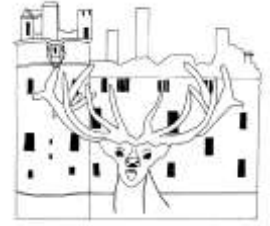




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the April 2011 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 21st April 2011 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Freda McRae; Hazel McIntosh; Gillian Petrie; Karen Reid; Bob Ness; PC Neil McAdam; Pat Scott (HE); Cllr Joanna Strathdee

Apologies: Norma Milne; Kathryn Henderson; Trine Luno; Cllr Alastair Ross; Cllr Richard Stroud

Hilda welcomed everyone, including PC Neil McAdam, Pat Scott, and Cllr Strathdee, to the meeting. She reminded members that if they are not able to attend a meeting, they should submit apologies to herself or Mary by 12 noon on the day of the meeting; similarly, any member who is unable to attend meetings long-term should advise Hilda or Mary. There was no speaker scheduled for this meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The April minutes were proposed for acceptance by Bob Ness and seconded by Tony Gill.

3. Matters Arising

- a) **Police Issues** PC McAdam presented his report for the period 18th March to 21st April. There were 33 crimes in the period, 11 of which were priority crimes. Acquisitive crime is on the increase with 3 thefts from cars, one housebreaking and two attempted break-ins to garages. Underage drinking continues to be a problem. The police and Pat Scott were thanked for the front-page coverage in the Huntly Express highlighting the extent of the problem, and the crackdown by police was applauded. Hazel asked if surveillance of Cooper Park is being continually monitored. She also highlighted the fact that the tennis courts were only able to be reopened after broken glass had been cleared off the court. Karen asked if underage drinking is illegal and PC McAdam confirmed it is not, although the supply of it is, and the police have powers to confiscate alcohol from under-agers.

Police are also addressing the issue of speeding at East Park Street, particularly at school crossing time, with drivers being stopped and warned. Members are still concerned about cars parking at junctions and on pavements, and the danger this poses.

It was noted that a small group of travellers has taken up residency near the Deveron. PC McAdam advised that they have visited the group, but that it is a

different group from the larger one which visited the town last year, and no problems are envisaged.

Hilda thanked PC McAdam for his contribution; she then highlighted some local issues contained in the latest Local Policing Update, and advised that Mary had completed an online Local Policing Survey on behalf of the Community Council. PC McAdam left the meeting at 7.55 pm.

b) Market Muir Update Tony confirmed there is to be a Coffee Morning, shared with Johnston Carmichael who are raising funds for Huntly Day Care Centre, on 23rd April – volunteers sought to help out. The next fundraising event is a quiz in September. The funfair has arrived for the Easter weekend and as a result the planned work on the topsoil has had to be postponed although it is hoped to carry this out between the funfair's departure and the car boot sale on 2nd May. The pavilion is to be painted, and it is hoped the new grass will be well-established by the time of the next meeting in June. Hilda commented on the attractiveness of the flowerbed planted by schoolchildren at the roadside which provides a welcome display for visitors to the town.

c) Updates from Marr Area Office/Aberdeenshire Council

- Road closures in June re Pipe Band and EIS events
- Heavy Goods Vehicle Licensing – application by the Elliot Group; no objections raised as any new business to the town is to be welcomed
- Community Council Funding for 2011-12 – notification received of amount to be paid (same as 2010-11 amount)
- Woodlands project – update from Steven Gray on Battlehill replanting (Hazel and John and their respective families had participated)
- Scottish Government – Mobile Services survey completed; Weekly Round-Up; Planning and Building Update
- Request to complete survey on Economic Development Strategy
- Scottish Government – Better Together Consumer Panel invitation to participate in Glasgow/Edinburgh
- Local Councillor Shadowing Award – to be forwarded to Gordon Schools and Youth Forum

d) Community Planning

- Invitation to Ward 14 Community Forum 11th May , Alford
- Lead responsibility for Community Planning – new person appointed
- Link to April Community Planning e-bulletin
- Request for feedback from Scottish Ambulance Service

e) **Coat of Arms Project** Awaiting Barry Driver (signwriter) and Duncan Anderson (joiner) to design and put in place Coat of Arms plaques in Stewart's Hall. John advised that the Pipe Band now have the Coat of Arms logo on their ties and although this is the type of use of the logo we wish to encourage, it was noted that the protocol of organizations requesting permission beforehand from the Community Council had not been followed in this case. Mary to contact Hamish Dean to ask that a request be submitted in writing. The flag will be displayed during Entertainment in the Square in June and Bob also suggested it be carried as the "Huntly Standard" during future Armistice Day parades. Neil will be asked for advice on provision of pole etc.

