

**MINUTES OF PORTLETHEN &
DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2009

COMMUNITY
COUNCILLORS

GORDON MUNN (CHAIR)
RON SHARP (VICE CHAIR)
JUNE WOOD (TREASURER)
BILL GRIFFITHS (SECRETARY)
RAB DICKSON
DOROTHY FOREMAN
DEREK JOHNSON
DOROTHY MAIN
JOHN SHACKLETON
KES SMITH
CHRISTINE STEWART

YOUTH
REPRESENTATIVES

HAZEL MCKINNON
KIERAN PETERSEN
PENNY SENTANCE

ABERDEENSHIRE
COUNCILLORS

PAUL MELLING
CARL NELSON
IAIN MOLLISON
COUNCILLOR BEWS

ABERDEENSHIRE
COUNCIL

LYNN BUCHAN

POLICE

APOLOGIES

ALEX MCKAY
JOHN TETHER
PC KEVIN MARRON

MEMBERS
OF PUBLIC

MARTA MACKIE
BRIAN MACKIE
MAGGIE BROWN
STEVE MCKERRON

PRESS

JOANNE ROSTRON (MEARNS LEADER)

1.	APOLOGIES	
	Alex McKay and John Tether	
2.	REVIEW & APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	
	Item 4 Last paragraph Elimar should read Elilimer.	
	Item 12 <i>Derek Johnson Report</i> , second paragraph. Derek had attended the Scotrail meeting on behalf of John.	
	There being no other comments the minutes were Proposed by Ron Sharp. Seconded by Derek Johnson.	
3.	POLICE REPORT	
	There was no police presence or report. Bill was asked to write to police enquiring if it would be possible to have a report emailed when police know they will be unable to attend.	
4.	DR GORDON MCEWAN, PORTLETHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL	
	Dr McEwan gave an outline of the Parent Council's view on the state of Portlethen Primary School now that it has been refurbished. The Parent Council replaced the School Board was only formed last year. The Parent Council which replaced the previous School Board was formed last year. A meeting between the previous School Board and the Director of Education was held in 2004. The outcome was that the board were informed that the school was not fit for purpose due to the deterioration of the fabric. They were told that there was potential for the school to be closed and replaced with another to be built on the new Hillside development. A campaign was launched to save the school i.e. to improve the fabric with a view to rebuild. By December 2005 it was proposed and adopted that a new school be built on the existing site which would have a capacity to take 290 pupils. The view was that Portlethen would need 3 primary schools once the Hillside development was finished. Nothing new has been put forward by Aberdeenshire Council on the rebuild. Since 2005 various major improvements have been carried out, toilets replaced, new disabled toilets, windows in the extension replaced, roof repaired, internal walls repainted, a new PE store built, school hall redecorated, flooring replaced, new blinds, whiteboards installed in all but 2 classrooms, external drainage repaired.	

	<p>Further improvements still to be carried out is the boiler replacement at a cost of some £250,000. Also electrical rewiring at a cost of £80,000 though this may have been done.</p> <p>The school which was dilapidated and not fit for purpose, with ongoing maintenance is now completely suitable.</p> <p>There is now uncertainty over 'Best Value' being carried out by Aberdeenshire Council but the teachers are happy with the situation, even after viewing the new Lairhilloch Community School.</p> <p>The capacity is 550 with an existing roll of 280. A replacement school would have a 320 capacity.</p> <p>The Parent Council would like to promote the school as having an excellent environment though the gymnasium needs extending.</p> <p>However if the Community Council wish to promote a new school they will still support this position.</p> <p>There is a need to fight for Portlethen to have 3 primary schools i.e. the existing 2 and a third in Hillside.</p> <p>Bill was asked to write to Aberdeenshire council asking for a structural report and for the lifespan of the school.</p>	Bill
5.	COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (CLD)	
	<p>Lynn Buchan, Senior Community, learning & Development Worker, reported as follows:</p> <p>Momentum: Really positive feedback from young people, youth workers, police, Ian Wood and driving instructor. All thought that it was a very worthwhile course.</p> <p>First Aid and Resuscitation Training: First of these certified courses for S2 was run at the beginning of the month. It's hoped that this will be a rolling programme and funded by CDG. Course to be delivered by CLD, the school nurse and supported by Leisure who provides manikins.</p> <p>Adult Education: Submitting more course options for autumn 2009 to Aberdeen College. Adding to existing Centre Programme – Salsa dancing and senior stretch in September.</p> <p>Retired Peoples Consultation Planned for 25th June. 12 – 2 lunch. Health and fitness professionals.</p> <p>This year's Aberdeenshire Youth Event will take place on 27th June at Thainstone from 12.00 to 6.00pm.</p> <p>Councillor Melling again asked for the Community Council to be represented on this group. Gordon and Bill said they would try to attend. The next meeting is at 7.00pm on 27th May in the Community Centre.</p>	Gordon/Bi ll

