

STONEHAVEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION / TOURISM GROUP
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13th September 2021, 7pm
At Arduthie Tea Rooms (first face to face meeting since March 2020!)

	ACTION	BY
1	Present: Dawn Black (chair), Lesley Leslie (secretary), Charles Sands, Steve McQueen, Ian Philip, Apologies: Jim Wands, Jennifer Davidson, Sheila Howarth, Eion Stewart.	
2	August 2021 minutes approved	All
	New member: Amanda Gibson of ARH Accounting introduced herself. ARH have taken over Charles' accountancy business and Amanda Gibson is the office manager and also deals with customer relations. ARH is located in the Arduthie Business Centre near the railway station. Those present also introduced themselves to Amanda. Charles is going to act as financial guardian for people who can no longer manage their own affairs. He is also acting as liquidator in small company liquidations.	All
3	Financial Report: please see 'Income and Expenditure' and 'Balance Sheet' as supplied by Charles. The bulk of the income and expenditure relates to the Community Garden project. SBA has received £2,747 from the Car Boot Sales, so far this year and will make a profit of about £300 from the window competition. The SBA balance is a bit healthier than it has been for a while. It was agreed that Charles should submit his invoice for 2 years of accounting and that Liz Johnson should receive a 'Thank you' gift for organising the Window Competition.	CS
4	Phoenix Community Garden: Originally it had been hoped that the Community Garden would have been completed in time for the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' judging in July and then for the Round Britain Bike Race but this was not possible due to a number of unforeseen delays. The garden is however progressing well. Standard of workmanship is excellent and there is not much more to be done. Stonehaven Town partnership took on the lease of the land and the SBA are to cover the STP insurance from the fund. Horizon will maintain the plants and Men's Shed have also agreed to help with minor maintenance of the site; the contractors will do any major work. Mairi Gougeon, MSP for Angus North and Mearns will open the gardens and there will be a plaque to commemorate the occasion.	DB
5	CLAN, Light The North: Over 1,032 lighthouse 'collections' have been made in Stonehaven. (ie the number of times the app has been downloaded). A second lighthouse has been sponsored by Groundwater Forklift	DB

	trucks and has been installed at the harbour at the top of the slipway.	
6	<p>Stunning Stonehaven/Community Hub-Website & Social Media Update: See Dawn's report.</p> <p>Website users and new users is positive. Instagram hits also increasing. Most commonly viewed are the webcams on the Carron flood work, 'what's on' and 'events'.</p> <p>98% of users are UK based but there is a slight increase in USA user activity.</p> <p>£10 was spent on promoting the Stunning Stonehaven App and this worked well.</p> <p>Ian suggested further promoting the app using flyers and a leaflet drop. Also for each of us to promote local events as much as possible on the lead up to Christmas and thereby encouraging people to make use of local businesses.</p> <p>Dawn has added eyelets to the Stunning Stonehaven banners and has cleaned and rehung the banners. Unfortunately 8 out of the original 12 banners have gone missing.</p> <p>Dawn to chase up football fixtures and populate the events page.</p>	DB
7	<p>Feedback from community groups:</p> <p>Lions – Steve: Awaiting for the result of 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' 24th September: Horizon are hosting an event for all groups involved in getting Stonehaven ready for the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' judging.</p> <p>27th Nov: Christmas Light Switch On</p> <p>Charlie has asked Scotia to switch the lights on. There will be events in The Square during the day.</p> <p>1st Dec: Late night shopping.</p> <p>Feeing Market scheduled to take place 2022.</p> <p>Community Council – Dawn: Hyve Event took place on</p> <p>There were 309 online responses to the survey. The main issues for improvement or change came under 3 main areas: 1. The Harbour, 2. The Beach Promenade, 3. The Town Centre.</p> <p>During the Hyve open days the public were invited to support the issues already identified from the online survey and add any new ideas. 60people attended and the discussions and contributions were very useful. A 'Community Action Plan' will now be drawn up as a report and used to help make a stronger case for various proposals to the Community Council.</p> <p>Ian suggested that the 'Bellman' might be approached to explain the different voluntary groups involved in Stonehaven and also to outline the hierarchy of council related groups, their main roles/responsibilities and how the groups relate to each other.</p> <p>Seagulls: Dawn: Mairi Gougeon has said the Council can't get a license to remove seagull eggs because the law has changed. Sea gulls are classed as an endangered species and individual properties now have to apply for a license.</p> <p>Beach Toilets : Jim Stevens (STP) has made an asset transfer</p>	SM/DB

