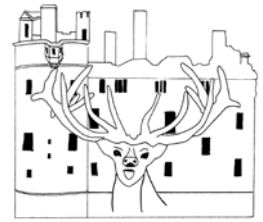




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the February 2015 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 19th February 2015 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

Others: Pat Scott (Huntly Express); PC Craig Arnott (Police Scotland)

Apologies: Hilda Lumsden-Gill; Cllr Moira Ingleby; Isadora Lee

Tony welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for the sympathy extended following the death of his father in January. He thanked Hazel for standing in as Chair at the January meeting. A list of correspondence received since that 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.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The January minutes were proposed for acceptance by Norma Milne and seconded by Freda McRae.

3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues PC Arnott reported the following:

In the last 4 weeks there have been 38 recorded crimes of various types. 20 of these have been successfully detected and the remaining 18 enquiries are currently ongoing with various possible lines of enquiry. There have been 10 recorded vehicle related crimes, 10 incidents involving Assault or Breach of the Peace, 7 recorded theft related crimes, 4 recorded incidents of vandalism and 4 drug related crimes. Operation Collinsville continues, aimed at educating drivers regarding driving behaviour, and some tickets have been issued, with one vehicle being seized and the driver given a second warning re antisocial driving in the town.

The rare appearance of graffiti in the town over the weekend was discussed. Hilda had been alerted to two instances in the Square and McVeagh Street and had reported them to the Council's Wasteline (they were removed today); other instances have since come to light and these will be reported. PC Arnott advised an individual is in custody in connection with this. Hazel queried the elapsed time between reporting and removal of graffiti - PC Arnott advised that its removal is a Council responsibility but that it needs to remain in place until the police gather evidence. It was also noted that the Floral Fund had reported the stealing of plants from the railing planters around the Duke and that it supports the introduction of CCTV. Ronald raised the issue of damage to the Cooper Park tennis court nets and to two of the wooden bridges in the Plantings, as well as an incident of residents having food and a paintball thrown at their window by a school pupil(s). PC Arnott was aware of this incident. He will raise these issues with his colleagues the

possibility of increased patrols in the areas in question. Ronald suggested that actual or mock CCTV cameras or reactive floodlights be placed in Cooper Park. Indiscriminate parking at junctions continues to be a problem. PC Arnott will investigate whether the previously successful initiative of placing warning stickers on illegally-parked cars can be re-introduced. The issue of CCTV was briefly discussed (main discussion under "Huntly Topics" below). PC Arnott advised that Sgt Sawers had had a positive meeting with the Council. He is now on leave but the issue will be progressed on his return.

Marr Multi-Ward Policing Plan – Mary had circulated this to members. Michelle felt there was little information on which to comment at this stage and suggested that the Police Officer who comes to the March meeting elaborate on it. PC Arnott advised that it followed a Police Scotland-wide survey where people were asked what the policing priorities should be - it appears that the above Plan is seeking to establish whether the priorities identified should remain as such.

Strengthening North East Policing Divisions A proposal has been made to merge the existing two divisions (Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire/Moray) as they share many challenges, experiences etc. Further consultation is to be carried out. PC Arnott advised that there is already much shared working between the two which sometimes results in eg. Huntly-based officers being sent/called away to far-flung areas, leaving just one officer in the town (as was the case tonight). The increased level of terrorism alerts means that two police officers are now required to be present before an incident is investigated.

PC Arnott left the meeting at 8.00 pm. Tony thanked him for his attendance.

of enquiry.

ThB. Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

- a) CCTV Following Sgt Sawers' talk at the January meeting, those present tonight were asked for their views on whether CCTV should be introduced in the town. Hazel does not support the proposal, believing it sends out the wrong message, breeds fear and could move trouble-makers out of the Square to offend in other areas. Although some members acknowledged her concerns, and reservations were expressed about how comparable Huntly was to the other towns which have introduced CCTV, overall the proposal was supported (including the presence of cameras at the Market Muir Car Park).
- b) Temporary Traffic Restrictions – road closures for 2015 Farmers Markets.
- c) Variation to Licence – Café India are applying for permission for an extension to their restaurant and a repositioning of the bar area. No objections were raised.
- d) Older People's Forum It was agreed that in light of difficulties experienced by Mary and Pat in ascertaining the composition of the local Huntly Older People's Forum, that we do not progress the provision of information re work already done on road issues until we have more information about the Group.
- e) Pirriesmill Bridge Oli Giles, Green Travel Hub Manager with HDDT, has requested a letter of support for their application for funding to explore the feasibility of repairing the currently unsafe bridge which the Council are considering removing. The area beyond the bridge is much used recreationally and members were happy with such a letter being provided. Tony noted that HDDT would have to consult with the Fisheries authorities if the bridge was to be replaced.
- f) Forestry Commission Consultation Ronald had attended a drop-in session at the Stewart's Hall re proposed land management at Ittingstone and Culdrain. The FC wish to attend one of our meetings; as the areas in question lie outwith Huntly CC's boundaries, Mary will advise them that contact should instead be made with Strathbogie and Tap o'Noth CCs.

