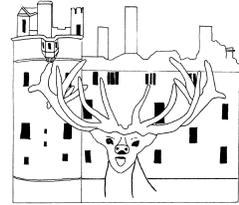




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the June 2012 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 21st June 2012 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Hazel McIntosh (Treasurer); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Bob Ness; Freda McRae; Colin Grant; Rev Norma Milne; Jordie Cole; Cllr Moira Ingleby; Sergeant Neil Binning; Pat Scott (Huntly Express)

Apologies: Cllr Alastair Ross; Cllr Joanna Strathdee

Hilda welcomed members, together with Sgt Binning, Cllr Ingleby and Pat Scott, to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the 17th May meeting were proposed for acceptance by Bob Ness and seconded by Norma Milne. Hilda advised that the agenda would again follow the new trial format, which will be reviewed in the autumn, and that after the meeting, the photos taken at the Service of Dedication by Elaine Esson would be shown, and refreshments made available. All were welcome to stay on for this.

3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues Sgt Binning reported that in the period 17th May to 20th June there had been 35 crimes and offences recorded within Huntly. These and other matters are detailed in the attached information sheet issued by Grampian Police. He stressed that the relatively high number was attributable to self-initiation work by the police, particularly traffic police. General concerns raised by members included i) (Freda) the arrival of travellers at a site by the Deveron - specifically their dogs causing concern among locals. Sgt Binning advised that the travellers' presence is sanctioned by the Council whose land they are occupying, but that if there is any criminal activity or the dogs are not being kept under control, the police will act accordingly; ii) (Hazel) loud exhausts causing noise pollution. Sgt Binning advised this does constitute an offence which can result in ASBO warnings, and that detecting equipment exists but is not used for legal reasons. The police are aware of, and monitoring, the situation.

B. Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues Hilda made members aware of general interest items "on the table".

a) RTMR/Market Muir Junction Sgt Binning had witnessed a collision at the junction and it was felt that this validated the argument that remedial action is needed; Hilda thanked Sgt Binning for reporting the incident to the Roads Dept. A discussion ensued on the frequency of near misses/"bump for bump" incidents which are not included in statistics, with concern expressed that the tourist season will bring more visitors who are not familiar with the junction. Cllr Ingleby advised that the local Ward Councillors had supported the CC's stance at the MAC but that other members had supported the recommendation (which had not been made on financial grounds alone). She felt that the statistics in isolation, not taking account of unreported incidents, did not make for bad reading. Hilda stressed that the significant number of near misses/bump for bump incidents was a real cause for concern for locals. Sgt Binning felt that an inexpensive option such as rumble strips would improve the situation and Cllr Ingleby expressed

interest in this apparently unexplored option. It was agreed that since the CC is now in summer recess, a Special Meeting should be convened once Mark Skilling, who was unable to attend this meeting, has offered alternative dates. Pat suggested that people be invited to submit to the Huntly Express their experiences of these, so that a log can be maintained. Hilda noted that there is also a problem with drivers crossing from Castle Street to the War Memorial without first stopping. Sgt Binning left the meeting at 8 pm. Hilda thanked him for his presence.

Hilda read out a letter from Les Allan received by John Christie of Murdoch McMath & Mitchell and passed to the C for information, detailing the timescale for repairs to potholes in the Duke St/Bogie St/Gladstone Rd/Bleachfield St area. She reminded members that potholes can be reported to the Council by individuals as well as through the CC.

b) Simpson Arch Hilda read the response received from Aberdeenshire Council re our query about repairs to the stonework and the light at the Simpson Arch. It is the School's responsibility to report the non-functioning light. A Council Building Surveyor will inspect the Arch and report on any necessary repairs and we will ask to be informed of the findings of that report. Tony suggested that if a protective barrier was erected around the arch, any large vehicles going through it would potentially hit the barrier rather than the stonework.

c) G-Med Out of Hours Service Review Hilda read the response from NHS Grampian to our request for information on the review to have been carried out following the implementation of changes to the out-of-hours service. They report that no significant issues have been identified to date, and that a detailed review of the period October 2011 to March 2012 is being carried out, the results of which will be advised to us.

