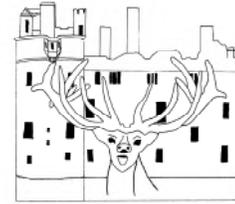




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the February 2013 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 21st February 2013 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Hazel McIntosh (Treasurer); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Freda McRae; Rev Norma Milne; Jordie Cole; Sgt Neil Binning; Pat Scott (Huntly Express)

Apologies: Colin Grant, Bob Ness, Cllr Moira Ingleby

Hilda welcomed members and extended a special welcome to Sgt Neil Binning and Pat Scott. She advised that a list of all correspondence received since the January meeting had been circulated by Mary prior to tonight's meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the 17.01.13 meeting were proposed for acceptance by Hazel McIntosh and seconded by Freda McRae.

3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues Sgt Binning advised that in the period 18.01.13 to 17.02.13 there were just 16 crimes/offences recorded within Huntly, the majority for assault and antisocial behavior. 11, of which 2 were for vandalism, have been detected, and 4 have positive lines of enquiry. Following information received by Huntly officers, a cannabis cultivation was discovered at premises in Rothienorman. A drug search warrant was also executed at a house in Huntly in a related enquiry and a male has been reported for possession of cannabis. A routine stop by Roads Policing Officers on the bypass led to the recovery of dealer quantities of cannabis and a 4-figure sum of cash. A non-local male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following collaboration between Huntly Police and the Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group, leaflets have been produced highlighting the potential dangers associated with driving on country roads in Aberdeenshire. Police throughout the Garioch, North and South Marr areas will be stopping motorists to educate them about the risks This has so far been well-received by the public.

Nominations are sought for the 13th annual Community Safety Awards which recognize the achievement of a Community Safety Group, an individual, or another group, in the establishment and sustaining of a project which is making a positive impact in the field of Community Safety in Aberdeenshire. This information has also been sent directly to the CC and is included in the list of correspondence circulated by Mary.

Raised by members: a) Freda raised concerns about the congestion at the War Memorial when school buses (particularly the "bendy" buses) pass through. Sgt Binning advised that this however was not a police matter. Hilda reminded members of the original intention for buses to park at the AWP pavilion

with pupils making their way to and from there via the upgraded path that runs up to the school. However, the cost of tarring the pavilion car park is prohibitive, there are fuel emission and drainage implications, and there are also issues with the path which hinder it being used in the manner intended, thus the proposed plan has not got off the ground. Jordie undertook to make enquiries at the school re whether it is ever likely to go ahead. b) Freda raised the issue of illegal parking at the top of Duke Street. It has however been noted that drivers parking there illegally are being asked to move on. There are still areas in the town where yellow lines are not yet in place. Sgt Binning advised that the police would continue monitoring the situation.

Hilda referred to the Strategic Police Plan, which was circulated to members in January, with comments requested by 22nd February. She asked Sgt Binning about the launch of the new “101” number. He advised the public can call this number for non-emergencies, and that technology allows for identification of the area the call has come from and subsequent connection to the nearest Service Centre.

Sgt Binning left the meeting at 7.50 pm. Hilda thanked him for his contribution.

B) Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

- a) Road Closures – The Square on 16th March all day for a community event by Aurora Productions; cancellation of street lighting works on Deveron Street due to winter weather.
- b) Update on Cemetery Hedge Hilda read Sandy Grant’s response to our query re the condition of the remains of the hedge in front of the new fence. He has confirmed that work is ongoing and that a further tidy-up will take place.
- c) Response from Dog Warden re request for posters Hilda read Maureen Adam’s response to our request for posters to display on lampposts. She feels there is sufficient provision already and reminded us that she can be contacted in confidence if fouling is seen taking place, or to request a special clean-up for badly-soiled pavements (but not grass areas). The lack of bins and the litter problem in the industrial estate was raised by Norma. Mary to ask the Council’s Wasteline if a general purpose bin can be provided in the area.
- d) Handrail at Stewart’s Hall Kenny McLennan, Clerk of Works, has confirmed that approval has been given for a handrail to be erected and that work should start soon.
- e) Duke Street Takeaway Stuart Ranford, Planning Inspector, has confirmed that the frontage has been repainted as per the approval and is now considered acceptable by the Council.
- f) March meeting We have been asked by the Council to participate in a Community Council Engagement Seminar taking place on 21st March (the same night as our next meeting), with the aim of identifying items for the Main Issues Report. We have agreed to their suggestion that the CC attends the seminar which starts at 7 pm in the Stewart’s Hall and is expected to last an hour, meaning that our CC meeting will start at 8 pm. If the seminar overruns, it may be that one or two CC members will stay on (provided the CC meeting is quorate) while the others will adjourn to the Council Chambers for the CC meeting.
- g) February CWF Update Hilda thanked Mary, Norma and Freda for attending this meeting on 20th February which was given over to discussion of what should go into the Marr Community Plan. Issues discussed had included the lack of facilities in remote areas, licencing changes and the impact on staging of community events, and increased broadband provision. The perceived lack of facilities/usage of the Huntly Industrial Estate had been raised at the CWF. This provoked discussion among CC members who believe the Estate is well-used. Hilda advised that Mary is to attend a Social Media training session in March but with no obligation to subsequently establish a CC Facebook/Twitter page. Hilda read an email from Lizzy Shepherd explaining the differences between the Marr Community Plan and the Local Development Plan.

