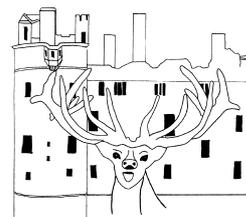




# HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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## Minutes of the November 2013 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013 at 7.30 pm

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Hazel McIntosh (Treasurer); Freda McRae; Rev Norma Milne; Bob Ness; Bronwyn Gall; Mary Burgerhout (Secretary)

**Others:** Cllr Moira Ingleby, Cllr Joanna Strathdee, Pat Scott (Huntly Express); Sgt Colin Crichton (Police Scotland)

**Apologies:** None

Hilda welcomed members and also Cllrs Ingleby and Strathdee, Pat Scott and Sgt Crichton to the meeting. The meeting began with a tribute paid by Hilda on behalf of the CC to Bob's daughter Gillian Petrie who sadly passed away last month. Gillian had until 2011 been a member of the CC and her common sense, approachability, sense of fun and her contribution to the work of the CC were invaluable. She was a friend to all and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts go out to Bob and his wife, Gillian's partner Keith, and her extended family.

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

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

### 3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues Sgt Crichton presented the police report for the period 18.10.2013 to 20.11.2013. In the period 17.10.13 to 21.11.13 there were 22 crimes/offences recorded within Huntly (a significant drop over recent months) for a variety of petty assaults, minor thefts and other anti-social behaviour. The majority have been detected or have positive lines of enquiry. On three evenings in November, dedicated patrols were deployed to deal with young motorists at the Market Muir car park. Sgt Crichton advised that the police are seeking to involve other agencies/partners including Aberdeenshire Council to find a long-term solution to the problems at the MM car park.

Hazel asked what the law was on noisy emissions; Sgt Crichton advised that sound meters can be deployed but much depends on the source of the noise eg. a hole in the exhaust, decibel levels, revving of engines, and in some cases ASBOs can be issued. He pointed out that this type of problem is more of an issue in Huntly, which is a fairly quiet town with little background activity to detract from noisy cars, than in many other Aberdeenshire towns.

Cllr Ingleby asked about the recent car theft in Glass. Sgt Crichton advised the thief/car have not yet been traced. He described the difficulties the police encounter in catching car thieves and identifying stolen vehicles, and the measures people should take to prevent such thefts.

Freda raised the issue of fireworks being let off late at night, over several nights. Sgt Crichton advised that the police's main concern is to prevent people throwing lit fireworks in public places, and those who are underage from buying fireworks.

Sgt Crichton left the meeting at 7.55 pm. Hilda thanked him for his contribution.

## **B) Huntly Topics**

### **i) Current Issues**

1. Temporary Traffic Restrictions – Old Road (burst water main), one week from 31<sup>st</sup> October; The Square (Christmas festival), 5<sup>th</sup> December
2. Access within Stewart's Hall Hilda read an email from Brian Duthie of Aberdeenshire Council in response to our email to Kenny McLennan, advising they have no plans currently to provide a lift/stairlift, but will review the situation as and when future refurbishment works take place.
3. Council response re yellow lines Hilda read an email from Ralph Singleton acknowledging that the Gordon Street/Granary Street junction lines are faded and advising that a review is being carried out of the synchronisation between lines and the associated traffic orders, with some corrective action already having been taken. Because of winter weather conditions, it is unlikely that any more lines will be repainted until next spring.
4. Change to Licensing Hours for Huntly FC Social Club A change to the core hours is being requested and as a statutory consultee we may comment. Bob advised that the proposed changes are standard for pubs/clubs and as such no comment was felt necessary.
5. Town Flag Mary has contacted Neil McAdam who has provided approximate prices for a belt, bucket, pole etc, and a suggested website. It was agreed that we go ahead with purchasing these. Cllr Strathdee suggested we apply to the Glens of Foudland Community Fund Scheme for funding as they look favourably on applications related to civic events. Cllr Ingleby suggested we could also apply to the Marr Area Fund. We may however have to show evidence of match-funding to both these organisations.
6. Window Competitions Congratulations were offered to the British Red Cross shop who won the Halloween Window Competition. The quality of other window displays was noted. The winner's shield will be engraved shortly and given to the BRC along with their certificate. Re the Christmas Window Competition, members should give their nominations to Mary by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December so that the winner's details can be published in the 13<sup>th</sup> December Huntly Express.

