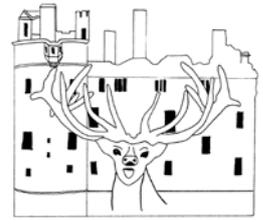




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Tony Gill (Vice-Chair); Hazel McIntosh (Treasurer); Freda McRae; Rev Norma Milne; Ronald Pittendrigh; Isadora Lee (Youth Member); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary)

Others: Pat Scott (Huntly Express); Oliver Giles (HDDT); Michelle Goodall (observer)

Apologies: Hilda Lumsden-Gill

Tony welcomed all to the meeting. A list of correspondence received since the September meeting (the October meeting was not quorate) 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.

Tony paid tribute to Bob Ness, who passed away in September. Bob, a founding member of the CC, had been both Secretary and Treasurer in his time, and was a cornerstone of our group. He will be sorely missed. A card and flowers were sent to his wife Christine and three CC members attended Bob's funeral.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The September minutes were proposed for acceptance by Freda and seconded by Norma.

3. Co-option of Member Tony welcomed Ronald Pittendrigh, whose nomination for co-option had been proposed by Hazel and seconded by Tony. All members being in agreement, Ronald was invited to the table to join the meeting. The Huntly Express article on recruitment of CC members had yielded positive results, with a potential new member (who had met with Mary) observing the proceedings tonight. Another member of the public has expressed an interest which she hopes to follow up in the New Year.

4. Guest Speaker Tony welcomed Oliver (Oli) Giles, Green Transport Hub Project Manager with HDDT, whose one-year post has been funded by the Climate Challenge fund. Oli gave a talk on the various initiatives he is working on, including a Car Club, Electric Bikes, Eco-Driver Training and work with Networks of Wellbeing on their Bike Shack project. Huntly has been given Integrated Travel Town status and has received £80k from Sustrans, in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council, to develop cycling and walking facilities in the area. After his talk Oli responded to members' questions on the questionnaire results, provision of electric three-wheel cycles hiring of cars to young drivers, and electricity charging points.

5. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues PC Arlene Stuart was scheduled to attend but was not present, nor was a police report received.

B. Huntly Topics
i) Current Issues

- a) Strathdeveron Bar An email from the Council's solicitor has clarified the existing operating hours, which are changing to 10 am opening Monday to Sunday (was 11 am) and 1 am closing on Saturdays (was 3 am). An application for live music has not been approved.
- b) Visit to Greenmyres In view of Jill Andrews not being available to lead a weekend visit, it was agreed to defer this to the New Year when our new member Ronald, who is a member of the Greenmyres Working Group, will give us a weekend tour.
- c) Winged Wheel Plaque Tim Bowden, who alerted us to the significance of the plaque, was to put this on the agenda of the Cycle Group, of which he and Oli Giles are members. It was agreed they were the appropriate group to progress the plaque's restoration and Tim has also volunteered to speak to the hotel's owner in this regard.
- d) Crow-proof Bins A response is awaited from Sandy Grant – Mary to chase him up. Norma advised that Moray Council provide such bins. It was noted that as requested, a bin has been placed at the football pitch (the former golf driving range).
- e) Portsoy Path Maintenance Following a resident's request that the path be maintained, and the work carried out by volunteers in August, Ronald is leading a further group of volunteers to cut back overhanging trees/bushes - he and Mary had done some work that morning. A two-meter stretch of the path is flooded and it is hoped to resource material from the Avochy quarry to repair the damage - Donald Boyd is researching cost/transport issues.
- f) Clashmach Drive Parking We await a response from the Roads Dept to our request to add the implementation of this request onto their Capital Programme.

ii) Road Issues

- a) Double Yellow Lines at top of Duke Street It had been our understanding (and that of the police officers who had attended previous meetings) that the lines were the incorrect width and that thus parking on them was not illegal. However, Tony read an email from Ralph Singleton advising that the lines are the legal width for a conservation area (50mm) and furthermore that they are judged to be in a good condition and thus not in need of repainting.
- b) Old Road Sign Ralph Singleton has advised that a new sign has been ordered and will be installed by the end of the year, weather permitting.
- c) Removal of Pavement Build-Out at War Memorial Hazel queried why there had been no consultation on the removal of the build-out. Freda advised that it had been put in place originally to accommodate the two large trees at the entrance to the Avenue and should have been removed when the trees were taken out many years ago. It is assumed that it has now been removed to make it easier for buses to turn into Castle Street (one of the actions resulting from concerns expressed at the 2013 School Transport meeting). Hazel felt that the build-out had allowed more room for children waiting to cross the road. Tony suggested Dora/Hazel enquire via the Parent Council re how the decision to remove the build-out had come about.

