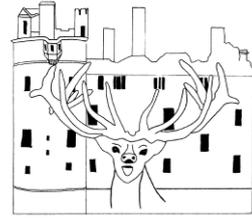




# HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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## Minutes of the May 2014 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7.30 pm

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Hazel McIntosh (Treasurer); Freda McRae; Bob Ness; Rev Norma Milne; Bronwyn Gall; Mary Burgerhout (Secretary)

**Others:** Pat Scott (Huntly Express); Cllr Moira Ingleby

**Apologies:** Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair)

Tony welcomed members, Pat Scott and Cllr Ingleby to the meeting.

A list of correspondence received since the April 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. In addition correspondence, which was not dealt with at the April meeting due to it not being quorate, was carried over to the May meeting.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** The March minutes, which were not approved in April for the reasons outlined above, were proposed for acceptance by Bob Ness and seconded by Hazel McIntosh.

### 3. Matters Arising

**A. Police Issues** There was no representative from Police Scotland, nor was a Monthly Report provided.

#### **B) Huntly Topics**

##### **i) Current Issues**

- a) Temporary Traffic Restriction – closure of the Square for the Farmers' Markets from May to December.
- b) Huntly Golf Club – Application for Premises Licence – period for comment expired.
- c) Winged Wheel Cycling Plaque – Mary advised that Aberdeenshire Council's Museum Services staff have confirmed that as the plaque is not on a public building, its ownership must be established before any restoration/recording can be progressed. Mary has contacted the Scottish branch of the CTC who do not know who owns the plaque but have referred the matter to their Head Office in Guildford. We await their response.
- d) CC Training Training for Community Councillors is being organised by Aberdeenshire Council at various locations over the coming months, the planned date for Huntly being 13<sup>th</sup> September – more information to follow.
- e) A96 Dualling Consultation responses/updates from Transport Scotland have been circulated as part of the first stage of the assessment process.
- f) Litter etc Issues Following the email received from a concerned resident and extensive coverage by the Huntly Express, Mary has written to various groups and individuals in the town, with responses to date as follows: Asda have advised they have carried out a trolley collection exercise and retrieved 13; collections will be carried out on a regular basis (we await a response from Tesco). The Gordon Schools have confirmed they are committed to making pupils more litter-aware and continue to educate and promote in this regard. The Council's Wasteline have undertaken to send a "hit squad" to clean up the lower part of the Meadows, however a request for a jetwash of the Square has been rejected because of the cost

involved. Norma Hunter has walked through the "Edible Trail" created by her and her team and retrieved/put back in place the small number of tree casings that were lying about. Steve Gray of Aberdeenshire Council has requested we contact the appropriate Council officer re tree casings which have come adrift as part of other planting initiatives. A white "bucket" has been placed at the football pitch, presumably in response to the email sent by Mary to the Youth Teams' manager, for the disposal of plastic bottles, but this is already overflowing, and a request will now be made to Wasteline to provide a bin for this location. It has been noted that Council employees have been tidying up the area around the Market Muir, and that at least one individual has taken it upon himself to carry out a clean-up of the Meadows area, which is encouraging. Hazel advised that as part of their Personal and Social Development, first-year pupils at The Gordon Schools have carried out a clean-up.

While it was felt that the CC, having contacted the various groups above, should now monitor the results over the coming months, it may be that a community clean-up, possibly in conjunction with other groups, will be required, with practical help in the shape of bags, gloves etc available by both Keep Scotland Beautiful and Aberdeenshire Council. Meantime a further email has been received from the resident who originally raised the litter issue, listing more areas of concern. Hilda had written to the resident suggesting they meet up to discuss the matter further, but to date has not received a response.

Reference was made to the article in the 9<sup>th</sup> May HE about the rubbish and broken glass left by picnickers at the River Deveron "beach" and surrounding area, and the fact that though the police have been advised of the perpetrator, they can only take action if they see an offence being carried out.

- g) Cemetery Grass Edging The individual who originally raised concerns at the condition of the edgings has written to us, and to the Council, expressing his appreciation of the remedial work carried out and the much-improved appearance of the areas in question.
- h) Recycling Service Tony noted that the new and improved service is now in place.

