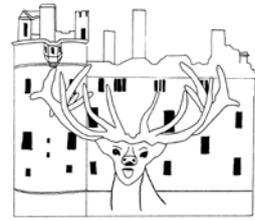




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the September 2015 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 17th September 2015 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present:

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

Others: Fraser Raeburn, Andrew Raeburn, Calla Crockett, Peter Watson (TGS); Lynn Grant, Moira Berry; Cllr Moira Ingleby; Pat Scott (HE)

Apologies: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Michelle Grant

Tony welcomed everyone after the summer break, in particular the pupils from The Gordon Schools, the two prospective new members, Cllr Ingleby and Pat Scott. He referred to the sad passing of Cllr Joanna Strathdee who is a great loss to both the CC and the wider community. Condolences had been sent to her family and both a CC and personal donations were made at her funeral by those members who attended. Tony also referred to the retirement due to ill-health of Cllr Alastair Ross, who will also be missed and who was wished well. A list of correspondence received since the June 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. Although the CC had not met since June, Mary and members had been involved in a variety of activities, listed by Tony, over the summer months.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting Acceptance of the minutes of the June meeting was proposed by Hazel McIntosh and seconded by Ronald Pittendrigh.

3. Matters Arising

- A. Police Issues PC Jones was unable to attend due to a last-minute incident but had provided a police report. Since June there have been 75 recorded offences (of which 30 were road traffic-related) including speeding, careless driving and a 15 year-old caught driving. The remainder included 10 thefts, 6 vandalisms, 1 housebreaking and 1 attempted housebreaking. There were 8 reported assaults, the majority being alcohol-fuelled. Of the remaining the most notable was a Concerned in Supply of Controlled Drugs offence resulting from a cannabis cultivation, and 3 Possession of Controlled Drugs offences.

Police Scotland are currently running Operation Cedar throughout the region, targeting poor driving standards, failure to wear seatbelts and use of mobile phones while driving.

Hazel expressed concern at the apparent increase in the number of cars in the town with noisy exhausts; this was echoed by Norma who cited incidents in the Market Muir/Green Road area. Such emissions are however only an offence if committed after 11 pm. Freda noted that

indiscriminate/illegal parking is still a problem and Tony noted that we had asked the police some time ago to carry out another exercise of putting warning stickers on offending cars. These issues will be discussed with the police at our next meeting. CCTV Although Sgt Sawers had advised in the press in July that the Council could not financially support the installation of CCTV, he has subsequently been asked by Janelle Clark to discuss the issue further. It is hoped

this means the Council are reconsidering their decision and that a meeting will take place next month. Cllr Ingleby advised that the issue has not been brought to committee (though does not necessarily have to be). Sgt Sawers is to keep us updated. Tony noted the arrival of a new Sergeant, Ian Moeller, to the town.

B. Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

- a) Temporary Traffic Restrictions – all past.
- b) Huntly Flood Prevention Scheme – confirmation of the scheme's approval has been received (operational 10.10.15). The Council's engineer in charge of the scheme has offered to talk to the CC and it was agreed to invite her to our October meeting (post meeting note – she will attend our November meeting).
- c) Recycling Bins near the Simpson Arch The Council's Hazel McLaren has contacted Waste Services who have advised that one bin is to be removed and the other two placed behind a tree to give an unimpeded view of the Arch. Peter Watson (TGS) suggested however that the bins will not be used if they are out of reach.
- d) Coat of Arms logo/Dean's branding We wrote to Dean's to ask if they would consider using the Coat of Arms as part of their "brand" in the future, but their reply disappointingly stated they saw no benefit in doing so either now or in the future. Tony welcomed any ideas for further promotion of the Coat of Arms. Meantime Mary has placed Coat of Arms badges for sale at £5 each with Dean's, The Linden Tree and Orb's Bookshop. To date the bookshop has sold 1, the Linden Tree 8, and Dean's 10.
- e) Garden Competition This was held on 2nd August and our thanks go to judges Fiona Murray, Angela Bracegirdle and Ronald Pittendrigh. Tony read out the winners' names (previously published in the Huntly Express) and thanked Ronald for acting as judge and Mary for organising the competition.
- f) Scheme of Establishment for CCs A Working Group met in June to set the Terms of Reference for the review of the Scheme. The minutes of that and a subsequent meeting have just been sent to us and Mary will circulate these to members with a view to discussing the content at the October meeting.
- g) Supporting Communities Event Tony attended this event in Banchory which focused on working together effectively. The next event, which Mary has circulated the details of, is in Kemnay in November. Hazel plans to attend.
- h) AB54 Toolkit Hazel McLaren is collating data from the various community surveys undertaken over recent years with a view to producing, with community support, a toolkit which can be used to help complete funding applications. We await her advice of the first Working Group meeting.
- i) Huntly Integrated Travel Town Mary had circulated an email re the online survey of a "masterplan" of proposals for Huntly for comment. Hazel had attended two meetings where it was clear the Council officer present had little knowledge of the town or the issues affecting travel. We have been subsequently asked to provide "stories" for a walking map. It was agreed to respond that HDDT have already produced an excellent Huntly walking guide.
- j) CC Stall in the Square on Hairst Day Tony, Hazel, Michelle and Mary manned a stall in the Square on 5th September to promote the CC and the Green Dogwalking Scheme and to recruit new members. Some interest was shown in the CC and 9 people signed up the GDS, so it was overall a worthwhile exercise. Mary outlined the aims of the GDS for the benefit of those present.

