

UDNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

Meeting Minute of: 16th November 2022. 7:30 pm.

Location: Dr Spence Hall. Udney Green.

Minute by: Colin Duncan

Community Council Member Attendees:

<u>Paul Bailey (Chair)</u>	Gary D. Bruce
<u>Colin Duncan (Secretary)</u>	Mike MacDonald
Matt Kaye (Treasurer)	George Duncan.
Claire Woodward	Regina Hesdon-Noble
Phil Coventry	

Aberdeenshire Council Members:

Cllr Derek Ritchie; Cllr Andrew Hassan

Member of Public: Hill of Fiddes Community Fund members. Chairperson Susan, and Nicky addressed the UCC members defining the structure and parameters of their grant system (South Foveran Boundary). Dates of Fund meetings requested so as to identify where dates coincide with UCC meeting dates. Information well received with a number of UCC members now considering where Grant application may be valid.

Minute:

- 1. Police Report** - Nothing of significance noted in report.
Police Scotland contact email address for our area
MIIdformartinecpt@scotland.police.uk (or call 101)
- 2. Apologies:** Cllr Paul Johnston; Cllr Jenny Nicol, Mike Macdonald
- 3. Approval of previous minutes:** Proposed by George Duncan, seconded by Regina Hesdon-Noble.
- 4. Declaration of Members' Interest;** Colin Duncan declared as resident within area related to APP/2022/1469.
- 5. New Items....**
 - **Extraordinary meeting - New member vote -:** UCC members welcome Phil Coventry to the council. With the Co-Opt of Phil the UCC

membership is now at permitted capacity. List of UCC member contact numbers to be copied to Phil. Action - Colin Duncan

- **Bonnyton Farm/ Kirkwood Homes**- application APP/2022/1429. APPROVED.

Application being for the use of Croftland as the sole single point of entry to the development access points. The Formartine Area Committee meeting of 8th November 2022 considered and debated the application resulting in a vote to approve the application. Despite strong and sustained contribution supporting Refusal by our Mid-Formartine councillors who then proposed that the application be refused; the FAC chair tabled an amendment in favour of approval. The subsequent vote returned a 6 to 5 vote in favour of approval. While approval has been granted there remains a number of elements to be addressed with Roads department etc.

Within the UCC members some discussion took place as to why this application achieved approval when prior (2020) application seeking Croftland as single point of entry had be refused. In this instance the planning authority had recommended approval based on the surveys and reports compiled in 2018; there was no specific qualification comment as to the reversal from previous other than stressing on the point that this application was a Section 42, which can only be assumed had influenced the change of recommendation.

It was suggested that legislation and policy structure, in general, display favourability to Developers. For example, should the consideration of the application result in refusal the Developer has the right to appeal to Scottish Government. Such appeal then assigned to a 'Reporter'. Should the reporter find in favour of the developer the developer has the right to claim 'costs' from Aberdeenshire Council. Effectively tax payers within Aberdeenshire indirectly pay the developer costs.

- **Relationship between Community; Roads / Infrastructure and Planning:** It was suggested that General 'feeling' regarding issues over Developments or Roads ends in a 'Bun Fight'. To date there has been little if any opportunity for formal amicable discussion with Roads / Planning Infrastructure and community representatives regarding matters concerning Udney. It is believed that this situation is **not** unique to Udney

It was proposed that UCC introduce a formal request for an 'All Parties' meeting (series of meetings) where a cross party understanding of process and issues may be achieved. Where

decisions and constraint procedures may be shared, how deviation from Scot Gov policy may be achieved etc., leading to an educated understanding of how 'Shire policy and community requirement may direct the actions and outcomes.

It was suggested that through this understanding, communication with relevant departments / invested parties shall be based on an informed submission/ discussion along with the ability to address public concerns at a local level from an informed knowledge base.

Objective -- *Rid the interactions of the continuous animosity and distrust.* --- **Action: Secretary to make proposal to Area Manager for consideration. Consider as Agenda item for Formartine Community Council Forum scheduled for February 2023.**

- **Formartine Community Council Forum:** Update due from 9/11/22 meeting. Community Speed Watch . Speed 'radar' devices. Volunteer activity. Professionally approved equipment purchased by authorised community groups through Scottish Police Force. Training provided; Ownership and maintenance of equipment shall be the community responsibility.
Advise indicated that use be restricted to within residential areas and not where national speed limits apply -requires confirmation!
Results of speeding shall be passed onto Police who shall issue notice to the offender. The data provided does not provide information that would lead to a charge (there are exceptions, requires Police advise). Cost circa £1500.
UCC members response was strongly in favour of engaging in the project. Concern over potential for 'retaliatory' action may exist, consideration of 'User Safety' shall require consideration.
- **Meeting between UCC & Udney Green Primary Head teacher:**
Intention to meet has now finally been agreed for 24th November at 10am. Paul Baily and Colin Duncan to attend. -At writing the meeting may be postponed due to Teachers strike action.
- **Community Engagement UCTC:** Secretary met with Engagement officer at The Medan. Part of the discussion was access to The Medan meeting rooms / facilities. The UCC has subsequently been informed that the facilities shall be available for use by the UCC for the monthly meetings. The secretary has agreed to provide the UCC Calendar, also confirm reservation with The Medan facilities officer.

