



## HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the June 2010 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, The Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 17 June at 7.30 pm**

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chairperson); Bob Ness (Treasurer); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Hazel McIntosh; Freda McRae; John Greer; Gillian Petrie; PC Neil McAdam; Cllr Moira Ingleby; Pat Scott

Apologies: Tony Gill (expected later); Kathryn Henderson; Karen Reid; Cllrs Alastair Ross, Joanna Strathdee, Richard Stroud

Hilda welcomed both members and PC McAdam, Pat Scott and Cllr Ingleby to this, the last meeting before the summer break.

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes were proposed for acceptance by Bob Ness and seconded by Freda McRae. Hilda raised a point of information re the previous meeting – it had been Bob's understanding that if a meeting is quorate at its beginning, it remains so for the duration of the meeting, but we have subsequently been advised by Susan Mathers, Marr Area Officer, that this is not the case. However, as no decisions were made at the last meeting after it ceased to be quorate, the minutes as they stand are acceptable. Nevertheless, it underlines the fact that we need more members to ensure we are not again on the borderline as far as being quorate is concerned. Hilda suggested we look at co-opting a member(s) at the next meeting.

**3. Guest Speaker Steve Gray**, Environmental Planner for the Huntly Woodlands Project, who was scheduled to give a talk was at the last minute unable to attend. However, he had addressed a Woodlands meeting earlier in the week and Pat Scott was able to report back on this. Marr Area Committee have approved the plan to clearfell 7 hectares at the Battlehill using industrial machinery. There is a small group who are concerned about this. Outcome of funding application will be known by end July and if successful work will start shortly afterwards. As well as felling the Sitka Spruces, road and paths will be upgraded, quarry drainage addressed, deer fences erected etc. Trees will be replaced with broad-leafed varieties but if there is evidence of red squirrel activity around an existing tree, it will be left.

It was agreed to take up Steve Gray's offer of sending us a summary and to invite him to a meeting later in the year, by which time the work should be complete.

#### 4. **Matters Arising**

- a) **Police Issues** PC McAdam presented his report. There were 24 crimes and offences in the 28 days to 17 June, 11 of which were “priority” crimes. 9 were vandalisms, 3 of which relate to a specific neighbourhood and have been detected. 13 of the 24 crimes have been detected so far and 3 drivers issued with Anti-Social Behaviour Driving Warnings. Following concerns expressed during Traffic Management Review re parking, there will be a concerted period of advice, warning and enforcement by the police.

Gillian raised the issue of ATMs being tampered with by criminals who install cameras that can read magnetic strips and PIN numbers, and advised that the scanning devices used can be seen on the Grampian police website. Although Huntly has not been targeted, neighbouring towns have, and random checks are being carried out by the police. PC McAdam advised people to shield their PIN number with their hand when using ATMs. John asked if there could be a heightened presence of traffic wardens in Huntly – there is no dedicated warden for the town although the Inverurie warden makes occasional visits. PC McAdam confirmed it is the police who pay for the wardens but said it was unlikely a dedicated warden will be provided, however, he referred members to the concerted efforts to be made re parking problems as mentioned above.

- b) **Market Muir Update** As Tony was absent at this stage, there was no update other than Hilda advising the next Committee meeting will be on 28 June.

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

Actions from last meeting: Road issues: our letter to Les Allan re kerbstones – has been passed to Ralph Singleton for action. Tap/water at new cemetery – Cllr Strathdee checked situation after last meeting and there is a tap/water but at main entrance, not more commonly used side entrance.

Aberdeenshire Council Consultation Alerts two consultations ongoing – 2010 Residents Survey (May-Nov) and Education Leisure and Learning Self-Evaluation Parents/Carers Survey (May-June).

Invitation from ACSEF to join Planning Modernisation Group Forum 30 June.

Emails from Cllr Ron McKail re funding sources – Community Groups European Funding and j4bcommunityfunding (HCC now registered for latter).

Woodlands Around Town Draft Application – information forwarded plus comments from interest groups.

Street Sports Programmes details of venues/events over summer (Huntly not featured). In response to a query from Cllr Ingleby, PC McAdam advised that local football event had run from Feb to May with 2 teams going to the final.

Scottish Govt info bulletins – various topics incl. building/planning updates

Correspondence from other Aberdeenshire CCs – Benholm and Johnshaven CC Chair Chris Green has emailed with concerns re Aberdeenshire Council’s stance on Conservation Areas and asked for our views; discussion ensued with Cllr Ingleby advising that policies had become more rigid over last 15 years – John observed that there was a significant cost falling on householders due to having to adhere to conservation area regulations. Stonehaven and District CC

Chair David Fleming had emailed requesting our experience of Council's response to flooding and Hilda had responded.

