

**UDNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in Pitmedden School.**

- Present:** George Bruce, George Duncan, Paul Baily & Brian McDougall.
- Also Present:** Colin Duncan, Cllr P Johnston & Cllr A Hassan
- Apologies:** Cllr J Gifford, Rob Henderson, Garth Entwistle, Cllr K Adam, Peter McAllister, David Ritchie (Police Scotland) & Matt Kaye.
- Chair:** George Bruce
- Minutes:** The minutes from the January 2018 meeting were approved by George Duncan and seconded by Brian McDougall.
- Scottish Police Report** David Ritchie of Police Scotland contacted the secretary prior to the meeting explaining that he had been called to an incident and therefore could not attend our meeting, but he did provide a report and the contents are as follows:-  
*For the period 16/11/2017 and 14/02/2018 the following crimes and offences were reported in the Udney area.*  
*1 theft was reported at Formartine's football grounds which enquiries are ongoing.*  
*1 on-going enquiry regarding damage to a dry wall – fail to stop.*  
*1 driver reported for careless driving on B999.*  
*2 drivers issued with tickets for speeding in Pitmedden.*  
*2 drivers given Verbal warnings*  
*1 driver given vehicle rectification ticket.*  
*1 person reported for possession of a class A drug.*  
**ONGOING ACTIVITIES**  
*OP CEDAR is in effect to reduce incidents on our roads. Regular patrols of Pitmedden and surrounding area taking place.*  
*On 7/2/2018 local officers in ELLON area were conducting specific patrols looking to trace individuals who are currently wanted on warrant.*  
*Op ASPEN -is in effect to disrupt the activities of criminal groups through proactive enforcement.*
- Declaration of Interest** No members of the meeting declared a personal interest in any of the items being discussed.
- Community Council Constitution** The meeting was informed that the revised CC constitution can come into operation from 1<sup>st</sup> April '18 and community councils can elect to make the decision to change either prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April following procedure A or after following procedure B. It was felt that we would need to adopt procedure B due to the timescales involved in advertising the dates of the meeting where the constitution would be agreed. The meeting agreed to hold a subcommittee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February '18 to fully discuss the implementation of the new constitution. This meeting was scheduled to be held in the community Trust office in Pitmedden.
- New Member(s)** It was proposed by Brian McDougall that Colin Duncan be co-opted into the community council until the next elections take place. This was seconded by George Duncan and the meeting concurred. Colin was welcomed onto the community council.
- Local Development Plan** It was noted that through the good office of Cllr Hassan the notes from the Local Development Planning team who gave a presentation at our November meeting have been made available to all community council members and have also been posted on the Community Council website.
- New web Site** The new web site appeared to be working well and in the opinion of the members looks very professional. It was agreed at the last meeting that Garth would write a short article to be published in the Pitmedden news telling people about the new site and encouraging new members. Cllr Johnston asked what had happened to the Udney.org domain name as the website is accessed via udney.online? The secretary informed the

meeting that he did not know offhand but would endeavour to ask.

### **Road Safety**

There was a general discussion on road safety especially the amount of traffic going through our villages although there had been no new complaints about large HGVs. It was suggested that some traffic flows may have altered due to the closing of the B9000 where it joins the A90.

The community council was informed that there had been another two accidents last weekend where a car and a van (on separate days) went off the B999 near to Tillycorthy where there are severe bends near to the bridge over the Formartine and Buchan way. This resulted in both vehicles going down the embankment making them unlikely to be seen by passing traffic and ending up on the footpath. Thankfully there were no walkers/cyclists/riders passing at that point in time. It was suggested to the meeting that barriers could be put up on these bends which would save vehicles going down these embankments and greatly improve road safety. After discussion the community council agreed to support any proposals to improve road safety at these bends. It was also stated that the bends at Mosshead would benefit from some improved road markings.

### **Udny Green Memorial Hall**

George Bruce informed the meeting that the hall committee are preparing the way to fund a feasibility study which will determine if more work is required at the hall bearing in mind the wider implications of topics such as health and well-being. They have obtained tenders from three companies who are suitable for this type of work but, they need to raise funds to cover this contract costs. They are now in the process of applying to various funders to cover the cost. Ideally if funding is in place they would like the survey to start in April '18. It was also reported that the new SCIO is almost ready to put in place for the hall. All the changes have been agreed with both the new and former Trustees and this will include a code of conduct along with guidance on its use.

### **Community Turbine**

The meeting was informed that the turbine's output was on target to achieve greater than 30% efficiency by the end of its financial year (February) but emphasised that gross earnings may be down due to the reduction in what they get paid for the energy generation. In addition the access road up to the turbine and the crane pad have had to be refurbished to bring them up to standard and this will allow Enercon to do a blade tip survey. We have also used a local "drone flying" company to do an inspection of the blades with the intent to compare the findings with Enercon.