### **ii) Road Issues**

Signage Donald Boyd has forwarded to us an email sent to him by Ralph Singleton advising that the town signs are to be erected w/c 18<sup>th</sup> November. To the best of our knowledge this has not been done, although the week is not yet over.

Market Muir Junction There has been a further accident at the junction since the Stop signs were put in place. Tony advised that his satnav does not indicate that he is approaching the junction (this was backed up by Hazel) and it was debated whether increasing reliability on satnavs could be a factor in the number of people not stopping. It was felt that the introduction of 30 mph flashing lights (in place in many other towns and villages) would help. There is no sign of the build-out (planned for November) being started and Hilda felt the likelihood is that with the approach of winter, nothing will now happen till spring-time. It was agreed to contact Mark Skilling to ascertain the situation if the work has not been started by the end of November.

A96 Duelling Hilda had earlier attended the public exhibition in the Gordon Arms and placed the associated leaflets on the table. Transport Scotland plan to have the route corridor for the Huntly area ready in 12 – 18 months, and bring this information back to Huntly for consultation. 12 – 18 months thereafter they will return with more advanced proposals. Although Elgin and Nairn are priority areas, Cllr Strathdee felt, and members agreed, that it was important that the Huntly to Inverurie stretch should

not be left till last, and it was agreed to complete the response form provided on behalf of the CC, stressing this point.

Inveramsay Bridge We have been sent copies of the plans, orders and public notices relating to the Inveramsay Bridge Improvements.

- iii) Windfarm Community Funds Hilda updated members on the following two schemes:  
Clashindarroch Community Fund Hilda and Mary are to attend a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November with other CCs/Community Groups and Foundation Scotland. Hilda expressed concern at the amount of paperwork that is being generated and the “homework” to be done before this meeting which includes reviewing two key documents - the draft Terms of Reference for the Advisory Panel and the Memorandum of Understanding - reading case studies of other rural communities, pulling together of a list of stakeholders/community groups, and the production of a map showing the CC’s boundaries.  
Cairnborrow Windfarm Proposal Hilda outlined the background to the meeting (attended by her and Mary at HDT’s invitation on 11<sup>th</sup> November), which was that following the refusal of West Coast Energy’s original scheme for 9 turbines, WCE have submitted a revised proposal featuring 5 turbines. The consultation period for the scheme ended today, 21<sup>st</sup> November, and a Planning decision is not expected till 2014. Because of the reduced scale of the proposal, there will be no community turbine, but WCE are honouring their commitment to make 10% of their profits available for the set-up of a community fund, now worth £2.5 million (was originally £6m) over the life of the development. This equates in the first five years to £24k (rising to £50-57K in years 6 – 10, and £108k from year 11), a considerable reduction, and thus the previous split of 70% to HDT, 20% to Glass/Cairnie and 10% to AB54 is no longer feasible. The revised split will be 75% to HDT (largely for their core costs) and 25% to Glass/Cairnie, so that there will be no monies available for an AB54 fund at least in the first five years. This effectively means that as a CC we would not be involved, assuming the scheme goes ahead, in the short term. Cllr Strathdee asked if payments to the fund would be based on the standard £5,000 per kilowatt basis. Mary and Hilda’s recollection was that this figure had been quoted. Meantime, the draft minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> November meeting are available for inspection.

An email has been received from TCI Renewables, who operate mainly in England and Northern Ireland, about a proposed project site in the Huntly area, asking us to meet with them on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Mary rang their agents and was told the site is in the Tap o’Noth CC area. TCI have already arranged to meet with HDT next month. Mary advised them of our neutral stance re windfarms and they agreed to send further information on an “information only” basis.

