



# HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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## Minutes of the September 2014 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.30 pm

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

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

**Others:** Pat Scott (Huntly Express); Cllr Joanna Strathdee; Cllr Moira Ingleby; Ronald Pittendrigh

**Apologies:** Hilda Lumsden-Gill, Cllr Alastair Ross

Tony welcomed members, Pat Scott and Cllrs Strathdee and Ingleby to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to our new Youth Member, Isadora (Dora) Lee, who was co-opted in June. A list of correspondence received since the June 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. Tony thanked Mary for dealing with the significant volume of correspondence that had come in over the summer.

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

### 3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues There was no Police Officer present, nor was a Police Report received. Post-meeting note: the Police Officer due to attend had been called out to an incident and subsequently sent the following information: There have been 91 crimes/offences recorded in the Huntly area since the Jun meeting, the majority relating to road traffic offences and anti-social behaviour. Of those recroded, 52 have been detected, 39 currently undetected with 28 of the latter still being investigated.

Mary will check that as indicated Sgt Sawers will attend our October meeting to introduce himself and update us on CCTV in Huntly.

### B) Huntly Topics

#### i) Current Issues

- a) Licensing Strathdeveron Bar – a request for variations to opening times and to offsales provision was discussed. Cllr Strathdee advised an application had been submitted previously but objected to by the police, and this second application has not been before the Licensing Board. It was agreed to ask what the current opening hours are and whether the proposed hours are the same as those operated by other premises; if so, the CC would not object (though the last date for comments has passed). Huntly FC Social Club – no objections were raised to the proposal to incorporate the Sponsors' Lounge into the licensed area.
- b) LEADER Programme Aberdeenshire Council are seeking a member (and substitute) from Marr for the Local Action Group – the LAG will meet every 8 weeks for 3 hours. Any CC member who is interested in joining should advise Mary.
- c) Clashmach Drive parking provision Further to the request made by Clashmach Drive residents for the creation of parking spaces, the Council's Roads Dept has advised both the residents of Clashmach Drive and ourselves that there are no resources available to do so. Cllr Strathdee

suggested that we ask the Council to include the request in a future Capital programme. Mary will contact Stuart McFarlane accordingly.

- d) Admin Grant The grant of £828.50 was received in July.
- e) Glass Recycling Facilities Following Hazel's query (see June minutes), the Council's Waste Officer has confirmed that planning permission is not required to locate these facilities at the various housing schemes and that the receptacles were selected specifically for their low-noise qualities.
- f) HDDT – Visit to Greenmyres Farm HDT are offering group visits to Greenmyres Farm and members expressed an interest in doing so, assuming a mutually suitable date/time can be agreed.  
Mary will contact Debbie Haefner.
- g) Winged Wheel The CTC have confirmed the plaque on the Huntly Hotel belongs to the hotel and is listed on the Winged Wheel website. The original colours were blue and gold and the hotel owner would have to be consulted if these were to be restored. Although the hotel is newly up for sale, Mary will contact the owner to ascertain his interest in doing so. It was also suggested that we contact Oliver Giles, Green Transport Hub Manager, who is a keen cyclist, as well as Tim Bowden who raised the issue initially, to see whether their organisations would be prepared to "adopt" the plaque meantime.
- h) Portsoy Path A resident had asked in July that HCC approach the Council to request they regularly maintain the path, bench etc. The path in fact lies in the Strathbogie CC area and is not a Council path, having been put in place by HDDT. Pat advised that a group of volunteers had carried out the requisite work in August. It was noted that in view of the Council's lack of resources, community groups are increasingly expected to take such things on themselves.
- i) Seagulls The same resident had requested that the CC contact the Council re the seagull problem in the town which has arisen due to the introduction of food waste facilities at the recycling plant. The CC being in summer recess, she was advised to contact the Council directly. Tony read out the Environmental Health Officer's response which is that businesses in the town are being contacted and that a strategy is to be put in place for next year.
- j) Crow-Proof Bins A resident has asked that crow-proof bins be introduced at the Meadows/Hill of Haugh area. Mary to contact the Council.
- k) Huntly Floral Fund A certificate of thanks for our annual donation to the fund has been received and will be displayed in the Stewart's Hall window.
- l) Coat of Arms Badges Mary had researched prices for these online and also contacted Fiona Hills of Finks Publishing, our original supplier. It was decided to ask Fiona to supply these again, and we now have 100 badges for presenting to individuals as appropriate and for selling in local outlets. Dora, as our new Youth Member, was given a badge.
- m) Green Travel Hub Oliver Giles wishes to come to a CC meeting to update us on Green Travel Hub projects and has forwarded a link to an online survey on the establishment of a Car Club which has been circulated to members. He is to be invited to our November meeting.
- n) The Gordon Schools Parent Council AGM The AGM took place on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Dora, whose friend attended as Head Girl, will update us on what took place. Hazel advised that a new school website is being launched.
- o) Donations to CC A £10 donation (added to Petty Cash) has been received from Christ Church following our loan to them of the flag carrier. A £150 donation has been received from the Pipes in the Park committee as a thank you for lending our barriers for the event. All members had attended the event and congratulations were offered to the organisers for a fantastic day which had greatly raised the town's profile and a letter will accordingly be written to Hamish Dean.

