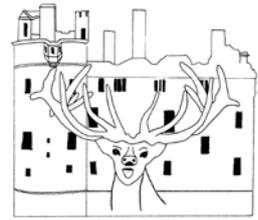




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the June 2015 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 18th June 2015 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Tony Gill (Vice-Chair); Hazel McIntosh (Treasurer); Freda McRae; Rev Norma Milne; Ronald Pittendrigh; Michelle Goodall; Mary Burgerhout (Secretary)

Others: Chris Saunderson (HE)

Apologies: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Isadora Lee; Cllr Moira Ingleby; Pat Scott (HE)

Tony welcomed everyone to the meeting. 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.

Tony referred to the sad passing of Christine Ness, so soon after her husband and former member Bob and daughter Gillian (a member some years ago). A card was sent to the family on behalf of the CC, and Tony, Hilda and Freda had attended Christine's funeral.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting Hazel asked for a correction to be made to the May minutes. She is a member of TGS Parent Council, not the PTA. TGS does not have a PTA but does have a fundraising committee. This amendment having been noted, the minutes were proposed for acceptance by Norma and seconded by Ronald.

3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues PC Duncan was scheduled to attend but was not present. He did however post-meeting provide a brief report: In the last month there have been four reports of vandalism including one to the shed at the old cemetery, a few reported thefts, a break-in at Café India and various road traffic offences. Operation Cedar, targeting road traffic offences during peak periods, will be running over the next few months.

B. Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

- a) Temporary Traffic Restrictions Various locations across Marr being surface-dressed 8th June to 17th July (also various road closures across Marr); Mitchell Avenue – bitumen resurfacing 22nd June x 5 days.
- b) Feedback from Janelle Clark/Cllr Ingleby Mary had provided Cllr Ingleby with a list of the concerns to be addressed (Park and Pay signage, bus information stand, siting of recycling bins, MM junction and Bogie St one-way system) during her and Janelle Clark's walkabout of the Square and surrounding areas on 4th June. Although informal feedback has been provided by Hazel McLaren who accompanied them, we await a formal response from Janelle and/or Cllr Ingleby. It was noted that the bins at the Linden Centre have been moved as we requested but not to the suggested location – they are instead on the opposite (school) side of the Avenue and still in full view when facing the Simpson Building/Arch. The flashing warning

lights at the approach to the Market Muir junction were repaired but appear to be malfunctioning again. Re Bogie Street, Ronald suggested people may not be seeing the One-Way sign at the bottom due to its height. Tony advised the height is standard for such signs; Hazel felt that a lower-placed sign would add to the hazards already present at the Bogie Street/Gladstone Road junction. It may be that the existing sign merely needs to be refreshed.

- c) Scottish Wildcat Research Mary had met in a personal capacity with student Hannah Patterson and responded to the questions posed by the survey.
 - d) TGS Citizenship Awards Mary had been asked to help judge the awards and had done so on 9th June. The winners will be announced at the school's prizegiving ceremony.
 - e) Review of Scheme of Establishment for CCs Ian Rogan wishes to set up a Working Group to discuss and agree Stage 2 of the review, following feedback from various CCs across the shire on the issues raised in the consultation document. A number of responses to Ian's suggestion have been received and we await further advice as to format, dates etc (meetings of the Group will take place in the evening or at weekends). Tony read out the revised timetable for the review.
 - f) Supporting Communities Event The Banchory event has been cancelled due to insufficient numbers, however, a 2-hour training session on "Working Together Effectively", is to go ahead late August/early September in Banchory, assuming sufficient interest. This training and indeed all training modules, can also be accessed via the Council's e-learning site, which members can register for. Tony advised he will attend the Banchory session if it goes ahead.
- ii) Road Issues The repainting of white and yellow lines and introduction of additional parking bays in the town has started. In Granary Street, the solid yellow line opposite Esson's needs to be broken to reflect the 45 minute waiting period as indicated by the sign on the wall. We have received a reply from the Council to a similar issue raised by us re Bogie Street last year, advising that the error has been rectified. Across the town however people are still parking illegally, largely because of the lack of enforcement of the restrictions due to limited police/traffic warden resources in the area.
- iii) Clashindarroch Windfarm Community Fund Tony advised the winning logo has been selected and will be revealed at the launch on 26th June along with the names chosen for the turbine clusters and a showing of the film created by local children. The Panel, including Tony, Mary and Mike Cowie for Huntly, met on 16th June to discuss the first round of applications (7) to the fund. The results will be announced at the launch. The Microgrants scheme will be launched shortly, with £2,300 p.a. available to each of the four CCs/community associations to award as they see fit (maximum award £500). Application can be by letter or a one-page application form, the latter being our preference. We await Foundation Scotland's written confirmation of the scheme's launch and expect it to be in place by the time the CC meets again in September. Hazel will arrange to open a new account for the Microgrants funds with the Clydesdale over the summer. Cairnborrow Ronald had attended a meeting of the Liaison Committee on 9th June. Four turbines were originally approved and it has just been announced that a fifth has also been approved. Construction starts in August, with HDDT managing the Community Fund. Ronald noted that across the board turbines now have shorter lives (20 as opposed to 25 years) which will impact on the net profits and consequently the contributions to community funds by developers. The Committee meets again on 28th July.
- iv) Garden Competition This will be held on Saturday 1st August along the same lines as last year. The judges are Fiona Murray (a judge last year), Angela Bracegirdle (a volunteer gardener at Leith Hall) and from the CC, Ronald. Mary will meet with them at the end of July to discuss arrangements for the day and will put up posters around the town when she returns from leave mid July. The HE will print an article in next week's paper.

