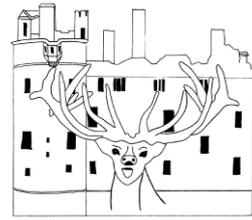




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the June 2014 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 19th June 2014 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

Others: Pat Scott (Huntly Express); PC Craig Arnott

Apologies: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair)

Tony welcomed members, Pat Scott and PC Arnott to this, the last meeting before the summer recess.

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

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The May minutes were proposed for acceptance by Bob Ness and seconded by Freda McRae.

3. Co-option of Youth Member Mary had met with Isadora (Dora) Lee, who has been nominated by The Gordon Schools for the position of Youth Member. Her nomination form has been signed by Tony Gill as proposer and Hilda Lumsden-Gill as seconder, and members agreed unanimously to Dora's co-option for 12 months. We look forward to welcoming her at our September meeting.

3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues PC Craig Arnott presented the police report. In the period 16th May to 19th June, there were 37 crimes/offences within Huntly for a variety of petty assaults, minor thefts and anti-social behaviour, including vandalism and road traffic offences. 20 of these have been detected and some others have positive lines of enquiry. Although there were no incidents of note during the reporting period, a national operation has been ongoing using additional resources to focus on undetected assault enquiries. Several local enquiries have been progressed in the past month. An increased level of scrutiny has been placed on young drivers who congregate at the Market Muir car park.

An email has been received from Sgt Sawers re the installation of CCTV cameras in the Square. This is not a new initiative, previous plans having been dropped for cost reasons. Hazel felt people should have been consulted rather than having CCTV imposed on them and queried whether crime levels in Huntly warranted such intrusion (there is no CCTV in other small towns in Aberdeenshire). PC Arnott advised that levels of anti-social behaviour in Huntly have indeed fallen and that the Market Muir is another potential venue for CCTV installation. It is assumed that the Council will make the final decision on whether CCTV is installed in the Square since although there was concern that since funding is being actively sourced it is already be a done deal. The recently-introduced fortnightly "Beatbox" articles in the Huntly Express were discussed and the hope expressed that it will be a long-term feature. Hazel suggested that PS Sawers be asked to attend a future CC meeting. PC Arnott will convey this request to him. Freda referred to an article in the P & J about the yellow lines in Duke Street and the apparently imminent work to paint the correct width of lines (see also under Road Issues). There are still concerns about dangerous parking at the Granary St/Church St junction, and young motorists at the Market Muir junction. PC Arnott confirmed that the police patrol in unmarked

cars and carry out foot patrols, and that we can expect to see more of them on bicycles once training courses have been completed. A traffic warden has been seen locally recently, one of three for the whole of Aberdeenshire. However, their remit is to check illegal parking in car parks, not yellow lines, and it is the police's responsibility to issue tickets for parking on the latter.

PC Arnott left the meeting at 7.50 pm. Tony thanked him for his presence.