## ii) Road Issues

- a) Double Yellow Lines We had been advised by Ralph Singleton in May that the width of the lines at the top of Duke Street were to be checked. Mary had chased him up earlier this week but not received a response. It is believed that Mr Singleton may be off work for a spell - Janelle Clark, Marr Area Manager, to be asked to provide an alternative contact.
- b) Old Road Sign The old cast iron sign was removed from the building by the Blythswood shop some time ago and a nearby resident was told that it will be replaced by a modern sign. This has not happened – Mary to ask the Council when and where the new sign will appear.

- iii) Clashindarroch Community Fund Tony provided some background for Dora. The final drafts of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Terms of Reference have been received and circulated to members, and we have been asked to have these endorsed at this meeting so that they can be signed off at the next Working Group meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Both documents were passed by members. In addition to two members from the CC (yet to be decided) being on the Panel responsible for reviewing applications, a community member from each of the four CC/community association areas is to be appointed. Members' views were sought on how the position will be advertised, the successful candidate decided on etc. Norma suggested that one block advert be placed advertising the four vacancies rather than each group doing its own thing. Members' views will be taken to the 7<sup>th</sup> October meeting. Hazel raised concerns about the volume of work that is expected of volunteers in the setting up of the Community Fund. Tony advised that the Cairnborrow Wind Farm has been approved and that HDDT have submitted an application for a turbine at Greenmyres Farm.

Cllrs Strathdee and Ingleby left the meeting at 8.50 pm.

- iv) 2014 Garden Competition The competition was held on 2nd August and the trial format of judges covering the whole town, rather than the public nominating gardens, was very successful in that it allowed many previously unseen gardens to be viewed. Thanks were offered to judges Fiona Murray, Aimee Gow and Norma Milne (morning)/Tony Gill (afternoon.) and congratulations extended to the winners. There has been positive feedback from the public about this year's competition, aided by the Huntly Express's excellent coverage of the event. The format is likely to be repeated in 2015.
- v) Planning Applications Weekly planning lists are now being sent by the Council. Tony ran through the applications received since June – there were no particular issues with these. He advised of a letter received from the Council on the new Public Access Register which details the statutory requirement for CCs to be consulted on planning applications, although there is limited time for responses. (It is however not possible under the new system to select online those in the AB54 8xx area only.) Pat advised that the Council had wanted to stop publishing application details in the Huntly Express and let people view them online only, but the paper argued that not everyone had uses the internet, and so the practice will continue. There is to be a Planning Aid workshop in November or December and anyone interested in attending should give their names to Mary. Hazel is willing to attend should the time and venue be suitable.

vi) AOCB

1. Five CC members had been due to attend the Supporting Communities event at the Linden Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> September but disappointingly it was cancelled due to a poor response from other invitees. The Council hope to schedule another event for Huntly.
2. A consultation has begun on the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, the first phase of which asks us to focus on CC boundaries and membership. It was felt that if the housing development at Pirriesmill (currently within Strathbogie CC's boundaries) which appears in the Local Plan does go ahead, the existing boundaries of the rivers Bogie and Deveron and the A96 should be extended accordingly. Similarly, if the increased population that would result from such a development does come to pass, then membership of the CC may have to increase. As it stands, a maximum membership of 12 is considered more than sufficient.

Pat Scott left the meeting at 9.15 pm.

4. Treasurer's Report Hazel advised that the General Account holds £932.53, the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35, and the EIS Account £3,411.74 (reduced by £310 following the purchase of the badges from this account). It was agreed the £150 donation from Pipes in the Park will be added to the General Account. Hazel advised we had not received an invoice for the annual premium for the Gordon Highlanders' Memorial this year and that on investigation Mary had been told by Highland Council, who manage our insurance, that this is now included in the CC's general policy which is paid for by Aberdeenshire Council

5. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:  
Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office – items already covered as appropriate.  
Community Planning – Mary and Hazel had attended the CWF held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the Glamourhaugh allotments and had met Janelle Clark, the new Marr Area Manager. She is to be invited to a future meeting, possibly in January. The next CWF takes place on 12<sup>th</sup> November (venue to be advised), the main topic being the Planning Service and CCs' role in this.  
Other – the latest AB54 magazine, which contains Mary's summary of CC activities in the period April to June, was put on the table.
6. **AOCB**
- a) Freda raised the issue of congestion at the Meadow St/West Park St junction at school start times. Hazel believes this is exacerbated by the fact that, following the introduction of the statutory requirement that 3 year olds be provided with 600 hours p.a. nursery provision (which equates to 3 hrs 10 mins per day (was 2.5 hours), the nursery now opens at 8.30 am, and as the assumption is that parents will take nursery children to school, this is generating more traffic. The secondary school starts at 8.50 am and the primary school at 9.00 am, which adds to the problem.
  - b) It was noted that cones have been laid down along the School Avenue but without explanation as to their purpose, although it is assumed it is to prevent cars parking there. There was compliance with this the first day they appeared, but in the absence of any enforcement/explanation of their presence, people are once again parking on the Avenue.
  - c) It appears that "boy racers" are now parking at the picnic area beside George V Avenue.
  - d) Mary had placed our CC vacancies with Aberdeenshire Volunteer Centre in the hope of recruiting new members, although the requirement for members to live or have a business in Huntly may preclude many from applying.
  - e) A consultation document has been received from the Post Office re the proposed move of the Huntly Branch to RS McColls. Mary will circulate this to members.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm. Tony thanked all for coming along.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014.