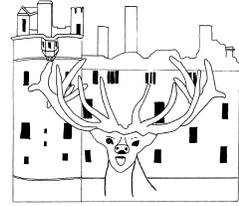




# HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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**Minutes of the January 2012 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7.30 pm**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Bob Ness (Treasurer); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Freda McRae; Hazel McIntosh; John Greer; Rev Norma Milne; Colin Grant; PC Craig Robertson; PC Malky Smith; Pat Scott (Huntly Express)

**Apologies:** None

Hilda welcomed all to this, the first meeting of 2012.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** The minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> November meeting were proposed for acceptance by Hazel McIntosh and seconded by Bob Ness.

**3. Matters Arising**

**a) Police Issues** Hilda summarised the latest Marr Quarterly Policing Update. PCs Craig Robertson and Malky Smith joined the meeting and were welcomed by Hilda as an example of Grampian Police's Community Focus initiative of ensuring police teams are known locally. PC Robertson outlined the crime statistics for the period 18.11.11 to 19.01.12. There were 51 crimes (down on the same period last year); 13 have been detected, 2 of which were drugs related, and the majority of the rest were road-traffic related. There were 4 assaults and one (shed) break-in. There has been no recurrence of the bottle-throwing incidents in Ogilvie Avenue. A traffic warden from Peterhead has visited Huntly several times and is monitoring traffic related issues. Freda raised the issue of yellow lines on Upperkirkgate, and a collision at the Meadow Street/West Park Street junction. The congestion on West Park Street at school dropping-off times, caused partly by the volume of buses, was raised. The Road Safety Advisor has been in discussions with the police about this; one solution is to stagger the times of the buses. PC Smith advised that one person is the subject of a dangerous driving offence, having negotiated their way around the Crossing Patroller when she was carrying out her duties. The issue of cars with faulty/non-existent headlights was raised and PC Smith confirmed that this is closely monitored, with over 40 motorists having recently been issued with notices for the former.

PCs Robertson and Smith left the meeting at 8 pm. Hilda thanked them for their contribution.

**b) Market Muir Update** No update since last meeting; the next meeting Committee meeting is on 6 February.

**c) Updates from Marr Area Office/Aberdeenshire Council**

- Request for additional bins - The request for a dual-purpose bin at the Green Road playpark had been turned down by Aberdeenshire Council on the grounds that no

complaints have been received from either residents or binmen; however, Mary had subsequently received a call from the AC person responsible for playparks asking whether we wish to pursue our request for a bin, and although we've been advised the answer may still be no, it was agreed worthwhile to do so. Hilda reported that, having called the Waste Line following a complaint received about rubbish in the Fraser Court/Somerfield area, the lanes there have been cleared by a "hit squad".

- Square closures for 2012 Farmers' Markets
- Marr Area Partnership November and December newsletters (previously emailed)
- Budget Briefing Papers 1 – 5
- Woodlands (Battlehill) volunteering events – Steve Gray's email advising of workshops to be held over January and February was discussed; Freda was concerned that nothing is being done in the Plantations area where replanting and bridging work is also scheduled. Colin suggested that it may be a phased project – Mary to check with Steve Gray. In response to Freda's concern about a bridge that has been fenced off for some time, Pat advised that at a recent Floodwatch meeting it had been agreed to leave it in a state of disrepair till the flood alleviation work is complete.
- Community Council Long Service Awards – these are to be presented at the Community Ward Forum to be held at the Linden Centre on 22 February, and will include an award to Bob Ness. Bob expressed his regret that former Chairman Alex Munro, who would also have been eligible, is sadly no longer with us. It was agreed to have a "night out" for Bob and his wife at a date to be arranged. Meantime all present said they would be available to attend the February CWF – Mary to advise Lizzy Shepherd accordingly.
- Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan – Main Issues Report Consultation period (past)
- Aberdeenshire Council CC Representative meetings (re reforms to the Scottish Planning Service) scheduled for January have been cancelled
- Supporting Local Councils to help Communities Improve Energy Efficiency of Housing through Access to Green Deal Finance – Aberdeen, 21 February
- Aberdeenshire Sports Council Sports Award Evening – nominations requested
- Hilda summarised the contents of a consultation document re AC's Development Plan with specific reference to land drawdown. She provided a map showing the areas of land scheduled for development in Huntly; the consultation refers to situations where land scheduled to be drawn down can be put on the back-burner for a variety of reasons, meaning that land scheduled for development further in the future can be drawn down earlier than planned – comments requested by 27 January. This led to a discussion on potential housing developments and the ability of the existing infrastructure, particularly schools and sewage, to cope with these.
- A further consultation document on AC's Local Development Plan – Proposed Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions was summarised – comments requested by 3 February.

Re the consultation papers referred to and discussed, it was felt that Community Councillors were not always equipped to comment on such consultations, the documentation on which is complex, although the fact that we were being kept aware of developments was appreciated.

