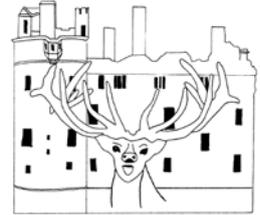




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the May 2015 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 21st May 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); Cllr Moira Ingleby; PC Wayne Francis

Apologies: Hilda Lumsden-Gill; Isadora Lee

Tony welcomed everyone 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.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The April minutes were proposed for acceptance by Ronald and seconded by Freda.

3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues Tony introduced PC Francis. The Police computers were down and so no report was available, although PC Francis did advise there had been no issues of note other than one or two thefts and some weekend disturbances. He did report however that at the Community v Police Football Match recently held, the Police had lost 7-3! The Community Drop-in Scheme is ongoing and while there have been no major intelligence gains, the greater visibility of officers is being well-received. There is no update on the introduction of CCTV. The placing of leaflets on the windscreens of illegally-parked cars is being carried out by officers on the late/night shifts although it was pointed out that the majority of motorists who park on or near junctions do so during the day. Strengthening North-East Policing Divisions The proposed merger of the Aberdeen division with Aberdeenshire and Moray has taken a back step and is not expected to be implemented this year. There is a new initiative starting up targeted at motorists using a mobile phone while driving.

PC Francis left the meeting at 7.45 pm. Tony thanked him for his presence.

B. Huntly Topics

i) Current Issues

a) Temporary Traffic Restrictions Torry Street, 25th May x 2 weeks (scaffolding works); The Square, 6th September (Huntly Hairst)

b) Local Development Plan Mary has collated and submitted members' comments which have been acknowledged by the Council.

c) Integrated Travel There is to be a consultation event in the Stewart's Hall on 27th May to allow the public to share their views on the future of active and sustainable transport in Huntly. Pat encouraged those who are going along to raise the issue of the inadequate parking provision at the railway station. A

discussion followed on the fact that Primary School children, despite some having completed their Bikeability training, are not allowed to cycle to school – it is considered too dangerous, the situation being largely due to the numbers of drivers dropping off children at the approaches to the school and the routing of school buses through the town. Several potential solutions were discussed such as Park and Stride/drop-off points, the introduction of cycle lanes etc. It was felt that the issue should be raised at the consultation event by Hazel or a school representative.

- d) Older People's Forum Ronald attended this meeting on 18th May and provided to its members our feedback on the points raised by them at the March OPF. They are still keen to see traffic lights at the Market Muir junction. Tony advised that lights had been rejected during previous consultations as the volume of traffic did not justify them. The OPF members also had concerns about the hazards faced by elderly people crossing the junction to make hospital visits. Ronald had subsequently observed conditions at the junction for himself and believes they are indeed hazardous, having witnessed three incidents of cars crossing from George V Avenue/Gordon Street without stopping. He suggested that a mini-roundabout might help matters. Tony referred to Mark Skilling's email which stated that a review would be carried out of the effectiveness of the safety measures in due course, but that near misses and damage-only accidents are not recorded. OPF members have been asked to report to us and the police all incidents including near misses. It was suggested that as the CC has done all it can on this issue for the time being (but see **ii**) below), OPF members should contact the Council/Mark Skilling directly to air their concerns. Meantime it was reported to Cllr Ingleby that the flashing lights warning of the approach to the junction are defective.
- e) CAIR Scotland Norma and Mary had met with Andy Farquhar and his colleague who had outlined their roles in supporting young carers and promoted CAIR's befriending scheme. Mary had provided Andy with some further contacts in the Huntly area. A variety of CAIR leaflets/handouts were put on the table.
- f) Supporting Communities Event Tony had attended the morning session of this event held in Turriff on 9th May and Mary part of the afternoon session. He asked Mary to copy and distribute an "Equalities Uncovered – 5 Key Points for Community Councillors" handout from the morning session. The next events are in Banchory on 11th June and Kemnay on 7th November. Tony reminded members of the opportunity to register for "e-learning" training.
- g) Review of the Scheme of Establishment for CCs Following the completion of Phase 2 of the consultation, Ian Rogan has advised that in light of the substantial number of comments received on a range of issues, a group is to be set over the coming months to agree on a working definition of the roles of CCs and reach consensus on the Scheme. We are invited to send a CC member to this group. It was agreed to find out when, where and how frequently the meetings would be held before we commit ourselves. Meantime it was agreed that we are happy for the views already expressed by us to be shared with other CC; equally, we are happy to comment on any feedback from the group that is to be set up.

