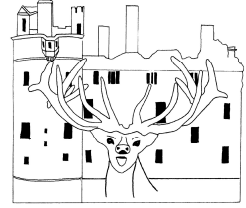




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the March 2011 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, The Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 17th March 2011 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Hazel McIntosh; Karen Reid; Bob Ness; Norma Milne; PC Neil McAdam; Pat Scott (HE); Cllr Moira Ingleby

Apologies: Freda McRae; Kathryn Henderson; Gillian Petrie; Cllr Alastair Ross; Cllr Joanna Strathdee

Hilda welcomed everyone, including PC Neil McAdam, Pat Scott, and Cllr Ingleby, to the meeting. There was no speaker scheduled for this meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The February minutes were proposed for acceptance by Hazel McIntosh and seconded by Karen Reid.

3. Matters Arising

a) **Police Issues** PC McAdam presented his report for the period 18th February to 17th March. There were 33 crimes in the period, 8 being "priority" – most were unconnected vandalisms but 2 were break-ins to one shop in quick succession. Other crimes included shoplifting, failing to stop after accidents and thefts; in addition Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty tickets were issued for various offences.

PC McAdam reported that police surgeries had recently been held in the area. Issues raised at the Huntly surgery included speeding, noisy exhausts, dog mess, muzzling of dogs, parking and neighbourhood advice.

PC McAdam also reported there is an ongoing problem of drinkers (including those underage) congregating around Cooper Park, the castle and the ski centre. These areas are being patrolled particularly at weekends, with alcohol confiscation powers being exercised. Karen, who volunteers at the Cooper Café on Fridays, observed that it is more effective for police to turn up on foot rather than in cars as the culprits disappear when they see a police car coming.

Bob raised the issue of parking at junctions which is causing a real danger in parts of the town, and the blockage of Torry Street for up to two hours while deliveries are made. It was agreed a simple "road closed" notice would alleviate the latter problem. Tony voiced concern that new businesses moving into town would be discouraged by reports of break-ins to shops. Hazel raised the issue of vandalism to boards around the tennis courts which has resulted in planned tennis sessions being postponed.

PC McAdam left the meeting at 7.45 pm and Hilda thanked him for his ongoing commitment and contribution to meetings.

b) **Market Muir Update** Tony advised there had been an article in the Huntly Express to update townspeople on progress, and Pat was thanked for putting this in. Lamp-posts on George VI Street have been replaced by Aberdeenshire Council and four of the old ones have been given to the Market Muir. The Council have been asked to extend the floodlighting later this year and it is hoped that, weather permitting, the groundwork will restart end March/early April. Volunteers are sought for the coffee morning to be held on 23rd April.

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

- Various notices re Traffic Restrictions
- Marr Area Bus Forum – notice/agenda of meeting 30th March, minutes of last meeting, and summary of local bus services; Hilda read out pertinent points from the minutes
- Aberdeenshire Local Transport Strategy Review (poster to be put in Stewart's Hall Window)
- Grampian Police Draft Gypsy/Traveller Unauthorised Encampment Force Procedure – this had been emailed to members end February – consultation period ended 11th March
- Planning Consultation – email received from Aberdeenshire Council re proposed development at Bogairdy – Mary had replied advising of Community Council's neutral stance
- Scottish Government Weekly Round-ups/information on Planning and Building Regulations

d) **Community Planning**

- Information from Lizzy Shepherd on various forthcoming events

Hilda reminded members that the next Community Ward Forum will be held on 11th May at Tullynessle and Forbes Hall.

e) **Coat of Arms Project** The Letters Patent is now hanging in the Stewart's Hall, and joiner Duncan Anderson and signwriter Barry Driver are working on the two Coat of Arms plaques to be displayed in the Hall. It was remarked that the new bins displaying the Coat of Arms looked very smart.

f) **Road Traffic Management Review** No draft report has been received and frustration was expressed by all at the lack of progress/information. Cllr Ingleby advised she had contacted Mark Skilling but got an "Out of Office" (for most of March) response. She advised the Huntly Review is not on the agenda for the 29th March Marr Area meeting, but the Banchory Review is, and she will publicly ask Mark at the meeting what the progress is. A general discussion ensued on the loss of faith by both CC members and the public in such consultations, and it was suggested the time had come for frustrations to be expressed in the Huntly Express. Pat was asked to carry this forward.

g) **Entertainment in the Square 2011** The next meeting is on 21st March; progress on tasks allocated at the last meeting will be reported back.

h) Licensing Forum Meeting This will take place on Tuesday 22nd March in the Gordon Arms Hotel, with representatives from Huntly Business Association and Huntly Pubwatch in attendance as well as CC members. There is apparently a general lack of clarity about the differences between the Forum and the Licensing Board and this, along with pre-set questions, will be discussed on the night. Hilda thanked Mary for organizing the event and the Gordon Arms for providing a room free of charge; she asked that as many Community Council members as possible attend.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Bob reported that the General Fund contains £901.92 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:
Viewpoint (Aberdeenshire Citizens Panel); The Community Councillor
- Planning
5 applications for consideration, one of which is a property in the square; this led to discussion re the recent boarding up of windows by TSB although it appears that replacement windows will be installed as soon as planning permission is granted
- Community Engagement Plan for the Town Woodlands
- Consultation on the Future of Your Local Fire and Rescue Service including letter from Chief Fire Officer outlining his concerns (response required by 5th May); this led to a discussion on the proposal to have just one FRS for Scotland – it was felt that due to issues of local knowledge, differences between communities etc, having one FRS – and Police Force - is not feasible. Hazel to respond on behalf of the Community Council
- HDT Feedback Survey – completed by Hilda and Mary
- Deveron Arts Events/information about latest Artist in Residence
- Various items from Association of Scottish Community Councillors
- Information following public presentation by West Coast Energy re Cairnborrow Wind Farm/Community Turbine; email from Donald Boyd re HDT involvement – Hilda advised HDT will be hosting a meeting of the 3 local CCs shortly – Mary to advise members once date known

6. **AOCB**

- Hilda advised that arrangements for the AGM and elections in May will be on the agenda for April
- A view had been expressed to Karen by a fellow pupil (and shared by him) that public attitudes to Deveron Arts were negative. A discussion ensued with both positive comments (work done with schools, projects sometimes being controversial to stimulate debate, successful bicycling event) and negative comments (agreement that pupil's view is a commonly held one, the amount of funding DA attract while other groups struggle) made. It was felt there was a lack of understanding of DA because they do not represent "traditional" art, and it was suggested that the pupil in question raise the issue directly with DA.
- Hazel advised that teachers are being balloted re accepting changes to their pay and conditions. It is likely these will be rejected in which case they will be further balloted re strike action.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 21st April at 7.30 pm.