	<p>for the building to become Public Toilets and a Tourist Information Booth. Funding is available for the toilets but on-going costs £600 (cleaning and insurance). Will possibly require sponsorship. It was suggested that a different business could sponsor each week.</p> <p>An outside tap at the harbour well has also been flagged up as 'Much-needed' but despite there being a ready supply of water The Harbour Board wouldn't cover water supply costs.</p> <p>Board Walk: Everyone to feedback to Dawn all comments picked up regarding the new boardwalk.</p>	
8	<p>Bervie Braes: Ian has calculated that £10,000 would be required to clean and then spray the 300 barriers to create a much more aesthetically pleasing barrier. Wendy Agnew is investigating whether the barriers could simply be removed completely.</p>	IP
9	<p>Town Centre Maintenance: Dawn: Roads Dept. traffic management review with local councillors is due. Car parking at the site of the old council offices in Allardice Street will be discussed. A one-way system would be needed through Salmon Lane.</p> <p>Ian: Such a pity extra parking had not been included in the flood plans along Carron Terrace. A large grass verge has been put in and some of this could possibly be used for extra parking. The old gas works near the harbour also suggested again. To be suggested for the traffic management review.</p> <p>Dawn: There are still discussions about moving the Taxi Rank to Barclay Street / Farm Foods and moving the Bus stop. South bound busses to stop near the Town Hall and North bound buses to use the current Taxi Rank.</p> <p>Eion Stewart has commented that the lack of holiday bus tours has affected his business. There was discussion about where to put a coach park. Suggestions made were; by the allotments, and making use of the wide grass verge just North of Dunnottar Castle.</p> <p>There has been suggestion to make Belmont Brae one way, to create a one-way system around the square and making the North side access only for side-by-side parking.</p> <p>Pothole repair was delayed due to the contractor double-booking the machinery.</p> <p>The idea of using the old Allardice council offices as a covid vaccine centre rejected because there is asbestos in the building therefore too costly.</p> <p>Ian suggested that there should be a Bylaw regarding town centre property appearance. It was agreed that properties on Allardice street looked scruffy, particularly above the ground level. Dawn to find out how Ballater manage to keep their town centre properties to a high standard.</p>	All
10	<p>Fundraising/ Project Ideas: Ian to organise the static bike competition. i.e. for the participant to try and generate 2,500 watts. To be done at The Christmas light switch on. Suggestion was made that funds raised for Christmas lights to be</p>	All

	<p>put up at the harbour. Lesley still plans to sell some plants to customers at Arduthie House.</p> <p>Dawn: Travellers Through Time: A group of actors run events called 'History Matters'. The actors research the local history and put on re-enactments and associated activities. Ticketed event that could be run on the same sort of basis as the beer festival, i.e. fenced off area in Bairds Park with ticket entrance. £400 required to get a licence to use Bairds Park. Dawn to investigate.</p>	
11	<p>AOB: Change of use applications: William Hill building to become a sit-in ice cream parlour run by Mayden. Keystore to become a gym. Impact Fitness (franchise). Market Bar owner has applied to put up large awning to shelter customers who wish to sit outside. Discussion about creating a Youth Club in Stonehaven. Amanda Gibson to discuss with organiser of successful Youth Club in Kintore. Morrison's Supermarket is going to be built at Ury. There has also been an application to build another supermarket and truck stop near the big AWPR roundabout just North of Stonehaven.</p>	
	<p>Next Meeting: Monday 11th October, 7pm Arduthie Tea Rooms. Chair: Lesley Leslie. Secretary: Sheila Howarth.</p>	