d) Huntly Civic Society An email had been received from Richard Hammock, HDT, to advise that a meeting will be held in the Stewart's Hall on 3 July at 7 pm to gauge interest in the setting up of a "civic society". Invitations have been extended to those who attended the meeting chaired by Mike Powell in November 2011, and HDT and Deveron Arts members. It was queried why the invitation was to selected groups only, but Pat confirmed that there will be an article in the Huntly Express which will extend an invitation to attend to any interested parties.

e) Display Cabinet The cabinet has been constructed but requires some adjustments so that the flag can be displayed portrait-style. It is hoped that the necessary reworking can be done and the case, containing the flag, can be displayed on the wall in the Stewart's Hall by September.

f) Burcote Wind Public Exhibition Hilda had attended the Huntly exhibition on 12th June.

g) Cairnborrow Windfarm Following the recommendation by Aberdeenshire Council Planning Dept that planning permission be refused for the Cairnborrow development, MAC members are to visit the site before reconsidering the proposal at their August meeting.

h) Dummuies Windfarm Community Benefit Although the windfarm lies within Strathbogie CC's boundaries, Huntly CC will assist SCC as required with any promotion of the Community Benefit Scheme. The wording to be used on any promotional material, as specified by DWHL, is reproduced below:

"Dummuies Windfarm Huntly Ltd wish to contribute up to £12,250 each year to support projects that benefit the local community. DWHL would like to support activities that target environmental concern and children's needs. The activities supported shall be characterized by simplicity and wide appeal. The management of DWHL will decide which applications for funds they shall accept. Please send all letters of application for funding to: Dummuies Windfarm Huntly Ltd, 21 Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1A 2DY."

i) Huntly Floral Fund The annual request for donations has been received. Hilda proposed that the CC make a payment of £25 and this was seconded by Bob. Hilda advised however that the CC is now having to fundraise annually purely to keep itself afloat, the reducing level of admin grant from Aberdeenshire Council making this a necessity (Bob circulated a copy of a quiz sheet he has drawn up for distribution to local shops etc to help boost the CC's funds).

j) Huntly Castle Junior Tour Guides An invitation has been received to attend the launch of the 2012 Tour Guide scheme on 22nd June. Hazel advised that due to the adverse weather forecasted, the event will now be held in the Primary School. Hilda and Mary will attend.

C. Market Muir Update Tony advised there is little to report as the Committee is now in its summer recess. The next meeting is on 27th August. A quiz night is to be held on 14th September, followed by the AGM on 24th September. Any issues arising over the summer will be followed up with the Council.

D. Service of Dedication 19th May The event had passed off smoothly and thanks were given to those who had helped to organise the Services and the reception that followed. Hilda circulated a letter of thanks from Corporal Pike's mother, and advised that Elaine Esson had produced four copies of a CD of the photographs taken by her at our request. Two of the CDs had been sent to the Pike family and one to Sgt Roy Penhallurick. A gift voucher had been given to Elaine, and a donation is to be made to Huntly and District Pipe Band.

E. Magic Lantern Slideshow The event on 7th June was well-attended and drew many compliments. Thanks were expressed to the school for providing the venue, to Kevin McIntosh and Patrick Scott for operating the projector and providing the commentary respectively, to Dr David Connell for providing the slides, and to Freda for her initial suggestion. It is hoped to follow up the event later in the year with a further show of slides from the early 20th century. Hazel reported that the sale of pamphlets which accompanied the slideshow had resulted in a net profit of some £160 pounds. Freda had received a letter of from Dr Connell after the event.