B) Huntly Topics

i) **Current Issues**

- a) Glass Recycling Points – Per an email from their Waste Section, Aberdeenshire Council are to introduce glass recycling points at Scott Court, Queens Gardens and the Gordon Street flats, with further sites in the pipeline. Hazel asked whether planning permission was required for these, being concerned about the noise made in residential areas, the potential for broken glass etc. Tony referred to the email which advises that residents in the affected areas have been canvassed and indeed the introduction of glass recycling points has been welcomed. Nevertheless it was agreed to write to Recycling Officer Lorna Hogg to address Hazel's concerns.
Pat advised there is huge pressure on Councils to reduce the amount of landfill, and even though there are additional costs associated with the operation of the new equipment, these are less than the penalties that would accrue through not meeting landfill targets. It was noted that the number of general recycling facilities in the town is reducing with Tesco now having a facility for glass only.
- b) Temporary Traffic Restrictions – Asphalt resurfacing work, Steven Road, 2 weeks from 2nd June; Fire hydrant replacement at Kalaw, Battlehill, 1 week from 11th June; various - Pipes in the Park 30th August; Huntly Hairst/Farmers Market 6th September
- c) Town Flag Neil McAdam has asked to borrow the town flag for two weeks so that his 1698 Squadron can practice for a banner competition; this was agreed. The Episcopal Church committee has asked to borrow the flag accessories for their Bishop Petrie Pilgrimage walk to Dunbennan Churchyard on 28th June; this was agreed, and a request made for a small donation and mention of the CC having lent the accessories in any publicity material.
- d) Clashmach Drive parking provision Residents of 9 – 15 Clashmach Drive have sent the CC a letter requesting the conversion of the large grassy area in front of their houses to 5 parking spaces. While the CC supported the request, it was agreed this was a matter for the Council to address, and in the absence of any Ward Councillors at the meeting, the letter will be forwarded to Mark Skilling with a covering letter from us indicating our support.
- e) Radon Gas levels Residents of Queens Gardens and the surrounding area are concerned that testing of water quality following borehole drilling (commissioned by Aberdeenshire Council) on the site of a former Gasworks has revealed, per anecdotal evidence, that radon gas levels are high. Grampian Housing Association, who advised residents of the work to be carried out, to be contacted.
- f) Bus Safety Hazel, acting as link between the TGS Parent Council and the CC, has been passed a copy of the response from the Council's Transport Unit (which Mary had circulated to members prior to the meeting) to the concerns raised at last year's Transport Meeting. It was felt that the TU had discounted many of the suggestions made at the Transport Meeting and that their somewhat negative response was just going over old ground, although it was noted that the 70-seat single-deck coach operating under the "P" (Insch) contract had been replaced by a double-decker following complaints made about its suitability, warmth etc.

ii) **Road Issues**

- a) Yellow Lines at top of Duke Street Following our email to Ralph Singleton about the reinstatement of the correct width of yellow lines, he has advised that a width of 50mm is recommended in designated conservation areas and that the existing width of Duke Street lines will be checked when the opportunity arises. The CC will monitor the situation. See also under Police Issues.
- b) Ogilvie Avenue Parking – Elizabeth Squires, NHS Area Manager, has advised that she has discussed the issue of improved parking facilities for all hospital staff with Les Allan at a Community Ward Forum, and is waiting to hear from Mark Skilling. Meantime a Business Studies student on placement with the NHS is looking at transport plans across all. Ms Squires has

advised the problems in Ogilvie Avenue appear to have eased. We have written to her to express our satisfaction at this and to suggest that the CC will now take a back step.

