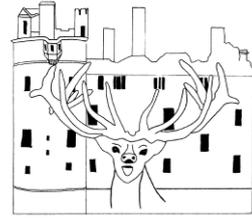




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the February 2014 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 20th February 2014 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Hazel McIntosh (Treasurer); Freda McRae; Rev Norma Milne; Bob Ness; Bronwyn Gall; Mary Burgerhout (Secretary)

Others: Pat Scott (Huntly Express)

Apologies: Cllr Joanna Strathdee had hoped to attend if time allowed after an earlier meeting.

Hilda welcomed members and Pat Scott to the meeting.

A list of correspondence received since the January meeting had been circulated prior to tonight's meeting, some items from which would be referred to during the meeting and some which were put on the table.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The January minutes were proposed for acceptance by Bob Ness and seconded by Tony Gill.

3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues There was no Police Report or Police representative. Hilda advised that an introductory email had been received from Sgt Andy Sawers requesting dates of CC meetings, and a letter received from the Aberdeenshire and Moray Divisional Commander re the retention of Public Counter Service provision, which confirmed that Huntly Police Station will remain open from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday (with a one-hour break at 12.30 pm). See under Current Issues, vii) g) for an issue Freda had intended to notify the police of.

B) Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

- a) Temporary Traffic Restriction – closure of the Square on 29th March from 11.30 am to 4 pm for TGS 175th anniversary parade.
- b) Huntly Green Transport Strategy The CC had provided a letter of support for the Climate Challenge Fund application being progressed by various agencies including Aberdeenshire Council and Huntly and District Development Trust. The application has been submitted and the result will be known in April, the aim if successful being to set up a Huntly Green Transport Hub.
- c) Huntly Flood Protection Scheme/Flood Risk Management Further to Freda's advice in January that public notices have been posted around the town, Hilda reported that after our last meeting she had received a letter formally advising us of the consultation process. The CC welcomes the proposal.
- d) Community Council Training Aberdeenshire Council are organising a series of training days for CCs as part of the implementation of the CC Support Action Plan, with one to be held in Huntly on 13th September. Several members expressed an interest in attending – Mary to respond to AC accordingly.
- e) EIS – Police contact Hilda had been contacted by an officer from the Stonehaven office on behalf of Doug Mackie, local Events Manager for Police Scotland, asking if EIS 2014 was going ahead. Hilda confirmed to her it was not.

f) Huntly Cemetery Complaint The CC had been copied in on an email sent to Cllr Strathdee from a non-Huntly resident who had been visiting a relative's grave, expressing concern about uneven grass edging at graves in the old cemetery. Both Cllr Strathdee and we had responded, the former advising she would pass the visitor's concerns onto the appropriate department, following which we received a letter of thanks from the individual for our responses.

ii) Road Issues

a) Public Transport Priorities The CC has been asked to complete a questionnaire recording what it feels are the priorities re public transport provision as it affects Huntly. The issue was discussed and four priorities were identified, these being improvements to the existing Huntly to Aberdeen and Huntly to Elgin/Inverness routes, and the need for buses from Huntly to Dufftown and Huntly to Banff/Turriff. Mary to summarise the responses and submit the completed questionnaire.

b) Parking Issues Representations had been made to Hilda on the following: Car parking at Huntly Motors Concern has been expressed about the number of cars parked outside the garage on Deveron Road. Oncoming cars, the need to pull out onto the road (on a bend) to pass parked cars, the proximity to a junction and bus-stops and the likelihood of the road being used as a short-cut when work begins shortly on the A96 bridge were all cited as potential causes of accidents. Bob noted the situation had been created because there is no customer parking facility within the garage's premises. Lorry Parking at Huntly Cemetery There is frequently a lorry parked, sometimes during the day as well as overnight, in one of the sidings, and distress was recently caused when it started up its engine while a funeral was taking place. There is no sign to indicate that lorries should not park there and Bob suggested that a vehicle weight limit should be introduced. Mary to contact the Council. Ogilvie Avenue parking Hilda had been given a photograph showing a line of cars parked on the Avenue outside the dental surgery, some blocking residents' exits from their drives. This is apparently a common occurrence and appears to be due to insufficient parking space at the surgery and hospital. It was suggested that the picnic area on the other side of Gordon Street from the Market Muir playing fields (part of the MM), could be used to create additional parking space, although it is apparently well-used in the summer months. Tony will find out who the NHS contact is and Mary will then write to them, copying in the Council and the Dental Surgery.

