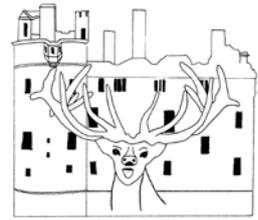




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the October 2015 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 15th October 2015 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present:

Members: Tony Gill (Vice-Chair); Freda McRae; Rev Norma Milne; Ronald Pittendrigh; Michelle Grant; Moira Berry; Peter Watson; Mary Burgerhout (Secretary)

Others: Cllr John Latham; Pat Scott (HE)

Apologies: Hilda Lumsden-Gill; Hazel McIntosh; Cllr Moira Ingleby; Lynn Grant; Alexander Burnett

Tony welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Michelle on her recent marriage. Alexander Burnett, a candidate in the forthcoming Ward Councillor elections, had requested to attend as an observer but was unable to do so at the last minute. A list of the correspondence received since the September meeting had been circulated to members by Mary.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting Acceptance of the minutes of the September meeting was proposed by Freda McRae and seconded by Norma Milne.

3. Co-option of New Members Nomination forms for Moira Berry and new Youth Member Peter Watson having been received (duly proposed and seconded, and Hilda and Mary having met with Peter), Tony asked for existing members' acceptance of their co-option. This was unanimously agreed and Moira and Peter were accordingly invited to the table, given an information pack and welcomed as members of Huntly Community Council. Lynn Grant will be co-opted at the November meeting.

Matters Arising

A. Police Issues The Police Officer assigned for the meeting was not present, nor did we receive a Police Report.

B. Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

- a) Temporary Traffic Restrictions – Patching works at Green Road, 5 days from 26th October; Manhole replacement on Duke Street, 9th November.
- b) Huntly Flood Prevention Scheme – The Council's engineer in charge of the scheme, Rachel Kennedy, will provide an update at the November meeting.
- c) Recycling Bins near the Simpson Arch These have now been moved so that they face the Avenue and no longer mar the view of the Simpson's Arch and GH Memorial.
- d) Coat of Arms Badges Dean's have sold 12 badges out of 15 to date – see under Treasurer's Report. Mary to provide them with 10 more badges.
- e) Scheme of Establishment for CCs The minutes of the Working Group's June and September meetings had been circulated by Mary for comment. Tony suggested that there was good representation on the WG of members across the area's CCs and advised that meetings to date have concentrated on the role of CCs and what WG members wish to see out of

any changes to the Scheme of Establishment. We await the minutes of the most recent meeting and will submit comments once we know what changes are being suggested.