## ii) Road Issues

- a) Market Muir Junction We have written to Mark Skilling and Les Allan (response received from the latter) to express our thanks for the installation of the flashing lights warning of the junction ahead, which appears to be effective.
- b) Ogilvie Avenue parking In addition to the response received from the Dental Centre Manager, we have received a comprehensive response from Elizabeth Squires, NHS Area Manager, who has sent a memo to all hospital staff about parking and made suggestions to us as to how overall parking provision can be improved. These suggestions are mostly matters for the Council to consider and Ms Squires has subsequently advised that she has in fact raised the issues with them. One is that lines be marked out in the middle of the MM car park to create additional spaces – Norma advised that cars appear to be parking "informally" in the middle, but in an organised manner, so there is clearly adequate space for this to be formally converted into additional parking spaces.

Notices at Cemetery Notices have been placed on the wooden fence at the cemetery advising that the layby is for cemetery users only.

- iii) Clashindarroch Community Fund The final Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding have been produced by Foundation Scotland, and confirmation provided that the Community Fund will be "ringfenced" should Vattenfall sell their interest in the windfarm. A draft copy of the Community Profile for each group is to be circulated shortly by FS. The meeting scheduled for 20 May has been postponed until 23 June. Burcote Wind, whose application for a windfarm at Meikleton of Ardonald has been refused, is appealing the decision.
- iv) Entertainment Events in 2014 We have received a letter of thanks from Fiona Alderson, chair of the TGS 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee, for our organisation of the war-themed Window Competition.
- v) Town Flag/Coat of Arms Logo The TGS 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade on 29<sup>th</sup> March was a great success and saw the town flag having its first public outing. A framed photograph of Cadet Callum Bey carrying the flag is to be displayed in the Council Chambers. The flag is now back in its display

case in the Stewart's Hall but the carrier, case and belt are being retained by Neil McAdam's Squadron of cadets pending acquisition of their own accessories.

- v) AGM and CC Elections The office-bearers (Hilda Lumsden-Gill as Chair, Tony Gill as Vice-Chair and Hazel McIntosh as Treasurer) were re-elected at the AGM which preceded the meeting. We welcome back Bob as a member for a further three years and thank Bronwyn for her contribution as Youth Member over the past year.
- vi) Planning Applications Applications relating to the second half of April (but not those for May) were able to be downloaded from the Council's new planning website. The application from Asda to create a canopy outside the store raised concerns as it is seen as a further erosion of available parking space and may impinge on the number of disabled spaces available. Parking provision has already been reduced following the introduction of the petrol station and the collection point. It was agreed to submit comments outlining these concerns. (Post-meeting note: this item having been carried over from the April meeting, the date for comments has already expired).

It was noted that the new planning system and the cessation of weekly planning lists being sent of CCs have been causing problems, although Huntly CC, having downloaded its own planning information for some time, has not got involved in the debate which has generated extensive correspondence among some other CCs.

- vii) AOCB  
Youth Member Mary will contact the school to request they nominate a new Youth Member.  
Huntly Floral Fund The annual request for a donation has been received – it was agreed to increase our contribution to £30.  
Men's Shed It is planned to start a "Men's Shed" in the town, with many men apparently interested and premises now being sought.  
AB54 Magazine The latest issue contains the update provided by Mary on the CC's winter activities.  
Accounts Examination It was agreed to give Bernard Henderson a £10 book token in appreciation of the work done in independently examining the CC's accounts.  
Duke Street Parking Indiscriminate parking continues to be a problem at the top of Duke Street. Mary will write to Ralph Singleton to request that the correct width of yellow lines be reintroduced (the existing ones being only cobble-wide and thus not legally enforceable).

Pat Scott and Cllr Ingleby left the meeting at 8.20 pm.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel advised that the General Account holds £266.11, the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35, and the EIS Account £3,721.74. Notification of the Admin Grant for 2014-15 has been received and will be paid after we have sent our accounts to the Council's Banff office.
5. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:  
Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office – items already covered as appropriate.  
Community Planning – Mary had sent the CC's apologies for the CWF held on 14<sup>th</sup> May.  
Other – items already covered as appropriate/put on the table.
6. **AOCB** Hazel advised of car thefts taking place at the Jock Innes garage where thieves had forced open the gates and stolen some cars.  
A request has been received from the committee hoping to set up a Community Bookshop, following the imminent closure of Orb's bookshop, for the CC's support for such a venture. It was agreed to provide this support and Mary will contact the Committee accordingly.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014.