



SLAINS & COLLIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

5th June 2024

Present: Roddy Junor, Sally Sheehan, Trish Davidson, Chris Hovey, Sheena Junor, Roger Berl

Apologies: Gill Moir, Lesley Wilson, Nora Harper, Councillor Gillian Owen, Julie Swan

In Attendance: Anne and Anthony Craig, John Kelly, Beth Thomson

ITEM	DISCUSSION
Approve 2023 Minutes	Proposed: Sheena Junor Second: Chris Hovey
Matters arising from 2023 Minutes	There were no matters arising
Adoption of the new Constitution	The Community Council unanimously approved acceptance of the revised Constitution.
Chair's Report	<p>The Chairperson Roddy Junor gave the annual report –</p> <p>“Welcome to our 15th Annual General Meeting since we became a Community Council, and our 66th from the original Amenities Committee. First of all, I would ask everyone to please stand while we have a minute's silence for friends we have lost this year. We also think about those who are unwell or in hospital and wish them a speedy recovery. To begin - in our area of Aberdeenshire – Slains and Collieston Community Council is the smallest in Formartine with 441 registered electors - compared to Ellon's 9000 plus - but our Community Council may very possibly be one of the busiest.</p> <p>Looking back over the past year, and as in every year, the Community Council has continued to work for the community in many and different ways. Trish will give you the financial details of what was done in her report but this is a snap shot of what's been happening over the past twelve months.</p> <p>Closure of other Council buildings in the area has increased usage in the hall, but cleaning and repair continues to be a problem. We were hopeful that progress would be made following an audit of community buildings that described the urgent and essential work that is needed. However, we were given the usual refrain of “there's nae money” There never has been money for Collieston when it comes to a serious refurbishment - although on the plus side we have got a new front door! At the moment the Community Payback team are painting their way through the ground floor rooms in the hall, which will give it a bit of a freshen up. The Community Council paid for the paint and the payback team give their services for free.</p>

When the hall is finished, we will be putting up a portrait of King Charles which has been given to all public buildings, but closer to home a framed biography of Private Matthew Thomson who won a Military Medal for Gallantry in the first world war.

We have continued to develop our community resilience. Two of us attended a useful conference at the Beach Ballroom last year and Chris Hovey led training for a catastrophic event. His blood pumping arm is being stored upstairs should anyone require one! We have also worked with the Coastguards who delivered line throwing and first aid refreshers. For information there is now a first aid box at the harbour and there are now three defibrillators in the community – here at the hall, one in High Town and thanks to Carol Allan for making regular checks, with the third at the Reserve. The connection for the generator is installed and working which will allow us to have heat and light in the event of any future outages.

Community Council business over the last year included making representation to the Council about the new pavement parking law and the increasing number of short term lets. We registered with volunteer Scotland to help us recruit volunteers working with children. We were pleased to support youth club nights then the very popular family Craft nights organised by Fiona Bell and her team.

We have seen the result of recent Council budget cuts with an increased number of potholes in the area but the worst problem was the flooded road at North Alehousehill. Although the water has now gone, we are still seeking information on what work will be done to prevent this happening again. Households in Slains have had ongoing problems with bins not being collected for weeks at a time and we hope this will be rectified – despite the change to three weekly collections.

The sink hole at the top of the harbour road was repaired last year but opened up only a few months later. Work began but apparently neither the Council or Scottish Water have agreed on whose responsibility it is.

Following consultation for our Community Action Plan we asked for a change of days for the A2B bus. The weekly service continues to be very popular, especially as Annie's tearoom gives a pensioner's discount on Thursdays!

Our own community coffee mornings ran every fortnight over the winter and provided a very welcome meeting place. Although the coffee mornings are free visitors gave very generous donations to some important causes.

We were very concerned about a proposal to change Slains School to a whole school class approach which would have seen all P1 to P7 pupils being taught in one classroom. We were happy to support the Parent Forum in their successful campaign to keeping the present structure. Sarah Macpherson obtained a new defibrillator for the school and the Community Council supported this by buying a cabinet for it to be mounted outside the school. The Parent Forum also sold calendars very successfully this year, raising an amazing £2247 for their funds. We were sorry to see the final closure of Post Office in December – unfortunately a sign of the times.

