

Meeting Tuesday 28th March 2000, Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Elrick, Mrs. Green, Wullie Law, A. Manson, Frank Mathers, Stanley Niven, John Pirie, Gordon Stephen.

APOLOGIES: Stanley Glennie, Mike Newman, John Wilson, Mark Young.

ALSO PRESENT: Daviot representative, Councillor John Loveday, Tracey Stuart.

MINUTES OF MEETING 22nd February 2000: Carol Elrick had been referred to as "Carol Bisset" in the minutes.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

POLICE MATTERS

Stanley Niven reported that a large group of teenagers had recently made a disturbance in the square at night. He suggested that the Police Inspector be reminded of the Community Council meetings when the minutes are next dispatched.

BARRA PROJECTS

John Pirie had received no reply from Historic Scotland to his letter.

HERITAGE PROJECT

A. Manson said that the group was making progress. He believed that in the future the project could be expanded to form a museum. Mr. Douglas Smith was serving as an archivist, and Mrs. Evelyn Munro as secretary. S. Niven offered to supply good-quality packaging for storage of articles. A. Manson noted that the British Legion had been very cooperative. A large quantity of photographs had surfaced, and the committee intended to tour Oldmeldrum with someone of expert knowledge in order to familiarize themselves with local heritage.

BATTLE OF BARRA PROJECT

Representations had been made to Gordon Stephen with regard to a monument. J. Pirie emphasized that the committee did support the idea, but did not want to take action until the possibility of roads/roundabouts in the area had been clarified.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

J. Pirie had received a leaflet from a company offering a 30% discount on orders placed by 30th April, which he said might be useful for future reference. Neil Cruickshank still had not been paid, and S. Niven urged that he be paid in full as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

Community Council Review: J. Pirie felt that the main issue for the area was that Daviot was likely to be included in the CC area, while a large slice to the north of Oldmeldrum would be excluded. It was his opinion that the loss of Meldrum's traditional heartland - Bethelnie - should be opposed.

Bus Forum: The first meeting of the Forum was due to take place in conjunction with the meeting of the Community Council Forum on 12th April. Mrs. Elrick was unsure whether she would be able to attend.

Waste Disposal: A presentation on waste disposal had been made. The committee expressed surprise that council spending per head per week on waste collection was two pence.

FORMARTINE AREA PARTNERSHIP

J. Pirie noted that funding was available for community based projects. Committee members were to submit ideas if they wished to.

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

This would last from the 1st to the 30th of April. J. Pirie had written to the council to the effect that a skip each for Meldrum and Bourtie would be welcomed. G. Stephen was curious that little publicity had appeared, and suggested that children could collect rubbish. J. Pirie said that this was now difficult due to Health and Safety regulations, while publicity would be part of a national campaign. Although material should have been sent to

the C.C., none had been received. The Daviot representative described how villagers meet on a certain day to collect rubbish along certain stretches of embankment around the village.

COWGATE WALLS

S. Niven had been informed by Councillor Loveday that the Legal Department was investigating the matter.

DOG FOULING

J. Pirie noted that there were at least four Dog Wardens in Aberdeenshire, one of whom covered Oldmeldrum. Maureen Adam could be contacted on: (01467) 6209815005. If villagers witnessed dogs fouling and were aware of the details of their owners, she could visit the dog owners to raise the issue with them. This often had quite an effect, she had said. J. Pirie had also asked about who emptied the dog bins. As long as they continued to be emptied, Mrs. Adam would not investigate. She expressed the opinion that it might be helpful to move them to more useful areas.

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL INVERURIE TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

J. Pirie distributed public consultation leaflets. G. Stephen felt that the schemes were so unlikely that they were hardly worth bothering about. There was discussion about whether a uniform response should be made. It was decided that each councillor should have the opportunity to respond individually.

The traffic lights at Souterford Bridge were the subject of much discussion. S. Niven asked whether emergency vehicles would be able to override the traffic lights in an emergency. Cllr. Loveday answered in the affirmative. Frank Mathers hoped that, if after monitoring, it was found that the lights had exacerbated traffic problems, someone would have the courage to change the arrangement.