- **Christmas Fayre -Medan Centre, Sunday 27th November.** Members were advised that a 'space' with a 4 foot table has been confirmed for UCC at the Medan centre Christmas Fayre of 27th November. A Community Council 'Banner' has been reserved and shall be delivered to the Medan in advance of the event. UCC members, Paul Bailey; Claire Woodward and Regina Hesdon-Noble indicated their intension to attend the event. All other members are welcome - meet and greet our community residents. Noted that Resilience Team shall also be in attendance at the Fayre.

6. Items discussed at Previous meeting. -

- **FCPG - Formartine Community Planning Group.** Members were informed that meeting scheduled for 28th September had been cancelled due to the volume of apologies. To be rescheduled
- **Udny Resilience organisation:** Phil Coventry updated members as follows:

Funding:

- Unfortunately, we were not successful with the Challenge funding that we applied for in September. As such, the £5,000 loan provided by Community Turbine Company can now be transferred back to their account.
- Presentation made in support of the grant application to the UCTC in October. Awaiting feedback of this grant funding to then progress with the formal setup of the URG.

Stakeholder Management:

- Meeting with various local businesses for material quotes, volunteers and other specialist skills and equipment
- Meeting with Pitmedden First Responders with volunteers interested in supporting the group
- Whiterashes Hall AGM. Attended and briefed the AGM on the fitting of changeover switch to facilitate use of the hall for local residents of Whiterashes and Hattoncrook. 1 member of the committee interested in joining our group.
- Interested members now up to 20+

Flooding:

- Final quotes being requested for bulk sand and sandbags
- 20ft container from Aberdeenshire Council equipped with pre-filled sandbags arriving in November. This will be located adjacent to the Haddo Surgery on scrubland.
- Cellar area in Udney Green Hall (DSMH) cleared for storage of 1 tonne bulk sand and 500 sandbags.

Next Steps:

- Governance and organisational structure being developed for roll out to KO meeting post funding decision from UCTC.
- Focus areas will be Flood Prevention, Rest Centre Deployment, Mobile Power Generation, Logistics and Education. **Priorities will be Flooding, Rest Centres and Power Generation..**

- **Improvements to the Amenity of Towns and Villages for the benefit of all - 2022/23 Funding.** Budget cost obtained for a Composite material bench. Remaining funds to be directed to 'Village Deep Clean Litter Pick'. **Action: Purchase option and Litter Pick date to confirmed by Colin Duncan and Matt Kaye.**

- **Road Speed Pitmedden / Udney Green Hattoncrook:-** Note of 'Speed Watch' program (as mentioned in section headed Formartine Community Council Forum). Interest in the Volunteer Speed radar application received positively. Further information required regards, liability, training, costs, etc. Concern noted over potential of hostile 'offenders' reaction, volunteer safety!. Consideration for equipment share with Methlick, Tarves and Pitmedden not favoured at this time. Opinion being that due to the multiple entry points to the village warranted continuous availability. In addition a Survey form to be created in readiness for the Christmas Fayre of November 28th 2022. It is hoped that members of the community shall 'sign-up' to the local speed watch program currently being led by one of the Community Council members. An online version to be made available on the website UDNY.ONLINE (can be found under the section 'SURVEYS' (who would have guessed 😊)). Response / Progress to be monitored and communicated to CC members.

- **UCC members contact numbers:** All received, documented and distributed to members with note advising confidentiality unless express permission given by owner. It was agreed that the list may be copied out to our Mid Formartine councillors. **Action: Secretary to copy out.**

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7. Planning Applications

- Nothing to report.

8. Notable Items sent by e-mail.

- **Pitmedden News:** Article submitted for Christmas edition.
- **Live Life Essentials Membership:** copied out to members and posted on local Facebook sites.
- **Scottish Boundary Consultation.** :- Link posted out to all and onto Community facebook. Review of 57 Parliament constituencies in Scotland.
- **Aberdeenshire Licencing Board:** Review. Link - <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/review-of-the-aberdeenshire-licensing-board-s-licensing-policy-statement> made available for all to respond.

9. **Finance report:** Treasurer advised all receipts and expenditures accounted for. Reserved funds against balance shall provide a small surplus which may allow miscellaneous small expense encountered.

10. **Climate Action Report (represented by Gary Bruce):** Reminder of Christmas Swap Shop shall be held at The Medan Centre on 27th November 2022.

Further details of activity can be found on the following links.

www.facebook.com/UdnyClimateAction or [HTTP://Climateaction.udny.org](http://Climateaction.udny.org)

11. **AOCB.** . *(Including any Udny settlement / trust updates, issues.)*

- *A request for CC opinion regarding proposal to move the Bus Stop in front of the church to in front of the Hall. This being in consideration of the route change for the busses servicing Udny Green.
Discussion regarding parking on B999 at the hall location and proximity to the school and the scope for congestion in an area experiencing an existing level of congestion. These points being considered as reason to object to the proposed move.
Considering the motivation behind the proposed move being the distance between the bus stop at Laurel Cottages and that on the lower part of B9000 (Old Meldrum Road) was agreed as 'challenging'.
A proposal put forward was, that due to the diversion of Udny Green routed buses the operator should consider servicing the route down the*

B999 to Milldale; which would maintain the use of the Church bus stop and the service to Allathan Park and Milldale (at B9000/B999 intersection). At which point the service would then return up the B999 to Old Meldrum Road and continue the usual route through Udney Green.

- UCC were advised of a 'nuisance' situation resulting from commercial floodlights presenting a level of light pollution. It is believed that the premises are owned by JKR. Action: Secretary contact JKR regarding the matter.

Next meeting shall be Wednesday January 18th 2023; commencing at 7:30 am.

Location: To Be Confirmed.