**d) Community Planning**

- A Ward Representative for Ward 14 (which includes 5 Community Councils) for the Marr Community Planning Group is being sought – nominations to be in by 16 March.
- The Marr Youth Action Plan 2011 outlining the views of young people in Huntly, Alford, Aboyne and Banchory on various issues affecting their lives was summarised (previously emailed to members)
- Dates of Community Ward Forums in 2012 and topics to be covered
- VSA Support for Carers (Short Breaks Fund)
- Scottish Thistle Awards 2012
- Awards for All funding opportunities
- Introduction to Wind Energy and Community Benefit – training sessions

e) **Coat of Arms Project** Our application for Listed Building Consent for the display case goes before the Planning Committee on 24 January and is to be recommended for approval subject to conditions. If granted, Duncan Anderson (joiner) to be contacted. Money is “ringfenced” within the General Account to cover the cost of all the work done by him. A discussion ensued on whether the case should be insured – John’s understanding is that as it will be part of the fixtures and fittings, it will be covered under the Stewart Hall’s insurance; failing that, it could be incorporated into the Gordon Highlanders policy. To be checked.

f) **Addition of Name to War Memorial** Hilda advised members that the Service of Dedication will take place on 19 May (to be followed by a service at the school, being organised by ex-Rector John Swan and the FPA, and a reception). We are awaiting written permission from the Royal British Legion for the addition of Corporal Pike’s name to the War Memorial. Meantime accommodation for the family has been provisionally booked and Bishop Strange of the Episcopalian Church will lead the Service of Dedication. It is planned that Huntly Pipe Band will play at the start and end of the service and their availability has been confirmed. Bob will be recommending at next week’s ESC committee meeting that the ESC pay for the reception afterwards – this was welcomed. We will have to fundraise for the accommodation costs but Families of the Fallen will pay the bulk of the travel costs. A sub-committee is to be set up to progress the plans for the event.

g) **Feedback from G-Med Out-of-Hours Service Special Meeting** Hilda summarised the reply received from Richard Carey of NHS Grampian in response to our letter; the new system is apparently working well and is being reviewed quarterly. She thanked Strathbogie CC for also sending a letter.

Hilda also referred to the consultation document on Changes to Maternity Cover in Grampian; she had attended the Stewart’s Hall meeting which outlined proposed changes that could potentially affect Huntly. John has completed the consultation questionnaire in his own right; Hazel took the documents for further perusal.

h) **Feedback from Brander Building Meeting** Hilda read out the notes from the meeting held in November, and the response received from Museum Services to our letter requesting an inventory/the location of artefacts removed from the Brander. A discussion ensued on the future of the museum space, and what is happening in other communities. It was agreed to contact Richard Hammock, who undertook on behalf of HDT in November to arrange an initial meeting of a “heritage group” made up of those who had noted an interest in being involved. It was felt by some that HDT should be taking a lead in supporting, financially or otherwise, the retention of space as a museum, and that some of the artefacts housed in the Gordon Highlanders museum in Aberdeen could be displayed in Huntly. Norma outlined the experience of a previous heritage group which had folded due to lack of interest.

i) **Road Traffic Management Review** Hilda thanked Councillors Stroud and Ross for initiating a response from Mark Skilling. She summarised Mark’s email of 1 December requesting our comments on the recommendations of his draft report, and read out our response of 13 December. The draft report promised for early January (to go to committee in February) has not been received – Mary to chase up Mark.

4. **Amendments to Constitution/Youth Member** We now have an electronic copy of Strathbogie CC’s constitution which is modelled on our own and Mary will use this as the basis for producing an electronic copy of Huntly CC’s constitution (currently only paper copy held although 2008 amendments held electronically), which will then be amended to incorporate the clauses requested by Aberdeenshire Council. It is planned that the new constitution will be in place for the AGM in May.

Rector Hall of The Gordon Schools has indicated that several pupils are interested in being Youth Members of Huntly Community Council; we have however advised that we are only seeking one nomination, and await his further response.

5. **Treasurer's Report** Bob advised there is £1,196 in the General Fund (£698 of which allocated to the Coat of Arms project); the Gordon Highlanders account holds £764 and EIS £3,762.

6. **Correspondence  
For the Table**

- Proposed changes to Maternity Services in Grampian
- Huntly Pound/LETS – explanation sheets

**Planning**

- Our comments re the Archimedean Screw HE Generator proposal were submitted to AC Planning on 30 November, however, per their website, this proposal has been withdrawn by the applicant
- Planning sheets for the period 18.11.11 to 19.12.12 were circulated.

**Other**

- Computer Classes in the Community – PCinspire
- Deveron Arts – re slow Marathon
- Scottish Hydro-Electric Free Appliances Scheme
- Portsoy Road Footpath update
- Creation of a National Network of Community Councils – website/blogs now in place
- Hilda summarised various items of correspondence regarding windfarm proposals: invitation to Clashindarroch Community Group Meeting – 3 February noon to 2 pm, Gordon Arms Hotel; West Coast Energy – update re Cairnborrow proposal; she invited Colin's feedback on the initial meeting with Burcote Wind and the community to discuss the way forward for any community benefit arising from their proposal. She advised that she and Mary had met with a representative from the Scottish Community Foundation in November – they are keen to be involved, at no charge to the community, in issues such as governance of community benefit schemes.

7. **AOCB**

- Hilda offered congratulations to TD Barbers who won the Christmas Window Competition and advised there may be a revamp of the way such competitions are judged in the future to allow for wider community involvement.
- Because of the public event to be held in May, EIS will not take place in its present form in 2012, but it is hoped to hold an afternoon event on 3 June that will also celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. However, this is dependent on the support of other groups/individuals. A meeting is to be scheduled in the coming weeks to which all interested parties will be invited to contribute ideas; the take-up at this meeting will determine the scale of any event held.
- Hilda feels that the format of CC meetings should be changed so that meetings (while complying with our obligations to report on matters referred to us by Aberdeenshire Council/Community Planning and other agencies) are shorter, more efficient, and deal more with Huntly-specific issues. Members were asked to consider how this might be achieved and bring ideas to the next meeting.
- Hilda thanked all for attending the meeting which closed at 10 pm.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 16 February 2012 at 7.30 pm.