Market Muir Junction Hilda reported there had been yet another accident at the junction and that the problems appear to stem from vehicles approaching the junction from the Asda roundabout.

iii) Clashindarroch Community Fund Hilda advised that she and Mary had attended on 6th February a productive meeting of the five groups who form the Working Group for the fund. Common ground was established about the proposed consultation process which included a suggestion that Huntly and Strathgobogie CCs hold a joint consultation event in Huntly, to be organised by Foundation Scotland. It was also agreed that as Glass Community Association falls under Strathgobogie, that it be removed as a signatory from the Memorandum of Understanding and that the fund be split four ways rather than five, although Glass will remain a member of the Working Group. At the meeting with FS on 11th February, the MoU and Terms of Reference were discussed, Huntly CC's contribution being, in the absence of comments from other members, the views of Hilda and Mary. At that meeting the suggestions for community consultation were accepted by FS, and so there will be three consultation events running on consecutive days (Cabrach 13th, Rhynie 14th, and Huntly 15th March). The Huntly event will be held on a Saturday coffee morning day in the downstairs meeting room of the Stewart's Hall and will continue into the afternoon. A Survey Monkey questionnaire will also be devised.

Hilda advised for information that Deveron Arts had asked Vattenfall, who had passed the request onto FS, for copies of the original Vattenfall survey to be made available for distribution, but having consulted with us, DA were advised by FS that the 15th March event was the springboard for consultation, surveys etc, and that any requests for "sub-consultations" could be progressed then as appropriate.

Kemp's Hill Co-op Owned Wind Turbine Proposal CC members had received a letter re the above, inviting them to an exhibition at Gartly on 7th February. As the proposed development is geographically one on which the CC would adopt a neutral stance, Mary had responded accordingly.

- iv) Entertainment Events in 2014 Re the Pipes in Park event scheduled for 30th August, Hilda had spoken to Hamish Dean following his request that the CC organise a mini-EIS for the event, advising that we were not in a position to do so. This was accepted by Hamish who is progressing the PEL required for the event. Meantime, Catrin Jeans, Cultural Health Visitor with Deveron Arts, had emailed Mary to ask if the CC could organise an EIS event. While Hilda had advised Catrin previous to this that we would not be doing so, it transpired that she was in fact contacting all Cultural Fund winners to ask them to contribute to the August event. Catrin had also advised Hilda that an event to explain/discuss Public Entertainment Licence legislation was planned for March and it transpires that this event, to be held on the 19th, involves representatives from the Council's Cultural Services department.

Hazel advised that she is now a member of the TGS Parent Council and that she has been made aware of discussions about the 175th Anniversary Parade on 29th March for which apparently all necessary permissions have been received. Pat will put a further article in to the Huntly Express reminding people of the war-themed Window Competition and the judging of same on the weekend of 22nd/23rd March. Hilda suggested that the Huntly Olympic skiers could also form part of the parade. Bob advised that the committee who are organising the WW1 commemorative event are awaiting the necessary permissions before proceeding with their plans.

