

Meeting Tuesday 23rd May 2000, Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Elrick, Mrs. Green, Paul James, Wullie Law, Alex Manson, Frank Mathers, Stanley Niven, John Pirie, Gordon Stephen, Mark Young.

APOLOGIES: Stanley Glennie.

ALSO PRESENT: Inspector Dave Alan, Councillor John Loveday, Mike Newman, S Penman, T Stuart.

MINUTES OF MEETING 25th April 2000: Daviot playpark had not been taken on by the Community Association; this was being considered.

POLICE MATTERS

Inspector Dave Alan attended the meeting and spoke about the strategy and his priorities in the local area. He discussed vandalism, drugs, roads policing and the new police headquarters in Inverurie. P James reported from the last Community Safety Group meeting on similar issues.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

BARRA HILL SIGN

J Pirie had patched up the broken sign and replaced it along with a second sign, which had also been knocked off.

BARRA HILL INSURANCE

G Stephen suspected that the farmer was liable and that his public liability policy would hopefully cover any claims. It was a worry because a huge claim could be made. M Young believed that the CC. had been told that the landowner's public liability policy would be expected to cover any claim. F Mathers would write to Aberdeenshire's Legal Dept. seeking clarification.

HERITAGE PROJECT

A Manson reported that to use the recommended multi media heritage software package at least a Pentium-III computer running Windows 98 would be required. He asked whether the Common Good Fund might assist financially. Cllr Loveday explained the position regarding the Common Good Fund, including the sum in it and who could authorise its use, whether of capital or income. A Manson had also spoken to Walter Taylor about another Council controlled source of funding from which the maximum amount available would be 40% of the cost. J Pirie complimented the group on their progress.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

CCs had been briefed on how to set about finding the views of local communities when AASP (Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan) and ALP (Aberdeenshire Local Plan) were released. Rather than having one discussion group, small groups would each discuss the plans and then report their views. Materials for this process and any costs incurred would be provided by Aberdeenshire Council. The process was expected to be carried out before 1st September and, because of school holidays, a date in August would be chosen at the next CC meeting. P James said that because the plans were for the next fifteen years, he anticipated arranging for primary 6/7 pupils at Meldrum Primary School to have some input. Aberdeenshire wished to hear from all sections of the community.

PUBLIC INQUIRY

J Pirie had attended the two sessions which had taken place. Invervale's appeal to the Court of Session had not succeeded, although written reasons had not yet been released. Once Invervale had received written reasons they would decide whether or not to further appeal to the House of Lords. If they did not, then Aberdeenshire would have to consider whether their continued support for the Southern option was tenable since they apparently had largely resolved their differences with Wimpey on three issues. The Public Inquiry was adjourned until 26 June by which time it was hoped that whether Invervale would further appeal would be known. F Mathers thought that people locally were now less concerned about which decision than about getting on with one option.

MELDRUM ACADEMY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

P James reported that as of 17th April one of the three bidders had been asked to drop out. The preferred bidder would be decided in June, with work hopefully commencing in the autumn. There would be a meeting of the consultative group on 22nd June, at which the preferred bidder would be asked to present their plans. There was

some concern that Meldrum might end up with two primary schools. P James though this would be unfortunate because that would split the community.

TOWN HALL COAT OF ARMS

Gordon Young had passed on a quotation for the repair of the coat of arms, £750 + VAT, from Moray Stonecutters. J Pirie had discussed possible sources of funding with R Tinch and suggested that the cost might be split three ways between the CC, the Common Good Fund, and Aberdeenshire/Formartine partnership/project money. S Niven believed that the matter should be pressed since the state of the coat of arms reflected very poorly on the village. It was agreed that the CC would commit £300 towards the repair although M Young cautioned that the CC should look ahead to possible expenses before receiving its next grant. Cllr Loveday said that the CC should write to him with a specific request for support from the Common Good Fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Inverurie Path Study: A meeting was to be held in Inverurie Town Hall on 30th May. P James would attend and complete the sheets provided.
2. Calor Gas Awards: Cash rewards were available in the Calor Gas Scottish Community of the Year awards, launched in 1998. There was a total prize fund of £5,500. Details would be requested.
3. Churchyard: A lady had written to J Pirie, distressed by the condition of the uncut grass in the churchyard. Cllr Loveday said that the grass was now to be cut four times per year combined with the application of a growth retardant treatment. He also pointed out that cutting the grass and removing the cuttings was five times as costly as simply cutting the grass. The above complaint was far from being an isolated one.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

BOURTIE CHURCHYARD

The council had dumped stones from the new churchyard in the corner of the car park. In addition, the grass in the churchyard was as yet uncut with the dedication of the new churchyard due on 31 May. Cllr Loveday would look into these matters.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 27th June 2000, Town Hall, 7.30pm.