

**Udny Community Council Meeting**  
**Minutes - Wednesday 20th March 2024**  
**The Medan Centre, Quarry Room, 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Sue Hebenton – Chair, Gary Bruce, Vikki Jannetta (Minutes), Alexina Clark, Cllr Jenny Nicoll,

**Non UCC Visitors:**

Carron Douglas, Rodney Douglas, Alistair Stott, Conor McEwan

**Apologies:**

Matt Kaye – Treasurer, George Duncan, Phil Coventry, George Allan (UCA)

**1. Previous Minutes**

Approved by: GB  
Seconded by: SH

**2. Apologies**

As above.

**3. Non UCC Visitors**

As above.

**4. Declaration of Members Interests**

None.

**5. Urgent Business / Any Other Business**

Query in relation to council house within the village regarding if there is a permanent tenant resident? **Cllr Nicol will speak to housing and report back.**

**6. Police Report**

Police report received, covers cyber crime and door step scams specific to Formartine Area. **GB share through Facebook.** A police representative previously attended UCC meetings. **Cllr Nicol contact Police, request a presence at future UCC meetings.**

**7. Treasurers Report (MK)**

UCC financial year end is the end of March. Current Account balance: £420 (committed funds = £250 Sep Sec honorarium, £32.60 URG and remainder for admin).

Latest URG grant claim submitted to UCTC to cover the Zurich insurance premium (£275) for 2024 - currently awaiting this to be reimbursed.

The Benevity Causes account registration No and profile set-up has been completed and approved. The Self-Certification section needs completing.

The Udny Green Hall Club fund for Udny Green Park equipment has, as agreed, been spent on a water bowser and gardening materials to help Carole and her volunteers continue to look after the flower displays in Udny Green.

The 2023 Amenity Grant has now been utilised as follows: honorariums of £400 for continued gardening work and floral displays in Pitmedden and Udney Green, £250 donation to Pitmedden Youth Group for a Pitmedden village-wide litter pick in March, and the remaining £125 towards gardening tools for Udney Green.

If UCC wishes to apply for another Amenity grant for 2024 (£775) the committee now needs to come up with a plan to be submitted by June.

## **8. Udney Climate Action Update (GB / VJ)**

### **A. Create from Waste Competition**

The 3rd Create from Waste Competition was a huge success just over 60 entries, local schools and groups including Boys Brigade and Brownies joining in. A Grant was received from UCT for the prizes and the prize giving was 18 March. It is hoped to run the competition next year and extend to Academy Children and Adults.

### **B. Swap Shop**

First Swap Shop of the year will be held on 28 March, the aim is to reuse items within our community. Drop off is 27 March between 3pm and 5pm. The next Swap is 29 June.

### **C. Retrofitting Assessment Project**

There is currently a grant application submitted to UCT take forward a local project on retrofitting 5 different types of housing and sharing the information with the local community.

### **D. Conversation Cafe - Udney Repair Cafe**

Joint Conversation Cafe with NESCAN to investigate setting up a Repair Cafe within Udney. The First Repair Cafe will take place on Monday, 22 April, 6pm in The Quarry Room, Medan Centre.

## **9. Udney Community Trust Update (VJ)**

### **A. Imagine Udney**

Shortlisting for interview will take place week commencing 1st April. Successful candidate to start June and will be liaising with the Community Council.

### **B. Accessible Ramp**

Works going well. Front of the building currently closed, access to the Cafe is currently via the Quarry Room.

## **10. Udney Resilience Group Update (PC)**

Designs for fridge magnets in discussion.

Grant claim form signed for 2024 insurance costs.

8 April Nemech will commission Whiterashers and Udney green Hall.

Procedures to be finalised.

## 11. Planning

### A - Little Woodlands Planning Application

Feedback emailed to UCC from local residents. Local residents also in attendance at UCC meeting. The previous application was objected to and was withdrawn. A new application has been submitted. The new application is to build 3 houses on ½ the plot. The other ½ plot of land appears to remain derelict. The new application states water supply has to come from mains. Consensus is the limit of 3 houses will be acceptable providing mains water is supplied and the current flooding, field drainage and water management is satisfactorily resolved. Planning application deadline for submissions, this week. **GB will re-submit response on behalf of the UCC** to include, mains water, drainage, concerns regarding total number of houses in this application and future applications, UCC object if additional houses are proposed.