We were posed with two unusual problems this year when a dead seal washed up on the beach. Who knew that Community Councils would need to do business with

a knackery? We also needed to have old flares left on the beach disposed of. Ellon Police came to our aid and were able to take them away safely.

Every year the Council writes a Local Development Plan. This year they were asking for community views on a number of topics, with some very relevant to this area. In February SEChange led discussions on our behalf on Biodiversity and the Nature Crisis, Natural Places and Forests and Woodlands. The findings were fed back to the Council.

We are still waiting to hear what the old beach shelter will be reopening as, but we believe the business will start up soon. The Community Council receive an annual grant from the Council to operate the toilets next to the shelter, and we are very grateful to Mick Sheehan for doing his daily checking and cleaning. We would rather not be in this position and feel the Council should take on the responsibility for the toilets as Collieston is such a popular visitor destination.

We have had a number of successful community events. Live performances from North East Arts Touring were well received and we also enjoyed the Bonfire and Fireworks, the Senior Citizens Christmas party, Burns Supper and of course the Gala. We also commemorated Remembrance Day with the annual wreath laying.

Last year's Collieston Multi Terrain Challenge was as popular as ever, and we were very grateful to receive the donation from the organisers. This year's event will be on Sunday 30th June – helpers and marshals are always appreciated.

One of our roles is to protect and preserve the character and amenities of Collieston and Slains. This includes grass and path maintenance and planting the bedding plants. Two new planters were made for beside the play park, and the school house garden has had a complete makeover and is looking it's best ever. Keep Scotland Beautiful has just announced the Blue Flag awards for Scottish beaches, and thanks are due to the volunteers who are on the beach every morning winter and summer to pick up any rubbish.

We need work parties to tackle large tasks but it is difficult to attract volunteers. A recent work party included volunteers in their eighties. Where were the younger volunteers?

Day-to-day administrative tasks continue to be done – consultations and communications, licences, wellbeing cards and gifts, hall bookings, event safety plans, risk assessments, funding applications and so on. The Treasurer's job ensures that bills and expenses paid and financial records kept. We changed our bank account this year to Bank of Scotland when Virgin Money in Ellon announced its closure – only to be told Bank of Scotland was going the same way!

The Facebook page Collieston and Slains Blether is an effective way of putting out news although we appreciate that not everyone is online so we also make use of the noticeboards.

Very recently Slains Estate offered to transfer land to the community. We are still exploring the idea and gathering information, but we will report our findings to the community in the near future.

	<p>As you will see from the agenda, we are intending to make changes to our constitution and the election process. This will standardise things for all Community Councils in Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>In closing, I would like to thanks fellow Community Councillors and other volunteers for all the invaluable work that has been done this year. We would like new people to come forward and join the Community Council, where we have two spaces for school age young people too.</p> <p>Tomorrow night we will be remembering the events of 80 years ago on D Day where I hope everyone can join us on the Rivie at 8pm for a small commemoration.”</p>
<p>Treasurer’s Report including annual accounts</p>	<p>Trish Davidson gave the following report - “This is the Treasurer’s Report for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. At 1 April 2023, the balance in the Community Council account was £12,612.32. The balance across the two accounts at 31 March 2024 was £13, 614.14. We opened the account with the Bank of Scotland in September but have kept some money in the Virgin Money account. The finance summary is split over the two accounts.</p> <p><u>VIRGIN MONEY</u></p> <p><u>EVENTS</u></p> <p>The Bonfire Night was a big success and the Community Council is happy to support the Parents Forum with this event by paying for the fireworks which this year cost £547.38. The Parents Forum raised £670 from donations on the night. Although not viewed as a fund-raising event, the Burns Supper made a profit of £120. Both the income from ticket sales and expenses were considerably larger than reported in the summary, but the cash from ticket sales was used to pay expenses.</p> <p>The Senior Citizens Christmas event again took the form of an afternoon tea. The cost of sandwiches, drinks, etc totalled c£400. The Christmas Tree cost £180 and we also had to buy new tree lights this year.</p> <p>The Collieston Multi Terrain Challenge was very successful and raised £1802.66 for Community Council funds. Over £700 of this money was used to pay for the defibrillator cabinet and paediatric pads for the new school defibrillator. Expenses associated with the CMTC include the purchase of medals and prizes, provision of first aiders and hiring the hall.</p> <p>We received an Awards for All grant from Aberdeenshire Council to pay for expenses related to the Drop-in Sessions but as this grant also covered various items of equipment and other items, the grant is reported in the general Community Council Admin section.</p> <p>Gala 2023 made a profit of £3,741.35. Financial highlights of the Gala included the Quiz Night making an amazing £1600, Raffle c£700, Books c£100, Tombola £347, Cake & Candy c£395, Plants £150 and Chris and Lizzie made £159 with the take-away Teas. Thank you to Roger and everyone else who helped make up floats and count the money.</p> <p>Overall, we made a small loss on the NEAT events - c£55. The income – including the figure reported in the Bank of Scotland account – totalled £724 and reflects ticket</p>

