

STONEHAVEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION / TOURISM GROUP
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 19th August 2019
At the Belvedere Hotel, Stonehaven

	Item	BY
1	<p>Present: Lesley Leslie (Chair), Steve McQueen (Secretary), Ian Philip, Jennifer Davidson, Charlie Sands, Sheila Howarth, Mitch McKay, Jim Wands, Dawn Black, Heidi Bissett (Visit Aberdeenshire)</p> <p>Apologies: None</p> <p>July minutes approved.</p>	
2	<p>Stacy Edghill from “Fantastic Fanatics” Not present due to us changing the date of our meeting. Sheila to contact to attend a future meeting.</p>	
3	<p>Stonehaven Town Twinning</p> <p>Concerns have been raised over a series of emails/letters from Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood and Commander elect of Clan Baird that have been sent to individuals within the Business Association & to the Mearns Leader.</p> <p>Philip Mills-Bishop, Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood and Commander elect of Clan Baird and two other members of the twinning group are willing to meet the SBA/STG. A meeting has been arranged to be held on Friday 30th August with representatives from the Stonehaven & NE Scotland Twinning. Matters to be discussed -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation of recent letters? • A summary of the groups structure and decision making? • The selection process behind Athens, Alabama? • The consultation process with people of Stonehaven? • Has the group followed official EU guidelines for twinning? • Future plans & how the group will interact with the town? <p>Members agreed for a letter to be sent to the Mearns Leader in the meantime to clarify our position. (Response below was arranged out with the meeting).</p> <p>“The Stonehaven Business Association and Stonehaven Tourism Group are aware of the recent publicity concerning the twinning of the town and share some of the concerns over its contentious nature. Neither group has spoken out against the ties with Athens, Alabama. We were not involved in that decision but do have concerns over the governance of the Twinning Group.</p> <p>We have agreed to meet with the Twinning Group to find out more about their processes, and to ensure that the businesses of the Town have a say in any future plans.”</p>	
4	<p>Date for Christmas Late Night Shopping</p> <p>Wednesday 4th December 2019, 6pm to 8pm was agreed to run in line with the opening of the panto.</p>	

5	<p>Stunning Stonehaven - Website update: Dawn Black</p> <p>The website is ticking over nicely. Dawn is posting What's On updates and anyone else is welcome to offer content, blogs, cover photos etc. Dawn handed out Stunning Stonehaven printed cards to take as extra promotion of the website from our counters/desks.</p> <p>The Stunning Stonehaven banners are also being moved around Stonehaven and will be moved for the Harbour Festival.</p> <p>The Stunning Stonehaven team will publish figures at the end of the summer showing the performance of the website, social media post engagement etc. This will clearly show what businesses get out of signing up to the website.</p> <p>The Stunning Stonehaven team have been nominated for the Aberdeen City and Shire Tourism Awards. They have interviews on 20th August to discuss the website.</p>	
6	<p>Ideas from everyone re use of £250,00 wind farm funding</p> <p>We could apply for funding towards the garage roof repair.</p> <p>A new harbour / beach / fireball webcam has been suggested. The previous webcams are now most likely defunct and would require upgrading. Quotes are needed.</p> <p>Tesco has given us £1000 (carrier bag money) for updating our walking maps. We need to get an editable file for the maps rather than a PDF version.</p>	
7	<p>Financial Report – Charlie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1000 has come in from Tesco. • Car boots have raised £1241 so far (£15 a week down compared to last year, but this is due to the weather). <p>It was asked if there are guidance notes for safety / behaviour of groups stewarding / individuals selling at the car boot sale. Charlie said that guidance notes are sent out to groups and are also available online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Window competition took in £787, deducting the cost of prizes leaves about £300 profit but importantly it has made a lot of children happy over the summer. Thanks to all the 44 shops, Liz Johnston and My Beautiful Caravan for all their hard work <p>A suggestion was made to consider extending the window competition at add a seventh week considering that there are still children in the area that are still on holiday. An additional suggestion was made to perhaps offer a prize to adults for also taking part in the competition. Plus, a prize for a blog that was posted about the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expecting £404 towards website expenses. 	
8	<p>Future Events coming up in the next 3 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th August - Stonehaven Harbour Festival 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st September – End of Stonehaven Heated Open Pool Summer Season. Suggestion to invite someone along from the pool to discuss how the season went this year. • 14th to 23rd September – NEOS (North East Open Studios) • 3rd November – Bonfire & Fireworks • 30th November – Christmas Light Switch On • 4th December – Christmas Late Night Shopping (6pm to 8pm) + Various Town Hall Music Events 	
9	<p>Garage Roof Repairs – feedback from Ian Philip</p> <p>The garage clear out evening was great. There is cable which is still to be collected. The repair work needed is a full repair and we can apply to the community fund to match the costs of the repair.</p>	
10	<p>Feedback from</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Council: Mitch McKay Still no word of which supermarket we will be getting. 2. STP: Lesley Leslie (Had not met yet – nothing to report) 	
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>Council Building (16-22 Allardice Street) Diane Strachan originally advised the SBA that the building will be used for affordable housing. Aberdeenshire Council has confirmed that there are no specific plans for the site when it is no longer required for office accommodation. The building has been approved as no longer being required as an operational office and therefore it will be managed thereafter in accordance with the Council's Surplus Property Policy.</p> <p>Scotland's Most Beautiful Street 2019 Competition Deadline is 30th September. Would certainly be good PR for the town but it is perhaps something to be prepared for entering next year instead.</p> <p>Water Refill Scheme The SBA agreed to invite Fiona along to discuss the possibility of installing these water taps.</p> <p>Phone Box BT have been consulting about the removal of phone boxes with relatively low use. BT run an adopt a phone box scheme to retain the phone box and this costs £1.</p> <p>School Holidays Groups and businesses perhaps need to consider the differences in school holidays when planning opening times / events. Nearly Angus Council has different school holidays and there are still tourists around. Obviously, many groups rely on volunteers but staying open for an extra week might be advantageous for the swimming pool, land train etc.</p> <p>Communication with SBA The SBA needs to produce our minutes quicker and to communicate better with our members. Each secretary needs to try their best, minutes need to go online sooner, and we can use scheduled posts on the Facebook page to keep other members informed. Our meetings are held on the second Monday of most months at 7pm at the Belvedere Hotel, and all members are welcome. It is</p>	

	<p>fantastic that there are a number of new businesses (or businesses simply moving for the better) filling empty unit. Fitness Space, Ritchie Leasing, Cornerstone, Woodview Embroidery Services, The Head Shed, Lion's Den Martial Arts and various pop-up shops at Hyve Architects</p> <p>Heidi Bissett (Visit Aberdeenshire) Encouraged us all to take part in the Tourism Barometer.</p> <p>Stonehaven isn't a high crime area, but the shops and car boot sale did have problems with shoplifting and with forged bank notes from time to time. There is nothing for it except constant vigilance and Heidi asked the business association to forward on information from the Federation of Small Business regarding crime.</p>	
	<p>Next meeting Monday 9th September Steve McQueen (Chair) / Sheila Howarth (Secretary)</p>	