- ii) Road Issues Ralph Singleton has replied to our email to advise that yellow lines and junction lines will begin to be repainted now that road conditions permit (Janelle Clark has provided a similar response). However, there is a staffing shortage meaning progress will be slower than planned. In response to his request for advice on priority areas, it was agreed that the Granary Street/Gordon Street (Costcutter) junction and the junctions in the Granary Street/Church Street/Upperkirkgate areas were particularly hazardous. Mark Skilling had replied to our email re the Market Muir Junction (see B.i.d) above) and Janelle Clark has indicated that this email has been discussed between her and Mark who she will be meeting in Huntly on 4th June. We expect to hear further on these issues.

- iii) **Clashindarroch Windfarm Community Fund** Tony advised that the Community Representative for Huntly has been appointed. He is Michael Cowie and he, Tony and Mary make up the Huntly Panel members for the Fund. The next meeting, at which the first round of applications will be discussed, will be held on 16th June with an announcement of awards made at the launch event on 26th June at Dean's which will include a trip to the windfarm. There is to be a dinner for Panel members on 25th June. GPS is one of the schools involved in naming the turbines. TGS are involved in designing a logo for the Community Fund. There is no update on the Cairnborrow development, the first meeting of which Ronald and Michelle attended some months ago. We have received an email from the Council re the provision of Community Benefits Guidance for Renewable Energy Developments.
- iv) **Planning Applications** There was no significant comment on these, although the replacement of the Dean's roof in slate blue was welcomed. With regard to the Park and Pay signs in the Square, Janelle Clark has advised that she is meeting with Mark Skilling on 4th June to discuss this and other issues. Cllr Ingleby advised there is a Marr Area Forum in Huntly that day. She volunteered to meet with Ms Clark and Mr Skilling in the Square and walk/talk them through the issues causing us concern both there and in the surrounding area. Meantime we have advised Ms Clark that our preferred location for the latter is at the opposite side from where they are now eg. against the fence that surrounds the children's play area.
- v) **AOCB**
1. **TGS PTA Fundraising** Hazel, as a member of the PTA, advised that the group is setting up a "100 club" type fundraiser, to be drawn monthly, the winner of which would get a percentage of the takings for that month. The CC is being asked if as an independent body it would be willing to conduct the draw. This was agreed. The draw can be made at the end of each meeting, though account will have to be taken of the fact the CC does not meet in July, August and December. Mary to advise Alisanne Ennis accordingly.
 2. **Post Office Move** Tony referred to the problems experienced by the PO when it moved premises in April and the fact there were no services available for over a week. It was noted that although these are now up and running, there is still no postbox at the new premises and people still have to use the postbox at the former premises.
 3. **Garden Competition** It was agreed to hold the competition in early August along the same lines as last year, but to simplify the process by having a winner and just one runner-up for each category, and to pre-arrange the venue and time/date for photographs of winning gardens. Fiona Murray will be asked to be one of the professional judges again – Mary to seek a second professional. Meantime, Ronald and Michelle, in the tradition of the newest CC members being volunteered, have provisionally agreed to share the third judge slot!
 4. **Wildcat Research** We've been asked by an Aberdeen University student for our views on the conservation of wildcats. Pat advised that Strathbogie CC have also been asked and given the student some pointers. It was agreed to put her in contact with the local CPL rep and the ranger at Leith Hall.

Pat and Cllr Ingleby left the meeting at 9.05 pm.

5. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel advised that the General Account holds £296.90, the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35, and the EIS Account £3,391.74. The accounts, having been independently examined by Bernard Henderson, will now be sent to Aberdeenshire Council so that they can pay us our 2015/16 Admin Grant. Thanks were extended to Bernard who is very satisfied with how our book-keeping is carried out.
6. **Correspondence** Items highlighted:
Aberdeenshire Council/Marr Area Office – items of interest already discussed.
Community Planning – Hazel, Ronald and Mary had attended the Community Ward Forum at Gartly on 20th May. While the first two sessions on the Flood Alleviation Scheme

and Lumsden's pop-up bistro were interesting, it was felt that the Local Community Plan discussions were very much a rehash of opinions expressed many times previously.

Other – the CAIR leaflets and information from the A96 Dualling Exhibition were put on the table.

7. **AOCB**

i) Some members had attended the recent A96 Dualling Exhibition in the Gordon Arms on 13th May.

ii) Freda expressed concern that the bridge across the burn in the Plantation is still out of action. It was suggested that HDDT with its commitment to establishing cycling/path networks might address this. Ronald provided an update on the Bahill to Greenmyres path creation and reported that negotiations are in place with six landowners re the final stage of the path.

iii) Hazel was concerned at the unsightliness of the galvanized "crash barrier" and the bollards at the Elgin Bridge.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm. Tony thanked all for attending.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 18th June 2015 at 7.30 pm.