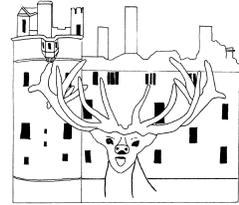




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the May 2012 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 17th May 2012 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Hazel McIntosh (Incoming Treasurer); Bob Ness (Outgoing Treasurer); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Freda McRae; Colin Grant; John Greer; Rev Norma Milne; Jordie Cole; PC Mark Jones; Pat Scott (Huntly Express)

Apologies: Cllrs Moira Ingleby, John Latham, Joanna Strathdee

Hilda welcomed all, including PC Mark Jones, to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the 19th April meeting were proposed for acceptance by Hazel McIntosh and seconded by Freda McRae.

3. Matters Arising Hilda reminded members that the new (trial) format would start from this evening's meeting.

a) Police Issues PC Mark Jones reported that in the period 19th April to 16th May there had been 29 crimes/offences recorded within Huntly, largely for minor assaults and breaches of peace, with the majority having been or in the process of being detected. Earlier in the week an unlocked car had been entered in George Street and items stolen, however the culprit was apprehended at the scene. An officer from the Bavarian Riot Police with connections to Huntly is visiting Grampian Police at the end of May and will be patrolling with officers in early June. In response to issues raised at our April meeting: Mobile phones - PC Jones advised that they have been monitoring the use of these by motorists while driving and five drivers have been reported and one warned. An education programme involving the distribution of leaflets to motorists is imminent. School Crossing Patrol - plain clothes officers have been monitoring the Castle Street/West Park Street crossing but have not witnessed any inconsiderate driving – the area will continue to be monitored but the public are encouraged to report any incidents. Vandalism to trees in Meadows area – nobody has been reported for causing the damage probably caused by a chainsaw as they appear not to have been seen or heard by anybody. The public are encouraged to be vigilant re people acting suspiciously in this area.

General An Alcohol Briefing Intervention Partnership has been set up to deal with young people found by the police under the influence of or in possession of alcohol, with offenders being referred to a Barnardo's worker who will provide early intervention. Operation Zenith continues to heighten awareness of motorcycle safety.

A number of issues were raised with PC Jones, including a) The dumping of rubbish (some but not all garden waste) down over the grassy area in Deveron Road into the plantings. Hilda advised that it has traditionally been considered acceptable to dump grass cuttings in such places; PC Jones advised that the dumping of any other material constitutes fly-tipping and that an eye would be kept on this. b) Young people congregating at the Somerfield car park resulting in

elderly people living nearby feel intimidated. c) A list of those banned from pubs under the Pubwatch scheme is to be made available to the Stewart's Hall. A discussion ensued on the success of the Pubwatch scheme and the limitations imposed by the lack of legislation re "Bring your own bottle" events. d) School pupils congregating outside the RC Chapel from lunchtime onwards and leaving litter - PC Jones advised that the police day shift would monitor and move children on as required. e) PC Jones advised that a second person had recently been apprehended in connection with the theft of lead from Huntly Castle. f) Vehicles doing (right) U-turns in the Square – PC Jones advised that this is technically not an offence as the "No right turn" refers to vehicles going down Deveron Street, not those vehicles turning right to then head down Castle Street.

g) There is no specific police cover for the Service of Dedication but police day staff will be patrolling the area.

PC Jones left the meeting at 7.55 pm. Hilda thanked him for his presence.

b) Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

a) RTMR/Market Muir Junction The report going to the MAC Committee on 22nd May recommends that no remedial action is necessary at the junction. This decision is highly unpopular and controversial and members' views (already provided to, and collated by, Mary) will be submitted to Mark Skilling, copied to Ward Councillors, for his verbal feedback to the Committee – see Appendix 1. The brief discussion on this issue mirrored the points submitted and reflected the frustration and genuine concern regarding the safety of that junction on the main artery route into the town.

b) G-Med Out of Hours Service Review As stated in the press article reporting on the meeting between NHS Grampian and local MSPs, three- and six-monthly reviews were to have been carried out following the changes to the service. As none have been forthcoming, Mary had written to NHS Grampian in April to request sighting of the reviews, and was told that a response would be forthcoming. As none had been received as at 16th May a further request was made, the response being that a letter is in the post. It had not been received as at the date of the meeting.

c) Disabled Parking Spaces Hilda read out the details of those to be removed and those to be added in the town.

d) Dial-a-Bus – extension of operating times in Huntly.

e) Road Closures – Burnside Road (Diamond Jubilee celebrations), Old Road (water connection) and the Square (Huntly Hairst and Farmer's Market)

f) Coat of Arms – Mary has met with Duncan Anderson who has begun to construct the display case. She has also consulted Anne Simpson re how the flag can be held in place inside the case.

g) Huntly and District Walking Guide – launch of the guide on 5th May.

ii) Market Muir Update The recent coffee morning, held jointly with Johnson Carmichael, was a success. The next fundraising event is the Quiz Night on 14th September for which a team from the CC is sought. Discussions with Aberdeenshire Council re improvements to lighting, new pavilion etc are ongoing with no progress to report as yet. The Committee is still in negotiation with the Council re a reduction in fees for user groups. The annual May Day Car Boot Sale took place recently (the funds raised go to the Sports Trust, not the MM Committee).

iii) Arrangements for Service of Dedication 19th May 2012 The various permissions required are in place with notifications having been provided separately to the Golf Club, Swimming Pool and Historic Scotland. Tony is organising the erection of barriers, road closure signs, marshalling etc with help from the Rotary Club. Jordie was thanked for contacting his friend Lucas Brooks-Rooney who will distribute the Order of Service. Both Air and Army Cadets will be present, for which thanks were given to Neil

