



NOTES AND ACTIONS OF MEETING OF STONEHAVEN FLOOD RECOVERY COMMITTEE

**MRI BUILDING, STONEHAVEN
TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2010**

In Attendance:

- Aberdeenshire Council** – Councillors Graeme Clark (GC), Wendy Agnew(WA), Peter Bellarby(PB) and Paul Melling(PM), William Munro (Chair) (WM), Alastair Mutch (Housing)(AM), Jane Moir(Clerk)
- Advice Centre** – Paul Hendy (PH), Gemma Bull. (GB)
- Rotary/Relief Fund** - Tony Bilsdon (TB), Wilma Bruce. (WB)
- SATRA** – Lenny Lawrence (LL)
- Community Council** – David Fleming (DF)
- NHS** – Alastair Morgan (AM)
- MRI** – Ann Laing (AL)
- SBA** – George McGillivray(GM)
- Community Services Scheme** – Gillian Christie(GC)

	<u>ITEM</u>	ACTION
1.	Introductions/Apologies	
	Apologies – Cllr Sullivan, Robert Armstrong(RA)	
2.	Note of previous meeting	
	The minute was agreed as a correct record.	
3.	Matters arising	
3.1	<p>Mackie Academy’s Janitor’s house will be used in the future, but at present is waiting for meters to be fitted.</p> <p>Furniture Store Open Day to be postponed until 27 February so that it can be well advertised. Information will be put in the next newsletter, WA to go to the press and GB to Mearns FM.</p> <p>A quantity of the newsletter to be left at the furniture store for people to pick up.</p> <p>First Aid box was purchased.</p>	WA/GB
4.	Update as required	
(a)	<p>Support Centre</p> <p>PH is still constantly out and about. There are quite a lot of drying out problems in properties. A company is claiming that the property has been dried out but in fact it is still damp, which would cause future problems. PH is checking properties to make sure this procedure is correctly carried out. PH has not come across so many issues in any other area as Stonehaven have.</p> <p>WM asked if we have a role in going to the companies, but PH is going to speak to</p>	

	<p>the Area Manager of the company that is not carrying out the drying out process properly.</p> <p>DF reported that some flood victims had had letters from their insurance providers saying that their premiums would be going up next year, but has referred them to WM to get a letter from Sepa stating that it was a 1 in 200year flood.</p>	WM
(b)	<p>Furniture In the next newsletter a statement is to be put in stating that furniture etc from the store is only available to those who are either uninsured or under insured.</p> <p>The van is still available for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Huntly will be given any furniture that is not required by flood victims in Stonehaven. PH and WA to discuss this at a separate meeting. PH is going to find out what Huntly require and let WA/LL know.</p> <p>105 application forms were sent out to the flood victims, they are slowly coming in now. GB is going to give the names to WA/LL of uninsured and under insured properties.</p>	PH/WA/LL GB
(c)	<p>Fund At the moment the balance of the Flood Fund is standing at £14,494, there is a cheque from the Lions which has been banked and when cleared a the monies will be given to the Flood Fund, which will bring the grand total to just over £20,000. Total donations received from the buckets round the town reached a total of £3,439.21. (they were emptied a total of 76 times) £4,532.16 was received between separate collections from the Rotary Club and Rydale Lions.</p> <p>No actual donations have come from oil companies, but if we were to run out of money we could ask for a donation from them.</p> <p>3 application forms have come in and returned due to different reasons, but forms are coming in at the rate of 2 a day.</p> <p>Inverurie Inner Wheel are holding a coffee morning and are going to divide the proceeds between Huntly and Stonehaven.</p> <p>There will be a donation bucket at the furniture store on the Open Day.</p> <p>WA is helping people with insurance issues if needed. Also shared hallways/entrances causing a problem but this is to be discussed at a separate funding meeting.</p>	WA
(d)	<p>News Letter Is going out this week, which will have in it information again about the application form, promoting the Open Day on the 27 February, information about the Exhibition at the MRI Centre on 16 March where there will be lots of information about how properties can be protected. Information on the drying out situation.</p> <p>It is to be distributed to all the businesses that were affected by the flood.</p> <p>Keep an eye on the people moving back to their own properties to make sure that they still get the news letter.</p>	GB
(e)	<p>Database Now that the application forms have started coming in the database can be update with more information.</p>	
(f)	<p>Business Update WM read out an update that was written by RA (Appendix 1), GM then made some comments – businesses are very quiet. The cycle shop has been the quietest it has been in its 16 years of business.</p> <p>Most businesses hope to be open by April.</p>	