- v) **Planning Applications** There was no significant comment on these.
- vi) **AOCB**
- a) Norma highlighted a concern raised by a resident in her neighbourhood at the volume of traffic and congestion in the Asda area. This includes lorries going to/from the industrial estate, lorry deliveries to Asda, cars going in and out of the Asda car park, cars parked on Steven Road beside Asda, the (at times) long queue of cars waiting to enter the petrol station, and the build-up of vehicles on Steven Road which, having come out of the Asda car park, are waiting to enter King George V Avenue. The necessity to pull out near the roundabout if a bus has stopped at the bus stop there was also mentioned. Tony advised that these concerns had been raised at the time that Asda built their store. It was suggested that the Council be asked to observe/monitor the situation at peak times. Mary will contact Mark Skilling accordingly. Freda raised the issue of the hazardous nature of the A96 junction near Tesco and also noted there had been a near miss at the War Memorial near Tesco and the offending vehicle having been reported to the police.
 - b) Hazel had attended the Integrated Transport consultation event in the Stewart's Hall on 27th May and been frustrated that the person she spoke to had no knowledge of the problems in the town re for example the dangers of children cycling and the town centre route taken by school buses, nor had they spoken to anyone at the school. She had highlighted the inadequate parking facilities at the station but had been told this was not relevant to the consultation. Tony noted that all the concerns raised by Hazel were well-documented and that the Council should not be starting from scratch on these issues. There is to be a further event at the Linden Centre at 7 pm on 1st July – Hazel will email the details to Mary for circulation to members.
 - c) Coat of Arms badges – Mary has spoken to The Linden Tree, Dean's and the Community Bookshop who have all generously agreed to sell the badges at £5 each on our behalf with no commission. 20, 15 and 15 badges have been given to them respectively, and sales will be monitored by Mary over the coming months.
 - d) AB54 Funding Toolkit Action Plan – Tony and Mary had met with Hazel McLaren who outlined the proposal to pull together the various consultations, reviews and surveys carried out over the years on what the vision/priorities are for the area, with a view to the findings being condensed into a single document which can be used as a "toolkit" for funding applications. A working group is being set up to carry out this exercise (as well as a regional group to pull it all together) and a CC representative is sought for the Huntly group. Ronald volunteered for this. The first meeting is scheduled for the end of August.
 - e) A Canadian couple is looking for information on their ancestors who lived at Bailliesward. CS confirmed that the HE will carry an article in the next issue.
 - f) CC Stall at Farmers Market/Huntly Hairst – we are going ahead with an awareness raising/recruitment/green dogwalking promotional event on 5th September. Mary will arrange to hire the Stewart Hall's gazebo, and display boards will be made up showcasing the CC's activities/achievements. Mary will email members in August re setting up a meeting to finalise arrangements.
5. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel advised that the General Account holds £296.90 (excluding the Secretary's honorarium for June), the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35, and the EIS Account £3,391.74. It was agreed to increase the honorarium with immediate effect to £55 per month.
6. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:
Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office – Our views are sought for the Aberdeen Special Landscapes Area Consultation. The two questions for which responses were sought were discussed and positive responses were forthcoming. The Meadows plantation was identified by Freda as a landscape in need of support. She also mentioned the broken fence (caused by a fallen tree) beside the cricket ground which

lies in Historic Scotland's area of responsibility. Hazel suggested that the Dummuies windfarm community fund could be applied to for funding to repair the fence as it meets its criteria of projects involving young people/the environment.

Community Planning – We have received an email asking for our views on what should go into the Marr Community Plan. Hazel and Mary had provided input when this was discussed at the May Community Ward Forum. The issue was opened up to CC members who provided their views. Mary will collate these and forward to the MAP.

Other – HDDT AGM documentation and Deveron Arts promotional material were put on the table.

7. **AOCB Aberdeenshire Outdoor Access Forum** A representative is sought to be a member of the forum. Ronald expressed a tentative interest and Mary will forward him the email. The CC had been asked by the same group to advise of any leaflets/booklets on local paths and Mary had referred the email to HDDT in light of their renovation work on the Bahill to Gartly path. Ronald had led this project and advised that discussions are ongoing with landowners re land access which will see the continuation of the path to Greenmyres Farm.

Youth Member Tony read out an email from Dora in which she apologised for being unable to attend this meeting and expressed her gratitude and enjoyment of having been the Youth Member for the last year. Tony noted that Dora had been a good youth representative who engaged well with issues being discussed, and wished her well for the future. Mary has contacted TGS to request they nominate a new Youth Member and we expect to hear from them shortly.

CS left the meeting at 9.40 pm.

Nomination of Chair As Hilda was not present at the AGM when the office-bearers were elected, she was unable to accept her nomination as Chair that evening. She has subsequently done so in writing but has stated that, subject to members' acceptance, she wishes meantime to continue her extended leave of absence. This was unanimously accepted by members and we look forward to welcoming Hilda back in due course.

Michelle apologised in advance for not being able to attend the September meeting as she will be on her honeymoon! All good wishes were extended to her.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 17th September 2015 at 7.30 pm.