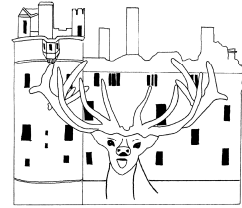




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the April 2012 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 19th April 2012 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Freda McRae; Hazel McIntosh; John Greer; Rev Norma Milne; Jordie Cole; Cllr Moira Ingleby; Cllr Alastair Ross; PC Mandy White; Pat Scott (Huntly Express); Donald Boyd (HDT)

Apologies: Bob Ness (Treasurer); Colin Grant

Hilda welcomed all, including invited speaker Donald Boyd, PC Mandy White and Cllrs Ingleby and Ross. She thanked in his absence Cllr Richard Stroud, who is not standing for re-election, for his contribution over the years, and wished him well. She advised that this is the last meeting before the AGM, and that May will see the trial of the new meeting format.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the 15th March meeting were proposed for acceptance by Tony and seconded by Hazel. Hilda advised that an additional item – the adoption of the updated constitution - was being put on the agenda.

3. Guest Speaker – Donald Boyd, Huntly Development Trust Donald thanked Hilda for the opportunity to talk to the CC and summarised HDT activities as follows:

People – a profile of the directors and staff was circulated. A new administrator starts this month.

Projects – HDT is focusing on renewable energy projects, specifically onshore wind, to generate income to meet core costs and for projects in the wider community. These include a community turbine at Cairnborrow, a potential additional turbine at Dummies, and a micro-hydro scheme on the Bogie (the latter is currently withdrawn from the planning process pending resolution of some issues). If Heritage Lottery funding is granted for the Town Centre Heritage Initiative, it will help to regenerate the town centre, with the Huntly Hotel identified as the location for the “Huntly Hub” (assuming the hotel is not meantime sold). A new website with links to huntly.net is being developed. Erection of the A96 and Gateway signs is imminent and the Huntly Signage Strategy will be published shortly. The Portsoy path is complete and will be opened on 3rd June. A walking guidebook will be launched shortly. HDT are also promoting cycling and Huntly Bike Week takes place in June.

Plans – the Business Plan for the next three years is complete and is largely a continuation of current work. However consultations will be taking place within the wider community to ascertain its wishes re future projects. Grampian Housing Association is working with HDT and through renewable energy projects they hope to provide affordable housing and social and economic regeneration.

Progress – Donald wishes the relationship between HDT and HCC to be strengthened and offered suggestions to achieve this. Hilda opened the discussion by stressing the importance of the wider community being aware of the differences between HDT and HCC. There is a perception by some that HDT has a higher profile than HCC and although both groups are concerned with the wellbeing of the community, HCC has a watchdog role while HDT's is

developmental. Suggestions were put forward re maintaining better links. Cllr Ingleby cited the example of various Council groups in Marr, who meet as one quarterly, and it was agreed this was an option. Hazel stressed that any arrangement must be reciprocal – currently for example, HCC’s minutes are available to all, while HDT’s (for reasons of confidentiality) are not. Donald acknowledged that communication could be improved, however, although the website is being developed, there is little spare capacity to provide eg. a regular summary of progress on planned developments. Hilda felt there had been a closer relationship with HDT’s predecessor, ATP, but acknowledged HDT was a different entity in some ways. She did feel however that HCC and HDT were accessible to one another in terms of informal contact. Tony asked that HCC be kept better informed of developments affecting the wider community –sometimes it only learns of these through the local paper. A further discussion ensued re the huntly.net website which Donald acknowledged is not updated as often as it could be, partly because HDT is not always advised by community groups of forthcoming events. Cllr Ross felt the key was to open it out so that groups are able to update their own pages (HCC already does this). John suggested that something be put in place where groups could see at a glance which events were taking place when and so prevent clashes. It was agreed that a “community calendar” is needed and it is hoped that the website update will facilitate this.

Donald left the meeting at 8.30 pm. Hilda thanked him for coming along.