Scrutiny and Audit Committee Meeting 23 June Hilda has been invited to an Evidence Gathering Session and sought CC's permission to attend – granted. She distributed questionnaires on topic to be discussed (Waste Investigation) – completion/feedback requested from CC members by 21 June.

Surface Dressing – details of convoys/affected areas in Huntly.

- d) **Community Planning** Next Forum Group meetings on 25 August at Alford and 10 November at Lumsden. "Our Aberdeenshire" newsletter and Marr Community Plan 2010-2014 available on website. Hilda referred to information sheet containing FAQs about Community Councils, brought to last meeting by PC McAdam who had attended last forum, and issued copies to all members. Freda mentioned general untidiness of the Square – broken windows in upstairs buildings, painting required, litter etc – and presence outside school area of torn up copies of New Testament issued to Year One pupils by Gideons. Pat expressed concern about the cigarette ends lining one side of Gordon Street – designated smoking areas available but people apparently not using them. Hilda to speak to Donald Boyd to see if Business Association can address the Square issues.
- e) **Coat of Arms** Next meeting to discuss arrangements for reception (19 September preferred date) is 21 June with first fundraising event on 25<sup>th</sup>. Hazel has asked local shops for raffle and bingo prizes from local shops. Gillian is awaiting response from Asda and Tesco re vouchers. Hilda referred members to article in Knock News which explains the Ross Herald role; she will contact Charles Burnett to ascertain situation re Lord Lieutenant.
- f) **Road Traffic Management Review Consultation Days** Donald Boyd has reported to Hilda that the Thursday's consultation had been quiet, but Friday and Saturday very busy. 30 online questionnaires completed and 20-30 groups spoken to. Draft report for statutory consultation to be produced by end June and Marr Area Committee will discuss on 17 August. If approved then, Traffic Order will have to be taken out which takes 3 months, so unlikely to see action in this calendar year, but should happen in this financial year.
- g) **Garden Competition** Kathryn and Hilda have met and Kathryn has kindly made all the arrangements for this year's competition. Judging will take place on 15 August with forms available from local outlets in July. Hilda asked Pat to plug the event over the coming months in the Huntly Express. Thanks were expressed for Kathryn's hard work in organizing the event and to Avril who will print the certificates.

(Tony Gill joined the meeting at 8.45 pm)

## 5. **Treasurer's Report**

Bob advised funds are low (£175 in the general account) pending the receipt of Aberdeenshire Council's grant which is expected early July. £124.14 to be paid from Gordon Highlander account for annual insurance, £25 from the general account for annual contribution to Floral Fund. Money due to Avril for printing costs to be reimbursed when Council grant comes through. £70 has been paid into EIS account following June ceilidh.

## 6. Correspondence

For the table:

Out of date – invitation to Open Consultation with Kinship Carers 10 June;  
Leaflets – Community Woodlands Association Newsletter; NHS Grampian's Health Plan 2010-13; North East News from Richard Baker MSP;  
Aberdeenshire Council's Housing Strategy Bulletin; Aberdeenshire Sports Council Newsletter; Wicksteed Play Equipment Catalogue

Planning sheets – only one application - for property at Gordon Way.

### Other Correspondence

Deveron Arts – exhibition in Germany of work produced by David Sherry while working in Huntly;

Letter from NHS Grampian accompanying Grampian Health Plan 2010-13; NHS Grampian Consultation on Health Services for Children with Complex Needs;

Introductory letter from SURF;

Letter from student researching work of CCs – coming to September meeting and meantime enclosing questionnaires to complete prior to meeting;

Letter received in May from SCARF – pass on to Surestart;

Invitation to grand launch of Huntly Castle Junior Tour Guides on 24 June

Hilda read out a thanks card from Avril for the gift presented to her when she retired as Secretary, together with a request from her that members be made aware that Huntly Area Cancer Support Group needs new office-bearers.

7. AOCB Freda raised the issue of the mess left by the travellers who had been pitched at the Golf Course practice ground, and circulated photos she had taken of the site. Following an eviction order issued by the Golf Club, the travellers left on 16 June, leaving behind a large amount of rubbish. PC McAdam pointed out that offences reported since their arrival were against the travellers (by school pupils).

The meeting closed at 9 pm with Hilda wishing everyone a good summer. **The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16 September at 7.30 pm.**