### **Community Trust**

The Trust continues to receive and evaluate grant applications so there is a continuous flow of money into the community. As mentioned last month the Xmas lights switch on event was successful and drew in more money than last year. It should also be noted that we may have to move the location of this event as the new houses being built may impede on the firework display. In addition we need to reapply to the council for a public events licence. At this time of year we are very busy getting all our finances up to date as the financial year ends in February. One of the main tasks is to ensure that as far as possible, the groups who have been awarded grants draw the money down as scheduled.

### **Pitmedden Park**

The meeting was informed that the proposed Pitmedden Amenities Trust has been approved by OSCR and this new organisation will replace the Park and Hall trusts. There will be ongoing work to cover all the legalities and a meeting will be set up to finalise these changes. In addition it was noted that the community trust have supplied an on-line booking system that will greatly help in the future as it will enable the main hall, small hall and park to be booked online. This system should be available to other groups such as the Udny Green Hall.

It was also noted that the water and electricity supplies are still awaited for the new changing containers and this has taken a lot longer than expected and a lot more costly especially the water connection.

A site meeting is being arranged between landscape services and the contractor to progress the peri track which will enable the school children and others to use it for

exercise training. This meeting will hopefully address the drainage issues at the entrance to the park with the council proposing to dig a large soakaway or if not possible a connection to a surface water drain will be attempted by the contractor. In relation to the proposed housing development by Kirkwood Homes the Park Trustees would like to state that they have not had any approach by the developers to utilise the park for alternative entrance to the school car park. They have written to the council with a FOI request regarding the correspondence between the roads department and the developer. This correspondence has shown that the roads department have offered a few suggestions one of which is shown on the published plans. **It should be noted that the trustees have not been approached by either the developer or the council regarding the use of this land which is owned by the Trust. Indeed it is extremely unlikely that the Trustees would have the ability to release any of this land for private development.**

### **Paths Group**

Work is continuing with getting the legalities sorted out between Aberdeen Endowments Trust and the Udney Community Trust so that the land for the Drove road can be transferred at nil cost to the community with the proviso that the community covers the legal costs of the transfer. It is hoped to use the same documentation with other land owners when required.

### **Speed indicator signs**

It was stated that we are still awaiting a map of the community council boundaries and after discussion Cllr Hassan agreed to obtain a suitable map. This will enable us to ascertain the most appropriate site to erect poles which can be used to hold speed detection equipment.

### **Planning Applications**

It was noted that the erection of 3 houses at Udney Green (Fleeman Park extn) had been sent to the reporter as the applicant had lodged an appeal. The reporter has considered the case and decided to allow the erection of these three houses. The meeting was disappointed with this decision as they felt he had missed the point. After discussion it was felt that although this is not the decision that the community wanted there was no grounds for appeal as they can only appeal against a point of law that the reported may have missed or misinterpreted. It was also noted that an appeal would be very expensive to the community council. It was also noted that it was not clear how construction traffic would enter the site and it was suggested that Graham Steele(or one of his team) from the roads department should be invited to a site meeting to discuss the various ways of gaining entry to the site.

Application 2018/0264 was discussed and there were no objections to this proposal to erect advertising signs at the land to the south of the Aberdeen to Tarves road at Pitmedden.

### **Other Items**

- It was noted that the A96 East of Huntly to Aberdeen project now includes a proposal to use the A947 corridor. There are a many benefits to this Proposal including cost savings (bridge building) and this would greatly improve the A947 between Oldmeldrum and Dyce. It was suggested that George Duncan attends future project meetings on behalf of the community council.
- There was a complaint stating that a lot of polystyrene packaging was littering the area around Milldale and it looked as if this waste material had come from the yard occupied by SMT. Garth said that he would investigate and hopefully come up with a solution. .(ongoing)
- It was noted that we should send a rep to a Special meeting of Formartine community council forum. The secretary will resend the email invite.
- The secretary reminded the meeting to submit any outstanding invoices before the end of the financial year.
- Cllr Hassan informed the meeting that at a recent meeting with the roads department it was noted that the bridge on the road between the B999 and

## Draft

Udny Green School ( at the Mill) is in an Amber condition and if further damage is discovered it could go to Red status with a resultant road closure. It was stated that the council was short of money for bridge repairs and therefore the road could be closed for a long time. The meeting stated that this road was well used by people travelling to the school as well as the residents of Udny Green. It was therefore suggested that an immediate weight limit should be applied so that the bridge does not deteriorate any more.

- End of minute

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on 15th March 2018 at Udny Green Primary School starting at 7:30pm