ii) Road Issues

- a) After much chasing, we got a response from Mark Skilling re the various concerns discussed with him when he, Janelle Clark and Cllr Ingleby walked through the Square and surrounding areas on 4th June. The Park and Pay Sign beside the old Clydesdale Bank is to be moved (the owner of the bistro shortly to open there has also raised concerns). The other sign which is visible from the Castle Street end is equally intrusive and we had asked especially that it be moved or made smaller, though Cllr Ingleby believes that one was

not looked at. The Bus Information Stand will remain where it is. Cllr Ingleby suggested it be ascertained how much it is being used with a view to having it removed if usage is low. Hazel suggested that we seek the views of Stephen Archer, Head of Infrastructure Services, giving the background to the whole saga of the totem, including its position in the Square, Planning's role and referring to Cllr Ingleby's suggestion. No action is to be taken re improved visibility of the signs indicating that Bogie Street becomes a no entry zone at the Gladstone Road junction but we will continue to press for "No Entry" to be painted on the road, and highlight the difficulty of exiting Gladstone Road due to the positioning of the chevron sign. Tony noted that the yellow line on Granary Street is a continuous one but should be a broken line as the accompanying wall signs indicate it is a 45 minute parking area. Market Muir Junction The Council are awaiting a price from the sign manufacturer re the defective flashing sign. The missing "Stop" warning sign is also to be replaced.

The residents of Deveron Street had held a meeting in June to discuss traffic-calming measures. The minutes were sent to us and we forwarded them to Mark Skilling who eventually advised the contact was Ralph Singleton. Mr Singleton has given an initial response which was discussed. It was agreed per his suggestions that a traffic speed survey be carried out and a "ghost" build-out put in place. Before we respond however, we will get the views of the Deveron Street community and incorporate these in our reply.

We have had no response to the concerns raised in the same initial email to Mark Skilling about the volume of traffic around Asda and the industrial estate and will chase this up with Ralph Singleton.

- iii) **Clashindarroch Windfarm Community Fund** Foundation Scotland have provided the criteria/guidance notes for the launch of the Microgrants scheme which is planned to be in place by end 2015. We have raised concerns at the stipulation that unconstituted groups applying for funds must nominate another group to receive the money on their behalf and await Foundation Scotland's response. It was agreed that thereafter a special meeting be convened to discuss how we will operate the scheme. The panel meets again at the end of October to review and make decisions on the applications received for Round 2. Cairnborrow Construction of the 4 turbines and 1 community turbine has begun. HDDT will administer the community fund. The Liaison Group meets next on 1st October. Glens of Foudland Windfarm Planning permission is being sought for a further 7 turbines.
- iv) **Planning Applications** Tony outlined those applications awaiting a decision. A general discussion on these ensued, however there was no significant comment.
- v) **AOCB**
 - a) Network Rail The Aberdeen to Inverness rail line is to be upgraded and the expected reduction in journey times and increased services was welcomed.
 - b) Research Projects, Tony and Mary have been interviewed by the James Hutton Institute re HDDT's activities and by a PHd student researching the impact of Deveron Arts on the town. Additionally, we are being sent the draft of a JHI report which Hilda and Mary contributed to in late 2013.
 - c) Integration of Health and Social Care Partnership There is to be a further event in Huntly on 23rd September which Ronald has volunteered to attend.
 - d) Bedding Plants Order The annual offer of Community Plants has been received from Landscape Services. 12 groups have submitted orders and Mary has collated and returned these.
 - e) AWPR update We have received an invitation to attend an event at Woodhill House on 6th October.
 - f) Local Boundary Changes Mary had previously circulated these. Comments are invited either on the website or in writing by 22nd October. There appears to be no change to the Marr area boundaries.

- g) Town Regeneration Event Tony had attended this event in Inverurie in August which advised of progress with the Government's Town Centre Action Plan, the aim being to provide a toolkit to support town centre improvements.
- h) Concerned Resident's email We have received an email asking us to pursue various street signage, lighting, landscaping etc improvements and will forward the individual's concerns to the appropriate Council departments. An acquaintance of Freda's had expressed concern at the removal of branches/trees from the area around the Avenue entrance to the Football Club, where building work has taken place. Freda was advised that their removal would have been requested as part of the associated planning application which could be viewed online or the Council contacted. She also mentioned concerns from the lollipop lady at the restricted view resulting from cars parked on the Avenue, but it was pointed out that cars can park there legitimately. If however people are parking on the yellow lines near the Avenue junction, then we can ask the police to carry out regular checks in the area.

5. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel advised that the General Account holds £873.73, the Admin Grant having been received (though money to be deducted for various expenses), the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35, and the EIS Account £3,391.74. A new bank account for the Microgrants scheme funding has been opened.

6. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:
Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office – many items already covered; please also refer to the list of correspondence circulated by Mary and to the items put on the table.
Community Planning – Ronald attended the CWF on 2nd September where amongst other topics there was a talk on advocacy. We have received an invitation to the MAP AGM and Community Gathering on 30th September.
Other - as per Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office.

7. **AOCB**
Youth Member Tony thanked the TGS pupils for their interest in the Youth Member vacancy and asked that, having attended tonight's meeting, they go back to the school and decide via an election or other means who is to be nominated for the position. Once we are notified, we will meet with the nominee and arrange for he or she to be co-opted onto the CC.
Ordinary Members Tony thanked the two prospective ordinary members for their interest. Mary will provide them with nomination forms with a view to them being co-opted onto the CC, and once these have been proposed and seconded by CC members, they will be provided with a copy of the Constitution and other relevant documents. We look forward to welcoming all new members at the October meeting.
TGS Lottery The first draw for the winner of the TGS lottery, which the CC has been asked to make, will take place at our November meeting, assuming sufficient take-up.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 15th October 2015 at 7.30 pm.