	<p>WM is due to meet P&J in next few weeks to discuss, amongst other things, banners in the square, maybe they can incorporate something to do with the businesses reopening.</p> <p>A tidy up round and about needs to be undertaken.</p> <p>GC/DF have had offers of help to paint benches etc that are round the square to brighten it up.</p> <p>WA to find out when McHardys is to open and hopefully some sort of an event will be organised to relaunch Stonehaven and make them aware that businesses are back up and running.</p> <p>Stonehaven Its Special are holding a meeting and are going to be asked if they have any suggestions for an event.</p> <p>WM to make enquiries about whether a celebrity would be available as a guest at an event for Stonehaven.</p> <p>Others to consider.</p>	<p>WM</p> <p>WA</p> <p>AL</p> <p>WM</p> <p>ALL</p>
(g)	<p>Housing Update</p> <p>There are currently 9 Council households in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>7 Council houses are still getting a lot of work done to them, 2 to be ready in March, 3 in April and 2 in May. The houses will all be in better condition once they have been refurbished.</p>	
(h)	<p>Exhibition</p> <p>An exhibition is to be arranged for the 16 March 2010, in the MRI building, where there will be a variety of products on display. SEPA, Housing and flood products to be on hand. A free survey is going to be offered to people as to how they can improve their properties. They are also going to liaise with the business and offer them a 3 hour seminar on complete flood resilience.</p>	
(i)	<p>Other</p> <p>The room currently used for these meetings will still be available for the foreseeable future. GB will move out of her office into a smaller office within the next few weeks, computers etc will all be moved over with her, as MRI start courses at the end of March so will need a bigger room.</p>	
5	AOCB	
5.1	GC suggested that a concert or other such event be organised when the town hall's scaffolding has been removed at end of March, to relaunch it.	
5.2	GB announced that personal circumstances means that she will be leaving the Flood Centre, in the not too distant future. Thanks were given to her for all her hard work. All to think about possible replacement.	ALL
6.	DONM 2 March 4pm	

Appendix 1

Stonehaven Flooding

At its peak approximately 30 businesses were affected, some more seriously than others. The majority managed to reopen in some form quite quickly, albeit some would then need to undertake some refurbishment at a later date.

Since then some remaining businesses have restarted trading e.g. Crafty Creations and Rosebowl (after temporary accommodation used). Of those still closed or recently so:

McHardy butchers – Gregor has been away, but work is ongoing, although much still to be done and still looks likely to be reopening March/April. A key business as it attracts people into the town and a notice is in the window to inform current position. Re-opening could link to media features on town?

Queens Hotel – delays getting builders in as landlord is Belhaven but tenant responsible for some aspects. Work is now in hand. In discussion regarding possible support.

Maggie Mays – delays to insurance claim with loss adjustor involved. Understand go ahead now given to start refurbishment.

Funeral Director – new flooring being laid.

Corporate Financial Solutions (accountants) – trading from another site and existing office not ready yet.

Hair Care – closed and reopened following refurbishment.

Culinaire – temporary closure for the same.

Parade – issue about disposal of flood damaged items proved difficult to resolve but now dealt with.

Contacts with Stonehaven Business Association as the recognised link to businesses, and walk rounds/calls suggest following:

1. Town centre is quiet and looking shabby. Factors probably include flooding and resultant closures, but also post-christmas period, bad weather, recession with some shops closed accordingly e.g. Threshers
2. Thorough clean up of public areas needed and removal of sandbags once threat of any repeat flooding is past. Removal of skips depends on work being done by the businesses but should be resolved shortly. New banners in Square??
3. Work of Horizon in the Spring will be an important lift to the townscape.
4. General marketing and promotional activity looks needed although discussions with SBA suggest preferable to delay until remaining businesses are reopened. Financial support could be channelled through SBA to do this, similar to our support to promote the Christmas Fair. Could be feasible to look at supporting such effort over a period of time rather than a single action, if necessary. Depends what the businesses want to do.
5. Insurance – concern expressed about ability of businesses to obtain insurance and if so, the likely cost. Issue of what mitigation measures Scottish Water, SEPA, Council intend to implement (or have already done so) and whether this will make any difference to the insurance. Impact on business (and house) prices in affected area? One case of business being underinsured.
6. Added to this is the need to know the original causes of the floods and risk of a repeat.

7. Details of flood defence barriers circulated and Council is using its purchasing power to obtain these and pass on at cost.
8. Temporary business accommodation – information circulated and use cleared with various Council Services however, appears no demand given logistics involved.
9. General business advice – 2 confidential cases handled or ongoing and offer of advice still stands
10. Emergency Loan Scheme – proposal submitted but did not pass at Committee stage.
11. Potential to support other community or business effort if a need is identified in order to inject more life into town centre and its businesses e.g. events, festivals, markets etc.

Robert Armstrong
Senior Business Development Executive
Aberdeenshire Council