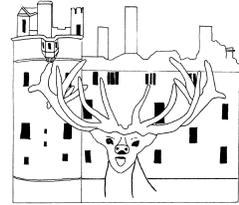




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the October 2012 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 18th October 2012 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Bob Ness; Freda McRae; Rev Norma Milne; Colin Grant; PC Alex Barnard; PC Neil Duncan; Pat Scott (Huntly Express); Donald Boyd (Guest Speaker)

Apologies: Hazel McIntosh, Jordie Cole, Cllr Moira Ingleby

Hilda welcomed members and extended a special welcome to PCs Alex Barnard and Neil Duncan, Pat Scott and Donald Boyd (guest speaker). She advised that a list of all correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated by Mary prior to this meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the 20th September meeting were proposed for acceptance by Bob Ness and seconded by John Greer.

The agenda order was amended to allow the police to present their report prior to the guest speaker's slot.

3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues PC Barnard reported that in the period 20/9 – 17/10/12 there were 26 crimes and offences in Huntly (town only), the majority for vandalism, minor theft, assault and insulting/abusive behaviour. 34% have been detected and 34% have positive lines of enquiry. 5 males (believed to be from Aberdeen and Fraserburgh) in a car stolen from Turriff came to Huntly and tried to get money from an ATM using a stolen card. One male has been reported for various thefts, none of which were in the Huntly area. 2 motorists were given antisocial warnings for excessive noise while driving in the Square - PC Barnard advised that in such cases cars can be impounded if the offence is repeated. Re parking issues, as discussed at the last meeting and highlighted in the Huntly Express, an education phase has started with 24 motorists so far being given advisory notices by the police where applicable. The initiative will shortly move to the enforcement stage. It was confirmed by PC Barnard that both the police and traffic wardens have the power to administer warnings/penalties; however, the traffic warden only visits Huntly once a month. There is nothing further to report re underage drinking at the Battlehill (being monitored) and the Gordon Street tenant issue.

Issues raised by members: Bob reported a much-improved situation regarding cars parked at the George Street/Torry Street and Scott Drive/King Street junctions and asked that PC Malky Smith who was present at the last meeting be thanked for the part he played in this. Pat suggested the police patrol the Granary Street/Church Street junction tomorrow (Friday), generally the worst day for illegal parking in this area. In response to a query re the legality of the double yellow lines at the top of Duke Street, PC Barnard said it was believed that they are in fact illegal as they are not of the stipulated width.

Norma had been asked to make the police aware of local concerns about fireworks being let off in the streets; this was duly noted. Freda had seen a young girl riding her bike without lights in

the Square; this too was noted. The police will additionally make the Road Safety Advisor (responsible for Primary School pupils' safety issues) aware of the situation. Hilda suggested that Jordie Cole could take the issue back to secondary school pupils. John advised that the Clashmach Centre, who run a bike maintenance/upgrade scheme, can supply bike lights.

Hilda summarised the contents of the latest Quarterly Policing Update.

PCs Barnard and Duncan left the meeting at 7.45 pm. Hilda thanked them for their contribution.

4. Guest Speaker – Donald Boyd, Huntly Development Trust Donald circulated a summary sheet of HDT activities – see attached.

In response to a query from Tony, Donald advised that a Scottish Government CARES loan is funding the costs associated with the development of the Dummuies community turbine, and that the £100k of Aberdeenshire Alliance funds recently allocated to Huntly could potentially help secure a town centre site where the Huntly Hub may be located, with a further c. £400k required to develop the site. However, the associated costs and funding allocations are still under debate.

A discussion ensued on the HDT dedicated website which is almost complete. Colin's view was that social media such as Facebook offered the most instant and up-to-date access for users and visitors to the site. Tony asked if an Events Diary was to be included so that groups planning events can immediately identify potential clashes etc. Although there is an Events section on the huntly.net website, it was felt that a separate system whereby groups could directly access and enter information was needed. Donald advised that HDT do not have the resources to set up a dedicated Events website/diary at present, although funding may be available somewhere to do so. John advised that Sandy Mack has young clients who are looking for work and are equipped to do something like this; he also suggested that as an initial step a diary be placed in the Post Office so that anyone planning an event can enter the details in the diary and/or refer to it to avoid clashes. Colin offered to take the issue of an electronic diary forward by initially having separate discussions with Donald. It was stressed however that the maintenance of any system that is set up will dictate how effective it is.

The cairn on the Portsoy Path is spilling some of its stones and to the untrained eye looks like a pile of rubble. Donald was advised that Mike Tait has offered to build it up and finish it off.

Donald passed round copies of proposed "advanced directional" and roundabout signage for the A96 which will highlight the facilities to be found in Huntly, such as the Nordic Ski Centre and the Castle. Tony suggested that a similar system to that in Oldmeldrum be considered, where individual businesses in the town can have a slot on one board. Mary to send members the proposal for comments/suggestions and feed back to Donald (who has to respond to Transport Scotland by early November) accordingly.