- iii) Clashindarroch Community Fund Hilda and Mary have individually reviewed the 46-page draft Community Profile provided by Foundation Scotland and Mary has collated and submitted their comments. The Profile will assist in informing the overall initial fund strategy and provide a resource for groups completing funding applications. Hazel expressed concern at the volume of work and time this review has involved. Tony will attend the next meeting of the Working Group on 23rd June. Meantime, delivery of turbines to the Clashindarroch site has begun. Hazel had attended the Public Exhibition held by GLID, owners of the Glens of Foudland Windfarm, who are applying to add 9 turbines to the development. It was felt that it was preferable to have turbines added to the existing farm rather than see 9 turbines on a new site. £5k per mw would be paid per new turbine as compared to the £1k for the existing ones, and the increased community benefit was welcomed by members.
- iv) 2014 Garden Competition In view of declining numbers of nominations and a need to inject new life into the competition, it was agreed for 2014 to adopt the suggestion made by one of the professional judges last year that the competition be run on an "open" basis by judges simply walking through the town, identifying gardens as they do so, and deciding on the best in each category. Existing categories will be retained, although the "First Time Entry" will be renamed "Novice" for ease of administration and to encourage new gardeners/entrants (the winner will still be given the "Best First Time Entry" shield). The new format for 2014 was agreed by members and the competition will be held on Saturday 2nd August, both professional judges from last year having indicated their availability. A CC member was sought to accompany them and Norma volunteered, with Tony available as back-up.
- v) Planning Applications Weekly planning lists are now being sent by the Council and the information for Huntly is easily extractable. Those received since the last meeting were put on the table and several were selected for discussion although there were no particular issues of concern.
- vi) AOCB
 1. Freda had been approached by an acquaintance who works for Tesco who advised that the supermarket wish to do something, such as a litter pick, for the community. Tony referred to a letter received from an organisation called Helping Hands who in conjunction with Keep Scotland Beautiful are promoting clean-ups for towns through which the Queen's Baton will pass, and which might be an avenue for Tesco to explore, although it was felt that there wasn't enough time to for Tesco to organise anything given the Baton will be in Huntly on 2nd July. It was suggested that they could get involved with organising a clean-up for the Homecoming. Freda will take our suggestions back to the employee in question.
 2. The AB54 magazine co-ordinator has asked Bronwyn Gall to write of her experience of being a Youth Member of the CC. Mary has written to Bronwyn asking if she intends to do so and while we welcome her contribution as part of the CC's quarterly report for AB54 magazine, we have requested that any planned article is run past the CC first.
 3. Sandy Grant rang Mary to ask for clarification on the location of the waste bin requested for the playing field opposite the AWP/pavilion and to confirm that such a bin will be provided.
 4. Meadows Footbridge – Freda was concerned that the footbridge in the plantation has been closed off for some time. It was confirmed its closure is linked to the work involved in the new Flood Prevention Scheme and that once all objections to the scheme have been resolved, the bridge will be reinstated.
 5. Council Review of Registration Services – following a review of service provision across the shire, it has been confirmed that Huntly will continue to provide registration services.
 6. Objection to Asda planning application. In response to a query from Hazel, Tony advised that there had been some confusion because of the fact there had been two separate

applications, and we had in fact responded to the wrong one with our concerns about the erosion of disabled parking spaces. It transpired that we were too late to make representations in any case since our April meeting had not been quorate and the deadline for responses had passed by the time the CC had discussed it in May.

Pat Scott left the meeting at 9.10 pm.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel advised that the General Account holds £154.03, the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35, and the EIS Account £3,721.74.
5. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:
Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office – items already covered as appropriate.
Community Planning – Notes from the last CWF included information on the Aberdeenshire Volunteer Centre (as referred to in the May minutes); Mary to contact them to ask that they advertise/promote our CC vacancies.
Other – items already covered as appropriate/put on the table.
6. **AOCB**
 1. Les Allan, Marr Area Manager, retired on 19th June. He has been a good supporter of Huntly, had spent a lot of time on the Aberdeen Towns Partnership initiative as it related to Huntly, and had been of great help to Hilda when she started as Chair of the CC. A retirement card signed by all members had been sent to him. It was agreed to extend an invitation to his successor, Janelle Clark, to attend a CC meeting.
 2. A Scotland-wide review of numbers of Ward Councillors has recommended that Aberdeenshire numbers increase from 68 to 70.
 3. Our supply of Coat of Arms lapel badges has dwindled and Mary has researched online the cost of buying more. The more we order, the cheaper the cost per badge. It is felt that 200 will be sufficient. The total cost would be in the region of £300. As well as badges being presented to individuals as appropriate, they are also be made available for sale at selected outlets. Mary to contact Fiona Hills who supplied them originally to find out the cost if we ordered via her again, and compare this to the online price. It was agreed that any purchase price be borne by the Entertainment in the Square account.
 4. Bob advised that a license has been applied for in respect of the August WW1 commemorative event being organised by the Ex-Servicemen's Club.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm. Tony thanked all for coming along and wished everyone a good summer.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 18th September 2014. (NB. Post meeting note – this has been changed to Thursday 25th September as the original date clashed with the Independence Referendum date/use of the Stewart's Hall as a polling station).