council.

Formartine Community Council Forum - The next meeting is to be held tomorrow night. J. Pirie and M. Newman will be in attendance.

Formartine Area Partnership - Nitrogen Vulnerable Zone - A decision on the proposed NVZ designation has not yet been confirmed.

Meldrum Academy Consultative Group - K. Douglas confirmed he had received Minutes and papers of past meetings. The next meeting is in April. Councillor Loveday indicated the return of bids from the preferred bidders should be in next week.

Correspondence -

Pay and Display Charges - J. Pirie confirmed he had sent off the letter as was agreed at the previous meeting.

National Spring Clean - J. Pirie read over a letter received from Keep Scotland Beautiful and it was agreed to register for this. M. Newman confirmed Daviot was going ahead with this. Noting the Council supplies skips. It was noted very important to get sufficient helpers out. J. Pirie confirmed he had written to the Council requesting two skips, one for Meldrum and one for Bourtie.

Pro-Active Community Council - Ideas were handed in to the meeting by J. Pirie and M. Young.

Swimming Pool Focus Group - F. Mathers advised on the current position. Councillor Loveday indicated that there was pressure to get swimming back on the school curriculum.

Walls along Cowgate - Councillor Loveday and Tom Mitchell of the Roads Department inspected Cowgate last week. A definite hazard is appreciated and the matter is moving though somewhat slowly.

Council Finance - The meeting appreciated that the Council's difficult financial position has been highlighted in the press.

4. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS MEETINGS

Formartine Area Education Forum - This took place on 25th January, 2000 and was attended by J. Pirie and F. Mathers. The meeting covered a number of topics, including the effect on education of financial reductions, progress on Meldrum Academy, raising standards, excellence fund, exclusion of children from school and the massive associated costs. Councillor Loveday hoped there would be a Forum meeting in each school term.

5. NEW BUSINESS -

Dog fouling - A general discussion took place on dog fouling and the role of the two Dog Wardens who have been appointed by the Council. It was commented that the dog fouling is a matter which has been raised on many occasions at Community Council level.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Feasibility Study - Intimation has been received of an Aberdeenshire Community Conference feasibility study. This will look at the pros and cons of the Council housing stock being transferred to a non-profit community landlord. This is to take place on Saturday 11th March 10.00 am to 1.30 pm. C. Bisset will go along to represent the Community Council.

Aberdeenshire Council Inverurie Town Centre Public Consultation - There is to be a meeting on Monday 20th March to look at the ongoing strategy for Inverurie. There are two design layouts. This is to be in workshop format 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Paul James and W. Law are to attend.

Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS) - A questionnaire concerning "Do you care for the countryside?" has been prepared. Stanley Niven is to complete this and send off the Council's comment.

Aberdeenshire Design Award - The deadline for nominations has been extended to 25th February. After discussion it was agreed a nomination form be obtained and Gordon Stephen is to deal with submission of the form and any relative supporting material in respect of the recently created Lochter Fishery, by Oldmeldrum.

"What now for your waste?" - Councillor Loveday indicated this was a very important consultation form which related to waste management strategies which will become more and more important in the years to come. Some forms were distributed and had been at a previous meeting. Noting from M. Young the matter of waste disposal is very high tech nowadays.

Aberdeenshire Local Plan (ALP) - J. Pirie reported that drafts of the local plan would have been out had it not been for the ongoing Consolidated Aberdeenshire Local Plan (CALP) enquiry. Noting from Councillor Loveday the progress of that enquiry. Meldrum issues are due to be debated between 15th May and 19th May.

Noting from J. Pirie a letter has been received from the Planning Department which has indicated the Council will be going through a public consultation exercise and the organising of this exercise is to be devolved to Community Councils after being given training. The exercise is due to take place in May/June of this year. It is maintained the exercise will enable communities to be empowered. Part of the exercise would mean issuing newsletters, press releases, etc.

Councillor Loveday reported that a first draft of a plan for ALP had been produced and this was shown to the meeting. Finalisation of this plan will cover Oldmeldrum through to 2016. Interestingly while this is just a first draft of the plan, it only provides for one development, i.e. 400 houses. It shows the Invervale one. It is rather surprising it does not show both sites.

Aberdeenshire Council's Capital Plan Expenditure Documentation - J. Pirie reported that since the last monthly meeting there have been two Formartine Area Committee meetings. Capital Plan figures for various anticipated future proposed road projects were indicated to the meeting. With financial constraints, most of these projects have been put back further.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

J. Pirie advised that interestingly three applications which planners had argued for refusal on had been approved by the Councillors.

J. Pirie reported that wording in some of the circulars coming round now indicates that “the Community Council is to telephone and respond to the Planning Department of the Council within 14 days of receipt of a planning application”. Councillor Loveday indicated the Council has been told it must stick strictly to rules on time limits for dealing with applications and any late submissions to the Council on any Planning Application will now be ignored.

The problem for the Community Council is that the meeting cycle of the Community Council is monthly. As a protocol it was agreed that if any planning applications came to the knowledge of the Community Council between meetings when there would be insufficient time to wait for the meeting and then respond, he is entitled to contact such other member or members of the Community Council who seem most appropriate to give their view and he is then authorised to respond timeously to Aberdeenshire Council.

Particular Applications

- (1) 8 Benview Gardens, Oldmeldrum - house extension. It was noted this had been approved.
- (2) Bain Coaches for a building comprising offices on the ground floor and a three bedroom flat on the upper floor at Mackie’s Garage, Station Yard, Oldmeldrum. M. Young indicated we should watch that by approval of this application it might form a precedent for allowing housing and residential use within a commercial area. After discussion it was agreed F. Mathers write to the Council indicating our view that the application be refused.

8. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- (1) Mrs. M. Green informed of the completion of the extension to Bourtie Churchyard. While a wall to surround it would have been preferred the Council has insufficient money and a hedge has still to be planted instead. The Churchyard consecration has still to take place.
- (2) W. Law raised the matter of the poor state of the driveway up to the Parish Church in Meldrum. Money would be required to re-tar it and to see to the gate. Extra parking close to the Church is also being sought to assist elderly people. Councillor Loveday is to enquire.
- (3) Modification to Kirk Street. Councillor Loveday indicated this is still going ahead and the public consultation procedure has taken place. The budget is there to do it.
- (4) M. Newman advised that road gritting and salting was now taking place within the Village itself.
- (5) John Loveday reported that the website was now up and running and it was agreed that the Community Council Minutes be put on the website. The School Board Minutes are already on it.
- (6) New street lights are being installed at the moment as the old ones have become dangerous. There will be fewer lights but they are brighter ones.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 28th March, 2000, Town Hall 7.30 pm

Meldrum & Bourtie Community Council

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on
Tuesday 28th March 2000 in Oldmeldrum Town Hall at 7.30 pm

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters arising from Minute of previous meeting
4. Reports from various meetings
5. New business
6. Discussion of New Ideas (see overleaf)
7. Correspondence
8. Planning applications
9. A O C B
10. Date and place of next meeting