- iv) EIS 2014 Hilda confirmed that the event would not be going ahead due to a lack of volunteers and the additional work imposed by changes to the Public Entertainment Licensing regulations as advised by the Council’s Legal Department. The money awarded by the Cultural Fund has been repaid to HDT. Hilda read an email from Peter Rawlings (who with his team was to have provided/operated the sound system) agreeing that the burdens imposed by the changes to licensing are too much for community groups. He intends to suggest that the issue be covered at a future Community Ward Forum, and also suggested that the event could be held indoors in the Stewart’s Hall, thus doing away with the need for a PEL, but there remains the issue of a lack of volunteers to plan, organise and run such an event. Hilda read an email from Deveron Arts’ Cultural Health Visitor sympathising with our plight re the PEL and advising that when she lived in Dundee, a group she was involved with had protested and petitioned successfully against the PEL.

Lottery Licence Hilda advised that our licence (for printing raffle tickets) is due for renewal on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Although EIS is not going ahead in 2014, it was agreed to renew the licence, as we may wish to sell raffle tickets for future fundraising activities. It was also agreed to leave the EIS bank account in abeyance for the time being as other entertainment events may be organised in the future.

- v) Planning Applications There was just one application which drew no significant comment.

vi) AOCB

- a) WWI Centenary Commemoration Hilda asked Bob if there were any developments with the plans for the 2014 commemoration. Bob advised they are checking what is required under PEL legislation but that the event is going ahead. He will have more information in January. Hilda passed to Bob a letter from the War Memorials Trust which is concerned with promoting the upkeep of memorials. All agreed the barriers installed at the War Memorial for keeping wreaths in place was a job well done.
- b) Research Requests Hilda and Mary were interviewed separately by Kirsty Holstead of the James Hutton Institute who is carrying out research on behalf of the Scottish Government re building capacity with Community Councils. The Institute has advised of a further initiative, a Land Use Workshop, taking place on 20<sup>th</sup> January, which the CC has been asked to promote. Hazel is covering "land" as a topic with her pupils – Mary to send her the correspondence from the JHI.
- c) School Transport Meeting Mary and Freda had attended the meeting organised by The Gordon Schools Parent Council on 13<sup>th</sup> November and at Hilda's request summarised the issues raised by parents and other concerned residents. Aberdeenshire Council's Transport Unit have responded with a statement, which Fiona Alderson (TGS PC Chair) has forwarded to us.
- d) Aberdeenshire Council Homecoming 2014 Budget/Grant Congratulations were offered to Huntly Pipe Band who have received funding from the Council for their August 2014 Pipes in the Park event.
- e) AB54 magazine Following on from our profile article in a previous issue, Mary will send a summary of the CC's activities over the last three months to the magazine for publication in the next issue.
- f) Jacques Coetzer is back in Huntly as part of a team carrying out a project on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council. Hilda had bumped into him and passed on his greetings to the CC.
- g) Christmas Night Out It was agreed to have a meal at the Huntly Hotel on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Mary to book a table.
- h) Hilda read an email from Richard Hammock advising that he is standing down on 21<sup>st</sup> December as Chairman of Huntly and District Heritage Group. The future of the group is now in doubt. Concern was expressed by those who had attended meetings that as a group it lacked focus.

Bronwyn, Cllrs Strathdee and Ingleby, and Pat Scott left the meeting at 9 pm.

4. Treasurer's Report Hazel reported that the General Account holds £704.31, the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35 and the EIS Account £3,721.74. Bob submitted the invoice for the Armistice Day poppy wreath.
5. Correspondence Items highlighted: Aberdeenshire Council - advice of the roll-out of the new recycling service which starts in Huntly in May 2014; copy of the Local Development Plan Main Issues Report and advice of an associated meeting in Huntly on 2<sup>nd</sup> December with opportunities to comment on the report by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014. A discussion ensued on the latter, with particular reference to "bids" for additional housing developments which, if implemented, would mean over 600 new houses in Huntly with implications for schooling, health services etc. Community Planning Hilda, Tony and Mary had not as planned attended the CWF in Lumsden the previous night due to the bad weather. Our suggestions for topics (Developer Contribution and Common Good Fund) for future CWFs has been acknowledged by Lizzy Shepherd. See under EIS 2014 for Peter Rawlings' suggested topic.

6. AOCB None

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

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