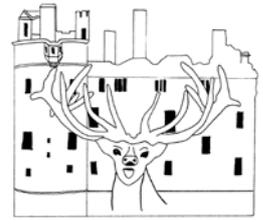




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the March 2015 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 19th March 2015 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

Others: Pat Scott (Huntly Express); PC Martin Donaldson, PC Hamish Wallace (Police Scotland)

Apologies: Hilda Lumsden-Gill; Isadora Lee; Freda McRae; Cllr Moira Ingleby

Tony welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered the CC's condolences to Pat and her husband on the death of her father-in-law. A list of correspondence received since the February 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 February minutes were proposed for acceptance by Hazel and seconded by Norma.

3. Guest Speaker Ian Rogan (re Review of Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils) Mr Rogan was not, as scheduled, present at the meeting. Mary to investigate.

4. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues PC Donaldson reported the following: There were 27 recorded crimes in the last four weeks, 9 of which have been detected, 7 undetected and 11 ongoing with possible lines of enquiry. There have been 13 vehicle-related crimes, 3 involving assault/breach of the peace, 4 theft-related, 4 incidences of vandalism, 1 breach of bail, 1 animal cruelty and 1 urinating in public. Operation Collinville continues. Vandalism, which was raised as a concern by the CC last month, has seen a 20% reduction in reported cases. Crashlive, a community partnership project run by Fire, Police, Ambulance and the Council, is aimed at educating the public re potential dangers of driving. There is to be a mock live event on 28th March at the Fire Station. During the week commencing 23rd March, Operation Monarda, a Police, Trading Standards and SEPA operation, will be focusing nationwide on "bogus worker" type crimes.

Various issues were raised by members: Graffiti PC Donaldson confirmed that someone has been charged in connection with the recent incidents, and remains in custody pending a court appearance. Caravans at the Market Muir The police advised that the travellers had been due to leave on Sunday but are still here. It is the Council's responsibility to move them on if necessary (a Court Order must be applied for). Some travellers have been selling door-to-door/out of the backs of vehicles but if they have a license to do so they are not committing an offence. Concern was expressed that their occupation of the MM car park may mean the "boy racers" will congregate instead at the picnic area near Green Road. CCTV Update We await an update from Sgt Sawers who is spearheading the

campaign. Parking at corners/junctions Following PC Arnott's advice at the February meeting that he would raise the possibility of another round of placing warning stickers on illegally-parked cars, the PCs present were not aware of any action in this regard (PC Arnott is currently involved with another initiative) but will pursue the matter.

Strengthening Local Police Initiative Tony summarised the contents of an email received from Mark McLaren which provided an update on the consultation process. PCs Donaldson and Wallace feel that the proposed merging of the Aberdeen division with the Aberdeenshire and Moray division will result in the force effectively going back to what was "Grampian Police" but under the Police Scotland banner. They understand there would be little impact on community policing and that the main changes would be to Specialist Divisions.

PCs Donaldson and Wallace left the meeting at 7.50 pm. Tony thanked them for their contribution.

of enquiry.

ThB. Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

- a) Temporary Traffic Restrictions – Gordon Street – BT Works (16th March x 5 days); McVeagh Street – BT Cabinet Works (17th March x 2 wks); New Road – SGN Main Replacement (23rd March x 5 days)
- b) CCTV After our February meeting the Rotary Club Secretary had emailed us with their concerns re the Christmas tree lights vandalism and requesting our support for the introduction of CCTV. Mary had replied that the CC had in fact discussed the issue and confirmed its support (with some reservations) for CCTV at the February meeting, the detail of which was subsequently reported in the Huntly Express.
- c) Ba' Hill to Gartly Road Path The Council's Hazel McLaren had requested our support (which we provided) and that of Strathbogie CC for the clearing of this path, which had been carried out recently by the Greenmyres Farm Working Group and volunteers led by Ronald. The next phase will be the creation of a path from Gartly Road to Greenmyres Farm. Tony suggested that the announcement of new funding for walks/paths creation in Scotland would be good news for Ronald and his team.
- d) Citizenship Award Mary had circulated an email from the TGS Parent Council Chair requesting nominations for this award by 31st March. Hazel is a PC member and reported there had been few nominations to date, partly due to the fact that the volume of work being imposed on TGS teachers means they are struggling to devote the necessary time to promoting/making nominations for the award.
- e) Flood Risk Management Scheme Tony summarised a letter received from the Council's Project Manager providing an update on the consultation process and advising that its second stage closes on 2nd June. Comments can be made via the "Citizen Space" website or paper copies of the consultation material can be collected from local libraries.
- f) Post Office Move We have received a letter advising the current Post Office closes on 23rd April and the new one based in RS McColl's opens at 1 pm on 24th April. Members felt it was disappointing that it would result in yet another empty building in the Square.
- g) Older People's Forum We now have some information on this group and have been invited to its meeting on 23rd March. Tony and Mary to attend and give feedback on the successes achieved by the CC over the years regarding parking-related issues.
- h) Marr Area Bus Forum Tony outlined the points raised at the last meeting concerning Huntly, and noted that a trial bus service from Huntly to Turriff is to be introduced. The next meeting is to be held in Huntly on 26th March – Mary and Michelle hope to attend.