Donald left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

3. Matters Arising (contd)

B) Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

a) Temporary traffic restriction – road closure for Huntly Christmas Festival 6th December, 4 to 8 pm.

b) Huntly and District Heritage Group: A meeting was being held tonight, it being the only night their guest speaker was available, and so no CC members were able to attend. It has come to our notice that the store room in the Brander which is part of the museum space is being emptied by Museum Services for Deveron Arts' use. Our concerns re the further erosion of the remaining museum space and our preference that it be used for HDHG activities will be advised to that group at their next meeting (date awaited).

c) Display Cabinet: We await Duncan Anderson's bill so that we know what funds remain to pay for a pole and bucket for the flag. Colin advised that as the flag is not a regimental flag, white gloves will not be needed to carry it. It was agreed we take up

the Woodturning Group's offer to make a pole for us, although it is unlikely we will be able to parade the flag on Armistice Day this year. Bob confirmed that a wreath has been ordered for the CC via the ex-Servicemen's Club. He also advised that the ESC will pursue with Aberdeenshire Council the installation of a fitting on the War Memorial to secure wreaths.

d) Quiz Sheets Hilda thanked Bob for compiling these; they have been placed in shops and with individual CC members. £5 raised by Bob was handed to Mary for forwarding to Hazel.

e) Hilda advised that Aberdeenshire Council's Leisure Dept had contacted her to ask if there was to be a fireworks display/bonfire night in Huntly. She had told them there was not (it had been considered by the CC some years ago but discounted due for safety/cost reasons). The Council advised that funds might be available for an event in Huntly but as nothing further has been heard, we assume that no event will take place this year.

f) Halloween Window Competition Hilda thanked Pat for highlighting this in the Huntly Express and asked members to let Mary have their nominations by Friday 26th October. Hilda has advised Deveron Arts that the competition will run in parallel with their Halloween weekend.

ii) **Evaluation of 11th October meeting re Market Muir Junction/Active Travel Audit/Car Parking Review**

Hilda thanked those CC members and representatives from other groups who had attended the meeting. Mary had provided her and Tony on their return from leave with a summary of the meeting. Members agreed Aberdeenshire Council's decision to take remedial action at the Market Muir junction after all was a positive outcome, and shows that our persistence as a CC and the compilation of the Huntly Express dossier has paid off. The result is what we have been asking for all along – a safer junction for drivers and pedestrians alike. The Car Parking review on the same evening had been a worthwhile exercise with a consensus being reached by participants on changes such as the introduction of 45 minutes of free car parking in the Square and also making the Nelson Street car park, which is currently underused, free.

iii) **NHS Issues**

- **G-Med Out of Hours Review** Hilda read out the response from Bydand Medical Practice to our letter asking for their comments on the Review. Although no official complaints have been received from patients, the doctors are concerned about various issues relating to the deployment of Nurse Practitioners and will follow this up with NHS Grampian. Mary to request they keep us informed of the response they receive.

- **Watson Avenue Fence** Hilda read out the response from NHS Grampian to our letter of concern about the closure of the footpath to Rothieden. The response states that the path was only ever intended for staff access to Rothieden, that its continued unofficial use as a public thoroughfare would damage a potential sale, and that the NHS has an obligation to dispose of any surplus property such as this one in as economic a way as possible.

iv) **Huntly Conservation Area Consultation Review** A consultation meeting is to be held on 25th October from 7 to 8 pm in the New Room, Stewart's Hall which will be introduced by Hilda and led by Steve Gray of Aberdeenshire Council. Members have been given a copy of the consultation document and associated questionnaire. As well as CC members, the public are encouraged to go along as the review could have implications for householders planning alterations/extensions to their properties. Donald also informed the CC that the review would be helpful when it comes to future applications for Lottery funding re heritage projects.

v) **Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge** Hilda advised she had received a call from Cllr Ingleby on this issue, which had been discussed at the May MAC. She read out an excerpt of the minutes of this meeting which states that 2012 permanently protected (from any development) outdoor spaces for sport, play and recreation are to be created to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Two areas have been identified in Marr, one of which is at the Meadows. However, clarification is needed on which part of the Meadows is to be designated. Mary to write to Cllr Ingleby to confirm our support for the creation of such a space.

vi) **Evaluation of New Agenda Format** The new format has been in place on a trial basis for three months, with issues relating to Huntly being given greater prominence, and it was unanimously agreed that it be adopted permanently.

vii) **Market Muir Update** Tony advised that the AGM held on 24th September had not been quorate and the meeting had had to be abandoned; it has been rescheduled for 12th November. However, some issues had been discussed, including the extension of floodlight provision, Aberdeenshire Council having made available redundant poles for mounting additional floodlights on, thus allowing more of the ground to be used for training.

viii) **Planning** There were no planning applications for the period 21.9.12 to 18.10.12.

viii) **AOCB** Hilda asked members to think about what sort of Christmas night out they would like and to bring suggestions back to the November meeting.

5. **Treasurer's Report** In Hazel's absence, Mary reported that the General Account holds 1,409.36, the EIS Account £3,741.74, and the Gordon Highlanders Account £632.69. Hilda had had to go to the Bank of Scotland to verify her ID following the changeover of Treasurers in May.

6. **Correspondence**

A list of all correspondence received from **Marr Area Office/Aberdeenshire Council, Community Planning (MAP) and other external agencies** had been circulated in advance, with relevant items discussed earlier in the meeting. Hilda reminded members to complete Aberdeenshire Council's Street Cleansing Survey. She advised that the next Community Ward Forum is to be held at Lumsden on 14th November and that we have been notified of the dates (but not the venues) of the 2013 Forums. She noted the various funding opportunities being advised by Lizzy Shepherd of the Marr Area Partnership, including the Marr Area Top-Up Grant.

On the Table items comprised the Viewpoint newsletter, forms provided by Vattenfall giving local contractors the opportunity to register their interest in providing services to the Clashindarroch main contractor, and a Ready Grampian winter advice leaflet (the latter to be displayed in the Stewart's Hall window).

Pat Scott left the meeting at 9.20 pm.

7. **AOCB** Colin advised that he has been invited to the last of the Burcote Wind community forum meetings in November (re Meikleton of Ardonald windfarm proposal). Freda noted that some of the lights in the Square had gone out and Hilda reminded members that there was a phone line for any member of the public to use to alert the Council of such issues. Freda also mentioned the congestion in School Avenue when parents are dropping off/picking up their children from school.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 15th November at 7.30 pm.