6.	COMMUNITY COUNCIL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES	
	<p>Gordon had asked the youth representatives to give a 2 minute report on how they see their roll on the Community Council.</p> <p>Hazel Mckinnon</p> <p>Hazel has always been interested in the Community Council but felt she had so many other interests that there was not enough time to add another. However Lynn Buchan had talked her into taking on the role. She is involved with lots of other clubs and organisations, including the 'Porty Cabin'. She hopes to learn more about the workings of the Community Council.</p> <p>Kieran Peterson</p> <p>He is also involved with various clubs and forums, including one producing a pamphlet for helping other youths. The Community Council will give him information on what is happening within the Community.</p> <p>Penny Sentance</p> <p>After her mum found out from Bill that the Community Council were looking for youth representatives she was talked into attending. She is also involved with the 'Porty Cabin' management committee.</p> <p>Gordon emphasised that it should be a 2 way communication with the youths informing the Community Council on the wishes of the youths in the community.</p> <p>Christine asked if they were willing to have their names and addresses published in the Clochandighter.</p> <p>Gordon also asked about publishing on the web site.</p> <p>Ron welcomed the youths to the Community Council and noted that they were the future of the Community. He emphasised that they could contact any Community Councillor either via the Council or privately.</p>	
7.	XMAS LIGHTS	
	<p>Dorothy Foreman reported that she and Dorothy Main had been to the store in Aberdeenshire Council's yard to check the existing lights. It would seem that 5 may be working out of 13.</p> <p>Now need to select which lights to be added and estimate the cost.</p> <p>They have spoken to Mark Wallace who said he was willing for the Community Council to go out to tender. Also consideration should be made as to the weight of the units as his is only a small company.</p> <p>Need to check with Blachere as they may have local contacts who would be able to carry out the work.</p> <p>Dorothy Main has sent details of the Blachere proposals to Mark Skilling,</p>	

	<p>Aberdeenshire Council. He has forwarded these to the Councils experts for assessment.</p> <p>She has also passed Aberdeenshire Council's requirements to Blachere and awaits a reply. It may be that Blachere would work directly with the Council and any contractor.</p> <p>Now need to start fund raising as the estimated cost is £21,000.</p> <p>DM has a form from Willie Munro to apply to Aberdeenshire Council's 'Top up' budget. She was under the impression that we could ask for £5,000 but Councillor Nelson assured the CC that £1,500 was the maximum. On this basis Bill was asked to complete the form and send to Willie Munro.</p> <p>DM and DF are contacting local businesses to ask if they would be willing to donate. Also they have a form for 'Awards for All' where they will ask for £10,000.</p> <p>Bill was asked to write to Aberdeenshire Council to ascertain the position for public and accident insurance. Lynn Buchan suggested the person top contact was Dennis Scott.</p> <p>Councillor Melling suggested holding a raffle as this had proved successful in the past.</p>	<p>Bill DM/DF</p> <p>Bill</p>
8.	COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTICE BOARDS	
	<p>Bill had taken along the 3 notice boards which had been purchased by the previous Community Council but had to report that only 1 Allen key had been supplied.</p> <p>Kes said he would take one as the existing Findon notice board was damaged. He also undertook to try to obtain further Allen keys as these are special in that the end of the key has been hollowed out.</p> <p>Dorothy Main took another on the assumption that Kes is successful obtaining keys.</p> <p>Bill will take the remaining one back home.</p> <p>Alex McKay had reported to Bill that as far as he could ascertain they would be able to use the notice board at Bourtree Hall.</p> <p>Ron has written to ASDA but is still waiting for a reply about notice boards and the 'Dynamic Drop In'. He will try and contact direct.</p>	<p>Kes</p>
9.	COMMUNITY PLANNING	
	<p>The Dynamic Drop In which is being run in conjunction with the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 12th, 13th and 14th June in Portlethen Academy. It is hoped to have a climbing wall, the COMET van and other attractions to get people to attend and give their views on what improvements they wish carried out.</p>	