4. Matters Arising

a) Police Issues (although appearing on the agenda after the HDT talk, this item took place before that talk). Hilda welcomed PC Mandy White who reported that in the period 15th March to 18th April there had been 28 crimes/offences recorded in Huntly itself, largely for minor assaults and breaches of the peace. Incidents of note included diesel theft from a lorry parked at the Market Muir and vandalism to four cars in George Street. A local male has been charged with lead theft from Huntly Castle. Re the speed checks in the Nelson Street area, the person who raised this with the police previously subsequently contacted her MSP. There have been 7 collisions since 1.1.09 at the Nelson Street/George Street junction, mostly due to drivers disobeying road markings which are worn and to be reinstated. Grampian Police wish to be informed of any events planned to mark the carrying of the Olympic Torch (the route does not include Huntly but Deveron Arts may be planning an event). It was suggested the police contact Les Allan to find out what is planned for the Marr area. Road Safety Grampian have organised a Young Driver Roadshow on 7th June at the Market Muir.

Hazel asked whether those who had vandalised trees in the Rowan Avenue area have been identified - PC White to check and progress to be reported at the next meeting. Hilda thanked the police for their prompt response re the relocation of the Slow Marathon sign. She summarised the contents of the Local Policing Update which asks the CC to report any concerns about road safety. A discussion ensued on the use of mobile phones while driving and the difficulties of the police catching offenders. Freda raised the issue of cars driving through school patrol crossings – PC White advised that the patroller has been asked to make a note of any incidents.

PC White left the meeting at 7.50 pm. Hilda thanked her for her contribution.

Additional Agenda Item Hilda advised that we are now in a position to formally adopt the Constitution, amended following a request from Aberdeenshire Council (refer to March minutes) and duly approved by them on 10th April. CC members have been sent a copy of the amended Constitution. Hilda asked for a proposer and seconder. Freda proposed the adoption and this was seconded by Norma. The Constitution was then signed in the members’ presence by Hilda as Chairwoman and Mary as Secretary.

b) Market Muir Update Tony advised that the committee meeting on 16th April had dealt with arrangements for the 28th April Coffee Morning, and the proposed fee increases for pitch use. In response to Aberdeenshire Council’s stated willingness to look again at the fees, MM user groups have been compiling a list of their costs. Once these are ready, the MM Committee will go back to the Council to negotiate better terms. The next Committee Meeting is on 27th

August, and the AGM on 24th September. A Quiz Night will be held on 14th September. Some damage/wear and tear to the Pavilion has been repaired by the Committee. More floodlights (for night training over the winter) are to be introduced. Huntly Sports Trust are holding a Car Boot Sale on 7th May; it is thought the circus will arrive in the near future.

c) **Updates from Marr Area Office/Aberdeenshire Council**

- Response from Ralph Singleton re issues raised at March meeting
- Notification of Admin Grant for CC – this is less than last year's; Hilda suggested we hold an annual fund-raising event to supplement the Council's grant
- Advice of consultation process re Planning Reform (closing dated 22nd June)
- Road Closures/Parking Restrictions re Service of Dedication on 19th May
- Publication of Development Plan Scheme 2012-13

d) **Community Planning**

- Views on remote and rural communities (circulated by Mary early April)
- Funding – relaunch of Aberdeenshire Leader programme; Age Scotland grants
- Various meetings in Alford and Banchory
- Invitation to Ward 14 May Community Ward Forum at Tullynessle/notes from February Forum (Mary to advise Lizzy Shepherd that CC members unable to attend due to other commitments that week)

e) **Coat of Arms Project** This item is to be removed from the agenda pending construction of the Display Case by Duncan Anderson. Mary to check with Duncan re progress.

f) **Addition of Corporal Pike's name to War Memorial/Service of Dedication** A sub-group meeting was held on 10th April and a further meeting will be held on 8th May. Plans are progressing well with permissions re road closures etc received and invitations sent out and replied to. We are now in the final stages of planning the logistics of the event. Hilda circulated a letter sent by Corporal Pike's mother thanking the CC for organising the event.