- i) Young Carers A letter has been received from the Volunteer Development Coordinator for the Aberdeenshire Young Carers Service (part of CAIR Scotland) requesting a meeting to tell us of the service it provides. Hazel advised that CAIR do good work in local schools where a number of pupils are carers. It was agreed to contact the Coordinator and suggest suitable times for a day-time meeting. Norma, Mary and Tony are potentially available for such a meeting.
- ii) Road Issues Mary has written to Ralph Singleton to ask when the repainting of yellow lines across the town will be completed – response awaited.
- iii) Clashindarroch Windfarm Community Fund Tony and Mary had attended a Working Group lunch on 3rd March with Foundation Scotland. The Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding have been signed by each CC/community association, and the fund is now up and running. The Fund Framework, factsheet and application forms for those wishing to become Community Reps have been publicized and are available online and (hard copy) from the Library. Mary has put posters for the Community Rep vacancy up in the town. Rachel of FS is liaising with TGS re logo/turbine-naming competitions and a film being made by young people for the launch. There will be a “dry run” meeting in May at which the newly appointed community representatives will be present. Cairnborrow Windfarm Michelle and Ronald who attended a Liaison meeting recently, have received minutes of that meeting but the anticipated date (around Easter) of the next meeting has not yet been confirmed. Greenmyres Tony noted that HDDT’s turbine application has moved forward a step, it having been passed recently by the Marr Area Committee.

iv) Planning Applications Tony summarised the applications made since the last meeting and noted that some, including two for tree removal at residential properties, were retrospective.

v) AOCB

- a) Hazel asked if planning permission had been granted for the bus information stand outside the Linden Tree (it had been erected without permission and we were led to believe that an application would have to be made retrospectively). Tony believed that such permission had been granted but Pat recalled being told by Neil Binning that permission had not in fact been needed. Disappointment was expressed that the sign had not been moved to beside the bus stop which was felt to be the natural place to site it, though Michelle pointed out that in Ellon a similar stand had not been sited beside the bus shelter either. Hazel also raised the issue of the new parking information signs in the Square and suggested that as the Square was a conservation area, that their large size and colour (mainly red) were inappropriate, and that their installation should have had to go through the standard planning application process. Mary to investigate both issues. Hazel expressed concern at the siting of three recycling bins at the Avenue entrance to the Linden Centre which spoil the view of anyone wishing to take photographs of the Simpson Arch or the Gordon Highlander Memorial.
- b) Fallen Trees Michelle asked who the contact was for reporting trees which had fallen in the Battlehill and were blocking paths following high winds. Steve Gray of the Council is the contact and he and his team were generally very quick to clear such blockages. Ronald is happy to report any issues to him. Mary had been in the Battlehill two days before and had seen just one tree blocking a path.
- c) EIS Tony reported that the Police’s Events Committee had been advised that EIS would not be going ahead in 2015.
- d) Raffle License Tony advised we have now received the 2015 license.
- e) Aberdeenshire Council/NHS Health and Social Care Integration Ronald, Hazel and Mary had attended the consultation event in the Stewart’s Hall on 5th March and reported interesting discussions on the public’s views on the proposal. Ronald suggested it was important that following implementation an evaluation be carried out 6 months later.

Pat left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

5. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel advised that the General Account holds £443.53, the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35, and the EIS Account £3,391.74. Mary had circulated a short questionnaire received from the Council on CC Funding. It was agreed that the status quo (Option 1a - the annual budget split between CCs being based on the proportion of residents within each area) remain. A discussion ensued on the amount of the Admin Grant received and Hazel summarised the considerable costs incurred during the year and the possibility of the Secretary's honorarium being increased. It was felt that the CC should not be penalized for managing its finances such that a surplus was left at the end of each year, and that there were many hidden costs in terms of time, people using their own equipment etc which were not claimed for and perhaps should be.
6. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:
Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office – items of interest already discussed.
Community Planning There had been a CWF in Keig on 18th March but as Mary has recently not been receiving correspondence from the MAP (being investigated), very short notice was provided to members of this and no-one was able to attend.
Other – various items were put on the table.
7. **AOCB**
Card It was agreed to send a card of condolence to Pat and Sandy Scott.
Quiz Night There is to be a Quiz Night in TGS on 1st April – three people have already signed up and Michelle agreed to make up a fourth for the CC team.
Coat of Arms Badges Following the purchase of 100 badges last year, it was agreed that when the tourist season starts the Tourist Office and one or two other venues be asked, depending on their mark-up fee, to sell some on our behalf at a retail price of £5. A discussion ensued on having a CC promotional event, perhaps a stall at the Farmers Market/Hairst in September. Michelle felt that this would be a good time as it was close to when the CC resumed its meetings after the summer recess. The possibility of combining badge-selling with promoting Green Dogwalking, selling souvenir booklets from the 2012 Magic Lantern event and general promotion of the CC/recruitment of members was discussed. Mary to check with Farmers Market committee re booking a stall.
Lunches for Older People Ronald is involved, along with Janet Goodall of Aberdeenshire Council and Ingrid Penny of the NHS, in an initiative to provide weekly lunches for Senior Citizens at the Stewart's Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm. Tony thanked all who attended.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 16th April 2015.