- ii) **Town Events Diary** An A4 diary, set up via the publishers of the AB54 magazine, now sits at the kiosk in the Stewart's Hall, and has also been placed at the "ticket table" during Coffee Mornings.
- iii) **Brander Museum Space** Hilda advised members that she and Mary had had a productive meeting with Carol Leathley, Acting Cultural Services Manager, on 28th January re the potential future use of the museum room(s), and await Carol's advice re progression of this issue. Mary had subsequently emailed Carol to thank her and to advise that in addition to the planned visit to the Museum Service at Mintlaw by Hilda and Mary, accompanied by Carol, the Huntly and District Heritage Group are keen to visit Mintlaw. Hilda stressed any future museum exhibitions will require much organisation and resources, including the recruitment of suitably-trained community volunteers.
- iv) **Entertainment in the Square 2013** Hilda has advised Doug Mackie, the Events contact at Grampian Police, that there will be no EIS in 2013 but that one is planned for 2014 (to be held on the first Sunday in June but finishing at the earlier time of 8pm) as part of the Homecoming celebrations. The start of planning for this event will be discussed at the September meeting although plans for associated fundraising may need to be discussed earlier than this.
- v) **Nomination for Sports Award** Hilda advised that as per Mary's earlier email, John has nominated Rhiannon Chisholm for an award for her progress in kickboxing, including reaching bronze and silver in the World Championships. She referred to the Huntly Express coverage of Rhiannon's nomination and offered to her the CC's congratulations on being shortlisted for an award. Hilda reminded members that Mary should be notified in advance if they intend to submit nominations/complete forms on behalf of the CC. She encouraged members to get involved in such participation if they have a particular interest/expertise in a given topic but stressed the need for Mary to be able to inform other CC members of what is being done on their behalf.
- vi) **Planning** There were three planning applications for the period 18.01.13 to 17.2.13. The potential safety implications re the application for the provision of vehicular access at Bleachfield Street were discussed but it was concluded that this was not an issue.
- vii) **AOCB**
- a) **Letter from Sir Malcolm Bruce** Hilda advised that Freda had, per the terms of the Constitution, declared an interest in this topic as it referred to a relation of hers, and thanked her for doing so. Freda did therefore not participate in the discussion which followed. Hilda had received a letter from Sir Malcolm Bruce, written on behalf of one of his constituents, Mr Frank Smith, who wished a plaque dedicated to his late wife to be erected near the Gordon Street Pedestrian Crossing. Mrs Smith had been a campaigner for a crossing to be put in place in Gordon Street following an incident where she had been hit by a car. Mr Smith had subsequently visited Hilda to provide further information and Hilda had undertaken to raise the issue at this meeting. She had however advised him that if the request was granted, permission would have to be sought from the owner of the property on which the plaque was to be erected, planning permission sought from Aberdeenshire Council, and funding sourced for the cost of the plaque. After much discussion, the consensus view was that, in view of the fact that others had been involved in the campaign for a crossing, the costs and permissions involved, and the feeling that the erection of a plaque would set a precedent, it was not feasible to grant Mr Smith's request. It was agreed to write to Mr Smith and Sir Malcolm to advise of our decision and the reasons behind it.
- b) **Creative Places Award** It was agreed to write to Deveron Arts to offer the CC's congratulations for winning this award which has secured £100,000 for various projects for the town.
- c) **Request for CC Lapel Badge** A request has been received from a collector in Yorkshire for one of our CC badges. After some discussion, it was agreed to send him one as a goodwill

gesture. Freda suggested that we purchase more badges to sell at the EIS Homecoming event and this will be considered.

d) Marr Area Office Questionnaire Hilda advised that Mary has completed and returned this questionnaire.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel reported that the General Account holds £730.01 (the sum remaining when Duncan Anderson pays in the cheque issued to him last month), the EIS Account £3,721.74, and the Gordon Highlanders Account £632.69. She advised that she and Hilda had met with the Clydesdale Bank re transferring our accounts to them and the appropriate forms have been completed. It is anticipated that the new arrangements will be up and running in a week or so.

Pat Scott left the meeting at 9.10 pm.

5. **Correspondence**

A list of all correspondence received had been circulated in advance, with relevant items discussed earlier in the meeting. Further items highlighted were a tree-planting session in the Battlehill on 24th February and Deveron Arts' Glenlivet to Huntly Slow Marathon taking place on 20th April.

6. **AOCB** It was noted that we will have to begin a recruitment drive for new members before the May AGM and elections. Jordie advised that he will be finishing his term as Youth Member in September and has undertaken to promote around the school the vacancy his departure will create.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – Hilda reminded members that the next meeting will be preceded by attendance at the CC Engagement Seminar which starts at 7 pm in the Stewart's Hall New Room, followed by the CC meeting at 8 pm. She advised that those members who could not make the 7 pm start would be welcome to join the Seminar at 7.30 pm, or just come along to the CC meeting at 8 pm, but hoped that as many members as possible would be able to attend both.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.