	<p>The PDCC will have a stand, which among other things, will concentrate on the proposed Local Plan.</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 6th May.</p> <p>Bill asked for every Community Councillor to get involved and would ask for a rota to be set up at the next CC meeting.</p>	
10.	TREASURER'S REPORT	
	<p>The Clochandighter account holds £6186.28</p> <p>The PDCC account holds £1420.78</p>	
11.	PLANNING REPORT	
	<p>The ASDA wind turbine application had been withdrawn and will be replaced with something smaller and probably attached to the store.</p> <p>Changes to the Planning Act are to be implemented.</p> <p>Elsick have been back to Newtonhill and Cammachmore CC with updates to their proposal to build a new community in the area. Bill was asked to obtain details.</p> <p>There will be an extra Community Council Forum on the 14th May to discuss the proposed Local Plan. This is on Aberdeenshire Council's web site. It is a large document so suggest concentrate on the Kincardine & Mearns Area part but do not forget about the Policies section at the beginning.</p>	Bill
12.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	<p>A letter from Aberdeenshire Council Roads was read out. This asked for street name suggestions for proposed housing development at the former Hillside Hotel site. June suggested that the street be named after Chris Mennie who lived in the area and tragically lost his life at sea last year. Dorothy Main agreed to contact his widow and ask her if she was agreeable.</p>	
13.	COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR REPORTS	
	<p><i>Christine Stewart</i></p> <p>Christine reported on a 'news letter' event, run by Aberdeenshire Council which she had attended. Approx 30 people attended and the event was very informative though it turned out that the Clochandighter is way ahead of most other similar publications. Also few of the others are self financing.</p> <p>She asked everybody to take note of the next closing date for publishing articles in the next Clochandighter.</p> <p><i>Gordon Munn</i></p>	

	<p>Gordon has emailed out draft information on the proposed new PDCC web site and intends to launch it this week.</p> <p><i>Rab Dickson</i></p> <p>Scotrail have published details of the Stonehaven meeting on their web site, including our request for more trains stopping at Portlethen.</p> <p>NHS/NESTRANS will have an eco driving centre simulator and gym at ASDA, Portlethen this weekend.</p> <p><i>Dorothy Foreman</i></p> <p>The old Community Education signs have been removed but she thinks that the sign for the medical centre is pointing towards ASDA. She will check and report back.</p>	
	<p>14. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p>	
	<p><i>Councillor Nelson</i></p> <p>Reminded everybody of the meeting to be held in Lairhillock School at 7.30 on Thursday 21st May. Willie Munro, Area manager, the 4 Aberdeenshire Councillors and 3 Community Councils (North Kincardine, Newtonhill, Cammachmore Muchalls and Portlethen & District) have been invited.</p> <p>£1500 is the maximum that can be claimed from the Top-Up budget for Xmas lights.</p> <p>A Village Orderly will be employed from mid June to September.</p> <p><i>Councillor Mollison</i></p> <p>The Area Committee had received a report on drainage problems at Burnside. This will include a new bridge and fencing.</p> <p>Nicol Park flooding investigations are ongoing.</p> <p>Bus timetable changes are to take place on the Aberdeen to Montrose route.</p> <p>The Enterprise North East Trust helps fledgling start-up businesses with free advice and support. They have now set up a new venture to help existing businesses in Aberdeenshire to survive and thrive during the current recession.</p> <p>Garden waste collection has restarted at the ASDA car park and will run until 14th November. Collections take place between 2.00 and 6.00pm on Wednesdays and 9.00 to 3.00pm on Saturdays.</p>	

	<p>Schools are to change to 4 equal terms though Easter will be a problem. Easter Friday will be a holiday as will St. Andrews day (this will be the nearest Friday).</p> <p><i>Councillor Melling</i></p> <p>He is meeting with various bodies on Monday to look at possible ‘waste’ sites.</p> <p>A meeting has been held with parents as the cubs/scouts could fold due to a lack of management. Lynn made a plea for parents to become involved.</p> <p>The Bowling Club should have received a letter leasing the building with the club bearing the running costs. Still to be resolved and Aberdeenshire are putting together a report.</p> <p>Landscape Services are offering bedding plants if the CC wishes to put up hanging baskets.</p> <p>He is trying to get the Community Development Group management committee changed.</p> <p><i>Councillor Bews</i></p> <p>Having written to First Scotrail and met with the Scotrail manager at Stonehaven Station he regrets to report that no improvement in the provision of train services is to be gained for Portlethen Station. The timetables are in place and thus cannot be amended. This is very disappointing news for Portlethen residents.</p> <p>He has received assurances from the Education Department that the planned security improvements at Fishermoss school are to be carried out during the summer holidays.</p>	
15.	AOCB	
	<p>The meeting finished at 9.50pm.</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 26 May 2009 at 7.00pm.</p>	