### B - Milton of Coullie Cottage Extension

New planning application, no contentious issues.

## 12. Matters Arising (Actions from last Minutes)

Remove Claymore Homes from the next Agenda.

Udny Green poster - take off next Agenda.

Pitmedden Christmas lights, **GB trying to contact members of the committee**, keep on Agenda.

Bus stop outside the church, council have removed bus shelter and relocated further down but put up a temporary bus stop where existing bus stop is.

2 temporary bus stops outside Udny Green School, does anyone know what bus routes that route? Susan Watt would be the contact.

Whisky Hammer community building - **VJ to chase up**.

**CM to help make a logo**, suggested could use a map of Udny as part of the logo.

Trees council property, Cllr Hassen had written to Council, now with environmental department, Facebook - **GB to set up access to all members**.

## 13. New Items

### A - UCC Secretary

CM is interested in both roles. **MK to see CM regarding role and honorarium**.

Role includes monitoring Secretary email inbox, taking the minutes and preparing the Agenda. The secretary does not have to be a member. CM can be an associated member until August, then the UCC members all stand down for re-election.

### B - UCC Vision for the Future

SH asked members to think about UCC vision for the future. Feedback included being more proactive within the community, engaging with the community, defining who we are, ensuring the community know where we meet, what we are about. This could include face-to-face and on-line engagement. We could include facebook updates on UCC successes so the community can see we help get things done. We need to be more diverse, more people to contribute regularly, we need young people to engage, must be 16+ unless accompanied by an

adult. Young people could attend start of the meeting to put across their point of views. **AC contact Ellon Academy and VJ to contact Oldmeldrum Academy. VJ to make a poster share with AC.**

### **C - Group Membership - Co-opted / Associated Members**

VJ is a co-opted member with voting rights. AC is an associated member, no voting rights, reason for that is because of UCC numbers. In August all UCC members stand down to be reelected, then re-election every 3 years.

### **D - Website**

MK met with Gail Henderson to discuss the website. The current website is old, uses outdated technology and is not functioning properly. The website needs rebuilding. We can transfer our domain name of udney.org.uk to the new website and deregister the domain name currently in use (udny.online). It's recommended that the new website is constructed by a professional. UCC needs to think what we want the new website to achieve (bearing in mind likely cost of course) and speak to Gail Henderson again (and others). MK advises that the following items are most important:

- to briefly explain what the Community Council does - a couple of sentences and a few pictures
- to disseminate information to the community - minutes of meetings and agendas in the first instance, plus other pdf files such as the OS map showing the community council boundary, important notices, information about and links to other important groups in the community
- to collect information from the community and to provide a platform on which members of the community can give their views - by way of surveys, contact details so members of the public can e-mail the UCC using non-personal e-mail addresses
- we need to be able to update the content - degree of self control over at least some of the content (upload/update/remove files)

The development of a new website is expected to require funding though there are many alternative platforms that allow you to build your own site at next to no cost - we should consider several and various options before deciding how best to move forwards.

CM agreed to get involved with helping with the website.

## **14. Notable Items sent by email**

### **A - Letter from Alistair Stott Regarding Back Brae Lane**

Altory House, on-going issue with shared access to part of the road. The lane is in bad condition requiring urgent repair, the council had made a turning area and installed a lamppost, however ongoing dispute with council regarding repairs to lane. Council don't want to adopt the road. Residents would like lane repaired and are hoping to approach council to pay proportion of repairs, quote from PTM for £7,500k plus vat. If shared access should be shared costs, householders have tarred parts of the Brae, but its the area at the top, the area residents think Council own that needs tarred but council say they don't own the area. **Alisdair Stott send all information electronically to UCC secretary email address, who will pass onto Cllr Nicol. Cllr Nicol will speak to Roads and Housing and provide feedback. Topic to be added to**

the April agenda.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 17 April, 7.30pm, Quarry Room, The Medan Centre - Everyone Welcome

**Meeting closed at 21.20**