- ii) **Road Issues** None, but it was noted that the police will consider re-introducing the practice of placing warning stickers on illegally-parked cars (see under Police Issues).
- iii) **Clashindarroch Windfarm Community Fund** Tony and Mary attended a meeting of the Working Group on 11th February. The Fund is to be launched at the end of June. Tony summarised the timeline of events in the lead-up to the launch. The launch will include projects carried out by young people, including a film and competitions for the design of a Community Fund logo and the naming of turbines. The upper limit of grants available for CCs to award through the Microgrant scheme has been raised to £500. The next meeting, to approve the Fund Framework and the design of application forms, will take place on 3rd March. Tony confirmed to members that he (and previously Hilda) and Mary, having served on the Working Group up till now, will be Huntly CC's reps on the Panel for the short-term at least. Hazel expressed concern at the volume of work that the CC's management of the Microgrant scheme and the involvement of two CC members on the panel will generate.
- iv) **Cairnborrow Windfarm** Ronald and Michelle had attended the Community Liaison meeting on 16th January. While other CCs who were represented had more to contribute, the windfarm being in their area, they found it an interesting meeting. An income of £5k per annum per turbine is guaranteed regardless of performance, and the funds will be allocated 75% to HDDT and 25% to the community. A further meeting is to be held around Easter.

iv) Planning Applications Tony summarised the applications made since the last meeting. There was no significant comment. He also circulated a plan of the proposed restaurant in the former Clydesdale Bank building. **Local Plan** We have received notification of the timetable leading up to the publication of the Local Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance (to be adopted in October 2016). We will have the opportunity to view and discuss any plans specific to Huntly in due course.

v) AOCB

a) **Entertainment in the Square 2015**. Police Scotland's Events Management Team had contacted Hilda to ask if EIS was going ahead in 2015. For the benefit of newer members, Tony outlined the background to EIS and the difficulties in recent years in getting enough volunteers to organise the event. It was agreed that it would not go ahead in 2015. Michelle felt that as a CC representing the local community we should organise some kind of general event/fundraiser – it was agreed to consider this for later in the year.

b) **Janelle Clark, Marr Area Manager**, will be attending our April meeting.

c) **Energising Scotland Renewable Energy Conference** Mary had forwarded an email on this issue to HDDT who have suggested that if a CC member wishes to attend (Stirling, 17th /18th March) and report back to HDDT, their expenses will be reimbursed. No CC member present is able to attend.

d) **CC Annual Insurance Renewal** We have received renewal documentation from Highland Council who since 2014 have managed Aberdeenshire Council's insurance. The Gordon Highlanders Memorial insurance, previously paid by the CC, is now covered by the policy.

f) **School Transport** – Mary is to write a letter to the Council's Client Transport section supporting The Gordon School's Parent Council in their attempts to resolve outstanding issues such as the movement of buses through the town. A discussion ensued on the proposal to have a bus park by the AWP pavilion and the likelihood of this going ahead/the constraints against doing so. (Cllr Strathdee had previously indicated that there was no Capital Budget provision for a bus park). It was agreed that a definitive answer re the bus park will be requested from the Council so that the issue can be put to bed once and for all.

g) **Flood Prevention Scheme** Ronald had attended the latter part of the hearing held on 18th February. The objections of two landowners are being considered by

the Scottish Government Reporter. There seems to be some uncertainty concerning the powers of the Reporter and the involvement of the Scottish Government. Pat, who had also attended the hearing, advised that the Huntly scheme is the first to be subjected to new legislation in this area which may account for any perceived uncertainties.

Pat left the meeting at 9.15 pm.

4. **Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils** We have been asked to comment on Phase 2 of the Review of this Scheme. It was felt that some issues including the definition of "significant connection to the town" (re CC membership), changes to Terms of Office, and the Council determining the date of elections needed clarification, and agreed that we would take the Council up on their offer to come and talk to us about any concerns (post meeting note: Ian Rogan will attend our March meeting).
5. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel advised that the General Account holds £493.53 (the Data Protection annual fee being paid on the night), the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35, and the EIS Account £3,391.74.
6. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:
Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office – We have received a copy of the Council's Customer Satisfaction Survey which Mary as the main point of communication will complete.
Community Planning – nothing to report.
Other – The Deveron Arts newsletter was put on the table.
7. **AOCB**
Aberdeenshire Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership – Michelle had that afternoon sent Mary an email outlining a draft proposal for Aberdeenshire Council and NHS to integrate health and social care. There is to be an information event in the Stewart's Hall on 5th March. Mary will circulate the email to members.
Domestic Fuel Costs Norma had been approached by a resident who was looking for a way for the AB54 community to voice its concerns about the additional fuel charges that are levied on customers in the North of Scotland. It was suggested that the individual in question contact either their Ward Councillor or their MSP/MP, the latter potentially being able to raise it as a campaigning issue in advance of the General Election.
Gazebo John Greer, Hall Caretaker, has advised that a 3m x 2m gazebo has been procured and is available for use by local organisations. It is being stored in the Stewart's Hall and any interested parties should contact John or any of the Hall staff.

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm. Tony thanked all who attended.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 19th March 2015.