McAdam for organising this. CC members are to meet at the War Memorial at 12.30. Pat will speak to the HE photographer re provision of a photograph for the North Devon Journal (following a request by the Army Press Office for Devon and Cornwall).

iv) **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations** Arrangements are in place for the slideshow of “old Huntly” photographs which will take place on 7th June in The Gordon Schools. Thanks were given to Hazel’s husband Kevin who will operate the projector and to Patrick Scott who will provide the commentary. Hazel provided posters to members for distribution. Kevin will produce a booklet to accompany the show, the proceeds from which will go to the CC’s general fund. John advised that Sandy Mack is arranging to have the slideshow filmed. Thanks were given to Freda for suggesting the idea which followed an original related suggestion from Kathryn Henderson.

v) **Planning** There was just one planning application, for which Tony provided a map. There were no comments on the application.

vi) **AOCB**

a) Hazel asked John if the “No Smoking” signs in the Stewart’s Hall could be taken down. This will be done.

b) Freda stated that the exterior of the ironmonger’s premises in Duke Street, and part of the Red Cross Shop’s exterior, had to be cleaned earlier in the week after it had been coated with curry sauce.

c) Tony advised that the light within the Simpson Arch has been out of action for some time; additionally, the stonework, and the cobbles underneath the arch, are in need of renovation. There is also a deep pothole just beyond the Arch on the Avenue. Mary to write to Building Services to ask for repair work to be carried out.

d) Tony asked if there had been any progress on the public meeting which was to have been organised by HDT to gauge interest in the setting up of a “civic society” to determine the future use of the Brander Museum space. Mary had written to HDT in January and Hilda quoted from the email received on 26.01.12 which advised that a meeting would be organised in early spring. Mary will chase up Richard Hammock.

e) Suggestions for donations to the Time Capsule to be buried on the day the Portsoy Path is officially opened were discussed. These included a copy of the CC’s May 2012 minutes, a Coat of Arms badge and programme, the 7th June slideshow posters, and a copy of the Order of Service for the Service of Dedication.

f) Hilda had been contacted by a member of the public who had been walking with her daughter (who was cycling) along the Deveron by the Nordic Ski Centre. The path is badly eroded and her daughter had fallen off her bike and into the river. Although both were unhurt, the mother concerned had contacted the school to ask them to alert parents to this issue, and has asked the CC if the Council can be requested to put up warning signs. Mary to write to Aberdeenshire Council accordingly. At Pat’s request, Hilda will ask the person concerned to contact Pat with a view to an article being published in the Huntly Express.

g) Hilda read out a letter from eco2 re the Dummuies Windfarm, specifically the promotion of their community benefit scheme. The wording provided by eco2 is to be adhered to.

h) Colin asked about progress with the road signs being developed by HDT and was advised that a decision re final design had been made and the delivery of the signs imminent.

Freda noted that the new sign for West Park Street has not yet been erected.

4. **Treasurer’s Report** Bob presented for the final time the accounts. The General Account holds £1,353.27 (which includes an element for the Coat of Arms fund and the donation from the Royal Regiment of Scotland Association), the Gordon Highlanders holds

£890.93, and the EIS account £6,519.21. A cheque in payment of Huntly Express's invoice for the AGM/election adverts was issued.

5. Correspondence

The items below had been previously circulated to members – items relating specifically to Huntly had been discussed under 3b) – Huntly Topics.

- a) **Updates from Marr Area Office/Aberdeenshire Council**
 - Introduction of new/removal of old Disabled Persons' Parking Places
 - Committee Report on Market Muir Junction
 - Temporary Traffic Restrictions
 - Huntly A2B Dial-a-Bus service
 - Development Plan Scheme document 2012

- b) **Community Planning**
 - Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership – advice of local reps on Community Planning Board and Community Planning Executive
 - Marr Area Partnership April newsletter - emailed to members 23.4.12
 - Email from MAP (Lizzy Shepherd) re a) road closure at Gairnshiel, Rural Community Transport Networking Event 31st May, and South Marr Community Safety Groups Launch in Banchory 15th May
 - Aberdeenshire Youth Council Awards; Shared Lives Scheme; May's Community Planning E-bulletin

- c) **Other**
 - Response from NHS Grampian re our query re 3/6 monthly reviews following changes to Out-of-Hours Service
 - Response from Duncan Anderson re our query on progress with display case
 - NHS Grampian – Breast Screening Consultation Document – link to website
 - HDT - Invitation to official opening of Portsoy Road (Jubilee) Footpath
 - Gordon Rural Action – info re free insulation scheme
 - Grampian Police – Olympic Torch Relay in Grampian
 - Deveron Arts – Sambasupercollider Workshop 26th May
 - Dr Paul Schlicke – founding of a Dickens Fellowship branch in Aberdeen
 - Scottish Health Council – Scottish Government Consultation re Integration of Adult Health and Social Care
 - Historic Banffshire/Kronach Twinning Ass. – invitation to AGM 16th May
 - Scottish Community Foundation – invitation to Community Benefit/Investment Seminar
 - Association of Scottish Community Councils Online Bulletin (ASCC closing April 2012)

In addition, Hilda submitted two items as “On the Table “correspondence – a map of the route of the Olympic Torch in the north-east, and a flyer from Huntly Learning Centre.

Pat Scott left the meeting at 8.55 pm.

6. AOCB

There were no items of other competent business and the meeting closed at 9 pm.

7. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 21st June at 7.30 pm