CONSOLIDATED ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL PLAN (CALP)

Cllr. Loveday reported that progress was reasonable. The Meldrum appeals were to be held from 15th - 18th May. J. Pirie pointed out that the Court of Session case must be a determining factor. If the appeals by Invervale and the council failed, Wimpey would have permission and possible CALP public enquiry recommendations be turned on their heads.

MEETINGS

Road Maintenance Discussion: This was held on 2nd March and attended by Mr. Tom Mitchell and Roads Department staff. J. Pirie said that he had gained the impression that staff were doing their best within the limits placed upon them.

Formartine Area Committee: Two meetings had been held since the last meeting of the C.C.. J. Pirie would no longer be able to attend on Tuesdays.

Daviot House Report: This was published on 21st March and could be found on the Daviot website.

Draft Forest Strategy Meeting: Neither Mark Young nor J. Pirie were able to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH COMMUNITY COUNCILS

J. Pirie had received the newsletter of the ASCC and a membership application form and asked whether the C.C. join by subscription. Cllr. Loveday said that the C.C. had been a member in the past, and that it was very interesting to find out what other C.C.s were doing. A. Manson felt that the problems encountered by various C.C.s would be similar and cooperation helpful. It was agreed to join with the annual subscription at £12.

BAKER STREET TRAFFIC SPEED

S. Niven complained that the street was a speed trap, and that the C.C. should act to prevent people from driving irresponsibly, especially given the situation of a sheltered housing complex nearby. Cllr. Loveday said that action on the problem was underway: very steep speed bumps were to be placed there.

COMMON GOOD FUND

A. Manson asked Cllr. Loveday what had become of various funds; Cllr. Loveday replied that they had been consolidated within the Common Good Fund. The fund had a balance of around £8,000 which was earning a competitive rate of interest. Cllr. Loveday said that it had not fluctuated by much in recent years. If the Heritage Committee were interested in acquiring money from the Common Good Fund, they should apply through the Formartine Area Manager, Cllr. Loveday said.

ITEMS IN STORAGE

A. Manson asked the whereabouts of the pictures of the town provosts which used to hang in the town hall. Cllr. Loveday said that they were in storage at the museum in Inverurie, along with the mace and the chains of office.

MELDRUM ACADEMY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Cllr. Loveday reported that Councillors had studied plans on the day of the meeting. They were, he said, all impressive, although one particular contractor stood out more than others. It was probable that the contract would be placed by the end of May - a little earlier than expected. One contractor had even quoted August 2001 as a completion date for the primary school. Cllr. Loveday described the staffing arrangements, which would emphasise the fact that it was to be a community school. He stated that despite the limited numbers of the first intake, a full range of subjects would still be available for pupils. There would also be an out-sourced restaurant where the public could also eat.

DISCUSSION OF NEW IDEAS

Nice signs on approach to village: F. Mathers suggested that the distillery might be interested in sponsoring signs. S. Niven felt that it would be nice to see the coat of arms at the village entrances.

Improve square for pedestrians: A. Manson believed that it was a matter of principle that through-traffic should not be given right-of-way over pedestrians who lived and shopped in the village. Cllr. Loveday said that the ideal would be a blanket 20mph speed limit, but that this was not realistically likely.

Repair of coat of arms: S. Niven said that in a picture of the coat of arms in a local newspaper the missing part had been conspicuous - this emphasized the need for the repair to be made.

Wheelchair access to town hall: S. Niven asked whether anything could be done. Cllr. Loveday stated that the cost, and the fact that the town hall is a listed building, were problematical.

PLANNING

Reekie Works: Two applications, for alterations and extensions, and an advertising signboard, had been made.

Grampian Steel: G. Stephen emphasized that the philosophy of having industrial estates was that they should be affordable. Cllr. Loveday said that unfortunately, the council had to sell land at commercial rates.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

NEW MEMBERS

Carol Elrick asked about unfilled places on the C.C.. There was only one Bourtie place unfilled. J. Pirie said that there was nothing to stop anyone coming along and participating, but that the constitution should be respected.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 25th April 2000, Town Hall, 7.30pm