	<p>sales and bar sales with expenditure of £779 covering performer fees, NEAT charges/membership , bar supplies etc..</p> <p>I have combined activities/income/expenditure associated with CATS, family/craft evenings into one “event” category - Youth/Family Events. The income relates to money given to the community council from CATS, which has largely been disbanded. Expenditure mainly covers hall hires and Youth Scotland membership.</p> <p><u>MAINTENANCE</u></p> <p>Firstly, Grasscutting/Flowers, we receive a Village Tidy grant from the council of £775 – this goes towards paying George Hitchcock for cutting the grass in the bog, schoolhouse garden and the Glebe field. We bought a robot mower for the schoolhouse garden – the cost of which came from the Awards for All grant mentioned above. Large planters were bought to edge the playpark/parking area and paint, timber and a planter were bought for the schoolhouse garden improvements.</p> <p>In terms of Hall Equipment a wide range of items were bought including LED lights, speakers, padlocks, hi-viz vests, aprons, extension reels, high chairs, tables and chairs, bins for the kitchen. The cost of many of these items also came from the Awards for All grant.</p> <p>The Miscellaneous costs include defibrillator equipment, resilience-related equipment including a generator switch and sockets, there was other hall electrical work undertaken, we paid for all the paint for the hall refurbishment and bought a new gazebo. The cost of some of these items and work was covered by the Awards for All grant and also a Resilience-hub related grant.</p> <p>We had Playpark costs of £1003 which related to the ROSPA inspection, a new swing seat and repair to the pirate ship and swings.</p> <p>We receive a grant of £1326 from the council to pay for Toilet Cleaning which Mick has been doing over the last year or so.</p> <p><u>S&CCC Administration</u></p> <p>The Administration section here includes income from the Administration Grant of £400 from Aberdeenshire Council and a donation for use of the marquee. Expenditures mainly relate to wi-fi for the hall which is now provided through BT, postage for the Blether, stationery/printing supplies and the transfer of funds from the Virgin Money account to the new Bank of Scotland account.</p> <p>The Miscellaneous section here includes the Awards for All grant - £6369. Expenses relate to cards/flowers/gifts, hall bookings, remembrance wreaths and licences.</p> <p><u>BANK OF SCOTLAND ACCOUNT</u></p> <p>Finally, if we look at the Bank of Scotland account summary, you can see the income from the transfer of funds from the Virgin Money account. The expenditure in the Admin section is our insurance premium and the correction of payments to CHHG. There’s also income from a couple of NEAT events from bar and ticket sales which I took into account when reporting earlier on NEAT events.”</p> <p>End of Treasurers Report Trish Davidson, Treasurer</p>
Any Other Business	<p>Thanks were expressed to Sheena Junor for providing the refreshments.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action Volunteer Award certificates and badges were presented to members of the Community Council. Three people were given lifetime achievement awards.</p>

	There was no further business
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