f) **Road Traffic Management Review** The draft report has now been received from Mark Skilling, with the final report to go to the Area Committee on 24th May. Hilda thanked Cllr Ingleby in her absence for chasing things up. A 20 mph speed limit in the commercial town centre and revamped signage at the Market Muir/Gordon Street junction are among the main proposals. Mary to email report to members and a Special Meeting of the Community Council is to be convened on 12th May to discuss the report and feed back to Mark Skilling and to Councillors. Mary to also arrange for a note of this Special Meeting to be displayed in the Stewart's Hall window.

g) **Entertainment in the Square 2011** Hilda provided an update on preparations for the event. Permissions are in the process of being granted and the raffle tickets have been printed, but performers are being slow in getting back to Hilda so no draft programme can be drawn up as yet. The national "Big Lunch" is being held from 12 – 2 pm at the Stewart's Hall on the same day, and it is hoped that both events will mutually benefit. There has been positive feedback from the public that the event is taking place. The next meeting is on 9th May and thereafter meetings will be held weekly.

h) **Licensing Forum Meeting** This took place on 22nd March. Although there were less Pubwatch members present than anticipated, it was a useful and interesting session with plenty of debate and questions. Hilda read out an email from the Forum's administrator which echoed this view and which stated that feedback on issues raised would be forthcoming. Bob apologized for having been unable to attend.

i) **Arrangements for AGM/Elections** The AGM has been advertised as has the invitation for nominations to the Community Council. Bob, Gillian and Kathryn are due for re-election but Kathryn has already advised she is standing down, although she has kindly done some preparatory work for the Garden Competition. Gillian advised that she would be standing down. Of the co-opted members, Trine Luno and Karen Reid are not standing again. Bob is standing down as Treasurer but may continue as an ordinary member. Thanks were expressed to those standing down. The Youth Forum will be contacted with a view to a replacement Youth Member being nominated, as this been a very successful concept with Karen's contribution to the Community Council having been greatly valued. Letters of thanks to those standing down will be issued after the AGM, which starts at 7 pm on Thursday 19th May.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Bob reported that the General Fund contains £796.35 of which £558.67 is allocated to the Coat of Arms fund; the Gordon Highlanders Account stands at £890.63, and the EIS at £2,790.05.

5. **Correspondence**

- **For the table:** A Guide to your Local Licensing Forum
- **Planning:** three applications for consideration

- Update from West Coast Energy re Cairnborrow proposal; email from HDT (Donald Boyd) re joint meeting of three Community Councils (on 25th April as part of Strathbogie CC meeting) to discuss community turbine
- Advice of Hustings at Woodhill House, Aberdeen, on 21st April
- Invitation from Rotary Club to opening of Glamourhaugh allotments; Hilda had been unable to attend but had sent a letter of congratulations
- Invitation from Fire Brigades Union Scotland to view their response to Scottish Government's Consultation on future of Fire and Rescue Service
- Promotional emails from Deveron Arts re forthcoming events
- Hilda had attended the Huntly and District Social Needs Workshop on 23rd March – awaiting report

6. AOCB

Hilda had received a complaint from a member of the public about litter. Cllr Strathdee advised that there had been a litter pick-up around the Nordic Ski Centre area by those carrying out Community Service, and Hazel advised that the Primary School had carried out their annual tidy-up of the woods. Tony advised that a request had been made for dog-fouling signs to be erected at the temporary rugby pitch.

John advised that a group from Finland is coming to Huntly on 13th May; this is a reciprocal visit following HDT's visit to Finland last year. The plan is that the Finnish group will teach the Huntly community how to work with wood and they will be taught by us how to work with stone. There is a tentative plan to erect a shed for children to use as a changing room when swimming in the Deveron. This prompted discussion about flooding issues and the erosion of parts of the path along the Deveron. It was felt that the river should and would follow its natural course and that any remedial work on paths would not be economically viable. The construction of a path along the burn at the cemetery end of the plants by an individual who is doing it as a voluntary exercise was applauded.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm. Hilda thanked all for attending.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 19th May at 7.30 pm (following the AGM which starts at 7 pm)

ACTIONS:

- Contact Hamish Dean re use of Coat of Arms logo
- Publicise notification of Special Meeting to discuss RTMR
- Circulate draft RTMR report to members
- Forward Local Councillor Shadowing Award email to Gordon Schools and Youth Forum
- Prepare paperwork for AGM