F. Planning There were three applications, none of which drew significant comment.

vi) AOCB

- Hilda had received a letter of thanks from Donald Boyd, HDT, for her part in officially opening the Portsoy Road footpath.
- Following representations from Hilda, Claudia Zeiske of Deveron Arts is hoping to run a fundraising awareness session for community groups on 22nd August.
- Gordon Rural Action is promoting a free insulation deal (available till September) in the Huntly area and are running drop-in sessions at GRA Gordon Street on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10.30 to 12.30 pm.
- Hilda highlighted the instance of a lorry driver driving down East Park Street and parking on Lennox Terrace in the mistaken belief that he could access the Old Toll Road from there, and causing some damage to fences and private ground when reversing out of the street. The A97 signs make it clear that the Banff road is not accessible through Huntly, and it is believed that such incidents are caused by inaccurate Satnavs and Bear Scotland not having yet updated their signage.
- Hilda had received complaints about litter piling up at wastebins at the playpark by the Ski Centre during a particularly hot weekend, and had contacted Wasteline. It was acknowledged that the good weather had attracted large numbers of people creating a higher level of litter than usual. Wasteline confirmed that the bins are emptied regularly but that a "hit squad" is available for any exceptional situations.
- Garden Competition – it is hoped to hold this on Saturday 18th August. Colin volunteered to be a judge again, and it was suggested that Judith and/or Simon McPhun be asked to be guest judge(s), failing which Nick Chambers will be asked again. Norma volunteered to help out again if required.
- Flying of Union Jack on Jubilee Weekend – complaints had been received by Hilda that no flag had been flown from the Council offices during the Jubilee Weekend. Hilda had rung the Council on 4th June and been advised that the flag should have been flown on 2nd June but "they" had got the date wrong, believing it was the 5th. However, the 5th was not an official flag-flying day, so it was not flown then either. It would appear that flags were not flown from Council offices in any Aberdeenshire towns, presumably as the same misunderstanding had applied across the shire. It was felt that as the flag will require to be flown at future events, it should be ensured that clarification on applicable dates, access to Council offices at weekends etc be sought. Hilda advised that the CC had been provided with additional bunting days before the Jubilee Weekend, but it had not been possible to arrange to have it hung in time. The CC's own bunting had however earlier been hung around the Duke.
- Tony enquired about the installation of the A96 and town entrance signage, the CC having been advised by HDT some time ago that the signs were ready to be

collected from Banff. It was thought that the matter was now in the hands of the Roads Department. Mary to check with Donald Boyd.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel was welcomed as the new Treasurer, and reported that the General Account holds £1,036.86, the Gordon Highlanders Account £632.19 (annual insurance has just been paid) and the EIS Account £3,741.74.

5. **Correspondence**

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

- Renewal of insurance for Gordon Highlander Memorial
- Viewpoint – Citizens' Panel Newsletter no. 26
- Temporary Traffic Restrictions
- Response from Ralph Singleton re pothole at Simpson Arch
- Local Government Elections 2012 Voter Survey (link to website)
- Reply re request for remedial work to be carried out at Simpson Arch

b) **Community Planning**

- Marr Area Partnership – Aberdeenshire Affordable Rural Housing Seminar on 15th June at Banchory
- MAP – Jubilee events in Marr (2 separate emails)
- Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership Newsletter May 2012
- MAP – Health-related Website for Teenagers; Community Engagement Strategy (link to consultation doc); Olympic Torch Relay Bulletin;
- MAP – summary notes from May CWF/date for Sept (4th – venue TBC)
- MAP – Wildlife Identification Days; Road Safety Grampian Info letter

c) **Other**

- NHS Grampian – response re review of G-Med Out of Hours Service
- SHC – consultation re Adult Health and Social Care Integration Bill
- Duncan Anderson – update on progress re display case
- Forestry Commission – sale of property at Rothiemay
- HDT – re establishment of “Civic Society” – meeting to be held 3 July
- Invitation to Burcote Wind public exhibition – 11/12 June
- Volunteer Centre Aberdeenshire - invitation to Vol.Coordinator Forums
- Donald Boyd re Cairnborrow Windfarm Proposal planning application
- Dudendance – talk and demo of “This Side of Paradise”
- Deveron Arts – looking for Project Manager
- Huntly Junior Tour Guides – invitation to launch 22nd June
- Energy Saving Scotland – information re Energy Assistance Package
- Huntly Floral Fund – annual request for donation to funds
- Dummies Windfarm – response re promotion of Comm. Benefit Scheme

6. **AOCB**

Freda raised the issue of school buses travelling through the centre of town. The intention originally was that they use the road leading down to the All Weather pitch but this has not materialised, neither are there adequate parking/turning facilities at the car park there.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm and Hilda wished all a good summer. Pat Scott and Cllr Ingleby left at 9.05, while CC members remained to view the Service of Dedication photographs and enjoy some refreshments to mark the start of the summer recess.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday 20th September 2012 at 7.30 pm. A Special Meeting is to be convened before then however at which Mark Skilling of AC Roads Dept will address concerns about the Market Muir junction.