g) **Road Traffic Management Review** The RTMR report, which the CC have already commented on, was presented to the Marr Area Committee on 27th March. Information re the proposed traffic management measures has subsequently been sent to us with comments requested by 25th April. Hilda highlighted the urgency of a resolution to the Market Muir junction issue (further complaints have been received from the public), and made a plea to the Councillors that recommendations are, as promised, put forward to the May MAC meeting.

h) **EIS/Diamond Jubilee Celebration** Tony confirmed that the CC hold sufficient bunting to go round the four poles surrounding the Duke's statue. Re the exhibition of slides of old Huntly, Hazel confirmed that her husband Kevin had met with Patrick Scott, who has agreed to provide a commentary, and that the show is scheduled for 7th June at The Gordon Schools. Kevin will operate the slide projector and both Dr Connell's and Patrick's own slides will be shown. They have been scanned onto computer as a back-up. A LET form has been completed and as it is an educational event (TGS's name will appear on the posters which CC members will help distribute), there will be no charge to the CC. Kevin will produce a booklet of some of the images which can be sold for a nominal sum to raise funds for the CC. Entry to the event will be free. It is hoped to record it, and Pat suggested a USB stick/CD of the slideshow be included in the time capsule to be buried at the opening of the Portsoy path. Cllr Ingleby suggested that local primary schools/other CCs be invited.

Cllr Ingleby left the meeting at 9.15 pm.

5. **Treasurer's Report** Bob in his absence provided a summary of the accounts which Mary read out. The General Fund holds £1,515 (£532 - Coat of Arms project; £650 – RROSA donation; balance - £333, £162 of which is the proceeds from the Prize Bingo). The Gordon Highlanders account stands at £764 and EIS at £3,762.

6. **Correspondence**

For the Table

- Aberdeen City and Shire Development Plan Scheme 2012-13

Planning

- Planning Applications for the period 15.3.12 – 19.4.12: 5 applications. Asda's application for signage re fuel pumps, including the consultation process/period was discussed. In response to a query re the 8 week turnover time for applications, Cllr Ross advised this refers only to householder applications.

Other

- Flyer re Bike Week 16 – 24.6.12 – to be displayed in Stewart's Hall Window
- Email received by Hilda from member of the public concerned about chiming of Strathbogie Church clock – Hilda advised that she (and Mary, following correspondence with Planning Dept) had responded.
- Invitation to Hilda from HDT to cut the ribbon (with the Chair of Strathbogie CC) at opening of Jubilee (Portsoy) Path on 3rd June
- Windfarm correspondence:
 - Invitation from Vattenfall to Clashindarroch Community Group Meeting on 17th May (to be declined as falls on same night as AGM/committee meeting)
 - Acknowledgement from eco2 of our letter re Dummuies Windfarm Community Benefit
 - Notes from Burcote Wind's Community Forum meeting re Meikleton of Ardonald proposal
- Association of Scottish Community Councils – online bulletin
- Email from PC Inspire re hosting classes
- NE Business Week 2012 invitation (17th and 19th April)
- Cooper Park – correspondence from Peter Rawlings re withdrawal of funding (CC to lend support if required)

Jordie left the meeting at 9.35 pm. Hilda provided him with a nomination form re his co-option onto the CC for a further year from May 2012.

6. **AOCB**

- Hilda reminded members that the AGM is to be held on 17th May at 7 pm. There are 8 vacancies on the CC, five of which represent existing members (including co-opted members) who are up for re-election. A notice has been placed in the Huntly Express with nomination forms available from the Council offices. Forms for existing members due for re-election were issued by Hilda with a request that they be completed and returned to the Council or to Mary by 4 pm on 30th April.
- Hilda raised the issue of the Duke Street road surface whose poor condition has been further exposed by the recent heavy rain. Hazel has reported to the Council the shaking caused to houses in Bogie Street by a passing bus. Both streets have previously been highlighted to Ralph Singleton as in need of repair.
- Hilda noted that the promised reviews of the Out of Hours service operated by NHS Grampian have not materialized, or at least the CC has not had sight of it. Mary to write to Richard Carey.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 17th May (AGM - 7.00 pm; Committee Meeting – 7.30 pm).