iii) Clashindarroch Community Fund

Tony and Mary had attempted to get to the Working Group meeting in Glass on 7th October but had been forced back by bad weather. The Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference have been approved by ourselves and other members of the Working Groups except Tap o' Noth who have outstanding concerns. The next meeting will be on 26th November in Huntly. Recruitment of panel members (two from each CC/CA plus one member of the public from each area) is to be progressed. The Initial Report of the findings of the various consultations carried out had been circulated to members by Mary – the closing date for completing the associated survey is 23rd November. There will be two open days (27th November, Huntly and 28th November, Rhynie) to further comment on the report findings. Hilda and Mary, and Hazel and her family, had visited the site as part of Vattenfall's open day.

iv) Planning Applications

Tony reported on the applications received since the September meeting which are still under consideration. There was no significant comment on any of them.

v) AOCB

- a) Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils We have responded, in line with our discussions at the September meeting, to the first stage of the consultation.
- b) Planning Aid Workshop There is to be a day-time workshop on 27th November in Inverurie. Tony hopes to attend.
- c) HDDT Request for Letter of Support We had been asked to provide this in support of HDDT's request for funding for a feasibility study into the establishment of a Sports Hub. HDDT are working in partnership with the various sports organisations in the town to develop a strategy for the future of sports provision.
- d) Request to attend CC Meeting The Conservative candidate for Gordon has asked to attend one of our meetings as an observer in order to determine what the local issues are. This has been agreed to.
- e) E-Learning for CC Members We have the opportunity to register with the Council for this training – Mary to circulate details (deadline 28th November).
- f) Minutes of Marr Area Bus Forum Tony highlighted the issues from the September meeting which related to Huntly (link services with school buses and provision of a Huntly to Turriff route).
- g) Halloween/Christmas Window Competitions Congratulations were extended to Huntly Day Centre who won this year's Halloween competition. Tony highlighted the additional work caused for Mary by the late submissions of some members' nominations and asked that nominations for the Christmas Window display be submitted to her in good time (deadline 8th December).
- h) Pavement Drop Issue Norma had been asked by a resident to make CC members aware that a gentleman had fallen off his electric buggy in the Presley Court/Green Road area due to the kerb he was moving off not allowing smooth access onto the road. The man was not badly hurt but the resident who had witnessed the incident is to report it to the Council offices in Gordon Street.
- i) Skip Site In response to a concern reported to Freda, it was confirmed that individuals who take rubbish to the skip are not, and will not, be charged for doing so, but businesses depositing trade waste are.
- j) Police Scotland Hazel raised the issue of the deteriorating service provided by Police Scotland in terms of their failure to send a Police Officer to our meetings and Sgt Sawers not yet having made himself known to us. It was agreed that the service is not what it was, though it is acknowledged that the fortnightly "Beatbox" article in the HE helps to keep us updated. Ronald suggested that rather than us writing to express our concerns, a CC member visit the police station to discuss our concerns face-to-face. Tony will do so in the coming days.
- k) Nelson Street Car Park The car park is still "pay and display" despite the decision to make it free having been taken some time ago. Mary will write to Mark Skilling to ask when the change is to happen.
- l) Handmade in Huntly invitation We have been invited to the launch of Handmade in Huntly at the former Clydesdale Bank premises on 26th November.
- m) Flagpole Neil McAdam has asked to borrow the flagpole for the coming weekend. This request has been granted.
- n) Super Broadband Launch We have been advised of the launch of Super Broadband in the next month or so, with BT being keen for the community to be involved. Mary had inadvertently received, in addition to initial correspondence, an email intended for Donald Boyd requesting his help with promoting the launch. It was felt that HDDT were the appropriate group to progress this.
- o) Green Dog Walking A new initiative is being developed by Aberdeenshire Council to promote green dogwalking with the aim of reducing the incidence of dog fouling. Mary will register the CC's interest in this and the Huntly Express will promote its launch in the town.

Pat and Dora left the meeting at 9.15 pm.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel advised that the General Account holds £778.53, the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35, and the EIS Account £3,411.74. It was agreed to renew the Raffle Licence for a further year at a cost of £20.

5. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:
Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office – items already covered as appropriate.
Community Planning – Tony and Ronald had attended the Community Ward Forum in Lumsden on 12th September which featured a number of interesting presentations, including one on Planning. Tony had asked if the Planning Workshop which had had to be cancelled when it was to be held in Huntly, would be held there again, and was advised that consideration would be given to doing so in the New Year.
Other – items already covered as appropriate.

6. **AOCB**
 - a) Flood Alleviation Scheme Ronald suggested that this be a standing item on the agenda given the delays in implementing the scheme; he felt that we should be requesting regular updates on its progress. Tony advised that the scheme is in the hands of the Council/developers, (and that the delay is due to a dispute with a landowner) and that therefore it does not necessarily need to be a standard agenda item. However, if a member of the public raises a specific concern, then this will be addressed by the CC, with it being made a specific agenda item if the need arises.
 - b) Christmas Night Out It was agreed to hold this on Saturday 13th December, possibly at the Castle Hotel. Mary will progress.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm. Tony thanked all for attending and extended good wishes for the festive season.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 15th January 2015.