- v) Town Flag/Coat of Arms Logo The Marr Area Committee have kindly made the full amount we were seeking available so that we have been able to purchase a flagpole, flag case, belt and ceremonial gauntlets to carry and parade the town flag. The pole, case and belt were delivered this week (gauntlets to follow) and they were duly assembled and their use demonstrated by a willing volunteer (Tony). It was suggested that the flag could now be paraded at the TGS event, but prior to that Mary will ask Neil McAdam if he or one of his cadets can "model" the flag and accessories with a view to some publicity shots being taken to promote it use.
- vi) Planning Applications There were no applications in the period 17th January to 20th February. Hilda advised that the two applications the CC had objected to (the Granary Street flats and the Gordon Street take-away) had been approved. Members were extremely disappointed at these decisions and particularly the fact that of the four Ward 14 councillors, only Cllr Strathdee had objected to the take-away application. While it was acknowledged that the applications respectively provided additional housing and the re-use of an empty shop, it was felt that ours, and others', objections remained valid. It was confirmed that there is no right of appeal on the part of an objector(s). Hilda advised that we had also lodged comments on the application for an off-licence by RS McColl.
- vii) AOCB
- a) Hilda, Freda and Mary had attended a Burns Lunch hosted by Deveron Arts at the Linden Centre.
 - b) Hilda read an email from the owners of the Linden Tree, expressing concern at the siting of a transport information stand outside the shop. Given the stringent planning process they had to go through to get permission to paint the shop's exterior, they felt it unfair that such a large stand (which replaces a much smaller one) could be erected without nearby properties being notified. Members agreed with these concerns in what is a conservation area, and felt that the stand could have been sited right beside the bus shelter. Mary to contact the Planning Department accordingly.
 - c) Hilda advised she had been contacted by Christine Aldridge to thank the CC for their card and condolences following Professor Aldridge's death.
 - d) Hilda, who is part of the AB54 Health and Wellbeing Group, stated that at a recent meeting of that group Hazel McLaren had advised that a report, currently in draft form, is to be published providing statistical information on the social demographics of the AB54 area. The aim is for the report to become a central point of reference for those completing funding applications.
 - e) Hilda congratulated the Huntly Olympic skiers on their participation in the Winter Olympics, and wished Andrew Young well following the enforced withdrawal of he and his partner due to the former's recurring medical condition.
 - f) We have had a letter re the long term forest plan for the Avochie Estate at Rothiemay for which comments are invited by 24th February.
 - g) Freda had been contacted by a driver who had witnessed "roller skiers" making their way along Deveron Road in the dark with no reflective clothing or lights. This, and the angle their poles are

held at, was felt to create an accident risk. The issue will be raised with the police at the next meeting. Bob noted that some paperboys/girls are cycling without lights in the early mornings and also going the wrong way up one-way streets. It was agreed it was up to shop-owners to ensure that their delivery staff complied with road safety recommendations.

- h) Tony noted that the town barriers, of which the CC are custodians, are still sitting outside in the Council yards, despite two requests from us to have them moved indoors. There was concern that since one of the yards is permanently open, they could go missing. There should be 100 barriers excluding those on permanent loan to the Farmers' Market committee – Tony to do a count.

Bronwyn left the meeting at 8.50 pm. Pat Scott left at 9.00 pm.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel reported that the General Account holds £128.47 (the cost of the flag equipment having been paid from this account pending reimbursement from Aberdeenshire Council), the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35 and the EIS Account £3,721.74. Hilda advised that from 1st April 2014 our CC insurance will be managed by Highland Council as part of a Shared Services Agreement between them and Aberdeenshire Council.
5. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:
- a) Aberdeenshire Council – see items already discussed under various agenda items.
 - b) Community – the next Ward 14 Community Ward Forum (focusing on funding strategies) will be held at the Tin Hut, Gartly, on 12th March. Hilda asked for nominations to attend the “How should European Funds be spent in Aberdeenshire?” event being held on 26th February in the Stewart's Hall. Mary and Freda to attend.
 - c) Other – see items already discussed under various agenda items.
6. **AOCB** Hilda had received an email from a member of Aberdeenshire Youth Council/the Scottish Youth Parliament, requesting our views on the practice of school pupils having to queue separately in, or being banned from, some shops/food outlets at lunchtimes. Hilda had passed a copy of the email to Bronwyn prior to her departure and asked her to seek feedback from her fellow pupils. It is not thought the practice occurs in Huntly.

Hazel asked whether the Independence debate to be run by the Scottish Alliance which we had been asked last year to co-host (we declined) was indeed to be held. As we have not heard anything more about it nor seen any promotional material, we assume it is not going ahead in the short-term.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 20th March 2014.