- f) Supporting Communities Event Hazel, Mary and possibly Tony are to attend this event in Kemnay on 7th November. Details to be sent to Moira and Peter who should respond to Mary if they wish to attend.
 - g) Concerned Resident's e-mail Mary has updated the individual concerned to advise that two of the issues raised (Park and Pay signs and Deveron Street traffic volumes) are already being addressed, and that she has requested from the Council contact details for the remaining issues which largely concern signage and repainting. The issue of litter, a final concern expressed, and the perception that the problems in the Plantation are largely due to TGS pupils, was discussed. Peter acknowledged the latter but advised there are regular reminders at school assemblies, and that the school has claspers for litter picking. Tony asked Cllr Latham if the Council would provide a "hit squad" to clean the area. Cllr Latham suggested that we write to Janelle Clark in the first instance and also ask her if there is a Ranger Service which can help in this respect. He will talk to Ms Clark too. Tony suggested that otherwise a "litter pick" initiative, involving the school, be instigated. Re Deveron Street, Tony advised that, Mary having spoken to the Deveron Street residents' representative, and as discussed at the September meeting, we have asked the Council's Ralph Singleton that a traffic survey to be conducted. We await from Deveron Street an indication of what the best time of day is for this to be carried out.
- ii) Road Issues Mary had emailed Ralph Singleton on 1st October re the concerns raised about the volume of traffic in the Asda area, but received no response; an automated reply was received to a follow-up email, indicating that he was away. Cllr Latham advised that RS is covering two jobs and dividing his time between Alford and Stonehaven, hence his limited availability. Mary has also replied to Janelle Clark/Mark Skilling re the response received to various issues including the Bogie Street one-way marking, and we await their response.
- iii) Clashindarroch Windfarm Community Fund The paperwork to enable us to receive the Microgrants funding is imminent. There will no longer be a requirement for awards made to unconstituted groups to be paid to a third (constituted) party. A separate meeting of the CC is to be held to discuss and agree how we will operate the scheme. 11 applications and one First Stage Large Grant application have been received for Round 2 of the main grant, with the panel meeting on 27th October to discuss these. Cairnborrow Michelle and Ronald attended a short meeting on 1st October – construction of the windfarm is progressing as planned and there will be a further meeting in November.
- iv) Planning Applications There was one householder application under review – no significant comment from members.
- v) AOCB
- a) Council's Response Times Tony noted the delays and lack of responses to correspondence from some sections of the Council. Cllr Ingleby has provided us with the Council's Charter for responding to enquiries which states that emails should be acknowledged within 3 days and a full response received within 20 working days. This has not happened in many cases, including when we have corresponded with Mark Skilling re the Transport Information Stand (among other issues). Cllr Latham shared our frustration at the difficulties we are encountering. As a result of this and of concerns at the lack of consultation/notification of the installation of "street furniture" such as the TIS and the Park and Pay signs in the Square, a conservation area, and as suggested by Hazel at the September meeting, a letter, signed by the Chair, is being sent to Stephen Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services. Attached to it is a timeline of events/correspondence re the TIS and an article/photo from the HE in March 2014 highlighting the concerns of The Linden Tree owners at the newly-erected Stand.
 - b) Halloween Window Competition Tony read out the contents of a letter received from the Huntly Christian Fellowship expressing concern at our

promotion through the HWC of what it sees as the the scarier aspects of Halloween and the effect this has on young children. Local shops have received a similar letter. A discussion ensued on the extreme nature of some of the window displays - some members felt that the traditional Halloween with its concentration on fun rather than gore has been lost. Tony advised that the HWC is in its 11th year, having been introduced to complement the Halloween events organised by Deveron Arts. While local shops were commended for their imaginative displays, and while the CC has no control over the content of these, it was suggested that when members judge the windows, they take cognisance of the above with a view to selecting as winner a display which is more in keeping with the traditional aspects of Halloween. Tony asked Pat if she could reflect the above when promoting the competition in the HE. Nominations for best window should be sent to Mary by 26th October, with the winning window being photographed at 12 noon on the 27th. Norma volunteered to present the shield and certificate to the winner.

- c) Remembrance Sunday A poppy wreath has been ordered through the Ex-Servicemen's Club which Tony will lay on behalf of the CC on 8th November. Mary to contact Neil McAdam to remind him that the Town Flag is available to his or any other group who wish to parade it on Remembrance Sunday or on a similar occasion.

5. Treasurer's Report In Hazel's absence, Tony read out a statement prepared by her. The General Account holds £828.73 - this month we've received £10 from the Linden Tree for the sale of 2 Coat of Arms badges and £60 from Dean's for the sale of 12 badges. The latter sum has been passed to Mary for use as Petty Cash. The EIS and Gordon Highlanders accounts remain at £3,391.74 and £496.35 respectively. We expect to receive the Microgrants funds, for which a separate account has been opened, imminently.
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 - per list of correspondence.
Other - as per Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office.

Pat Scott and Cllr Latham left the meeting at 8.35 pm.

7. AOCB
Christmas Night Out It was agreed to hold this on Saturday 12th December. We hope to have a meal at the new restaurant ("The Bank") if it is, as anticipated, open in time. Mary to check. Otherwise we will book the Golf Club.
Contact details for CC members Mary advised that she will update the contact list when Lynn Grant is co-opted and asked members to let her know if anyone does not want all their details displayed in the Stewart's Hall window. She will circulate the updated list to members for checking before arranging for its display.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

8. Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 19th November 2015 at 7.30 pm.