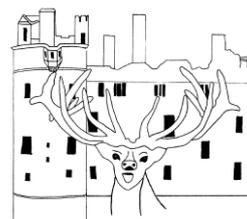




# HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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**Minutes of the October 2013 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at 7.30 pm**

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

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

**Others:** Pat Scott (Huntly Express); PC Gordon Mackay

**Apologies:** Bronwyn Gall

Hilda welcomed members, together with Pat Scott and PC Mackay, to the meeting. She extended a special welcome back to Bob who is recovering from illness, and conveyed the CC's best wishes to his daughter Gillian who is currently in Rothieden. A list of the correspondence received since the September meeting had been circulated prior to tonight's meeting, some items from which would be referred to during the course of the meeting and some which were put on the table.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** The September minutes were proposed for acceptance by Freda McRae and seconded by Norma Milne.

## **3. Matters Arising**

**A. Police Issues** PC Mackay presented the police report for the period 17.9.2013 to 17.10.2013. In that period there were 30 crimes/offences recorded within Huntly, for a variety of petty assaults, minor thefts and other anti-social behaviour. The majority have been detected or have lines of enquiry which may lead to detection. There was a temporary visit from some travellers who encamped within the Steven Road Industrial Estate for a week. On three evenings in September dedicated patrols were deployed to deal with young motorists at the Market Muir car park. On these nights there were no complaints about their behaviour but one driver was reported for having no insurance. Similar patrols are planned for October and November. The following issues were raised by members:

- i) Freda asked whether there were any developments re the alleged prowler in the Seton Drive area. PC Mackay advised that local officers were aware of the situation and patrols of the area had been made, but nothing had come to light.
- ii) Hazel asked whose responsibility it was to clear up the mess left by the Steven Road travellers and whether they are to pay for any damage caused. PC Mackay advised that as they had camped on private land, it was the landowner's responsibility. The latter had taken no action to evict them but it is understood they and the Council will jointly arrange for the site to be cleared up, however, identifying individuals to pay for damage is virtually impossible. Asda had experienced several issues with the travellers and their dogs had apparently caused alarm to dogwalkers in the area.
- iii) Tony asked if the trial of the fingerprint machine, currently operating in Aberdeen and Fraserburgh, is to be extended to Huntly. PC Mackay advised this is unlikely for cost reasons and because Huntly is not a holding station.

- iv) Freda asked if the police station at Huntly was to close. Bob clarified that it was Public Counter (front desk) provision that was being looked at. Hilda referred to the consultation document re Public Counter Service Provision which indicates that Huntly will not be affected by any changes. PC Mackay advised however that the current incumbent is looking for voluntary redundancy and it is not known if/how they will be replaced if this is granted. Hilda reminded members that they could respond to the consultation document, together with that for the Review of Traffic Wardens, the website links for which had been previously circulated
- v) Bob asked about the painting of yellow lines near the Costcutter store where illegal parking is a serious problem. This is not a police responsibility but PC Mackay understood that the weather was one factor in their not yet being repainted. A discussion ensued on the extent to which lines, both white and yellow, have been repainted across the town, with the “paint wagon” having been seen twice in one day but not apparently carrying out any work. Although it may be a work in progress, the Council will be contacted to find out the true situation.
- vi) Surprise was expressed that a new parking bay has been marked out in Nelson Street which stretches right to the entrance to Nelson Place, causing potential blocking. A general discussion ensued on various road issues including parking at the Church St/Granary St junction, the legality of the yellow lines in Duke Street, the rights of Blue Badge holders, and the desirability of West Park Street leading onto Meadow Street becoming a one-way system.

PC Mackay left the meeting at 8.50 pm. Hilda thanked him for his contribution.

## B) Huntly Topics

### i) Current Issues

1. Temporary Traffic Restriction – Old Road closed for duct-laying on 5<sup>th</sup> November for one day.
2. Huntly Floral Fund A certificate has been received from the Floral Group in acknowledgement of our donation of £25. This will be displayed in the Stewart’s Hall window.
3. Benches Thanks were expressed to Sandy Grant and Landscape Services for the provision of new benches (and some additional benches) as requested.
4. Armistice Day Bob confirmed that a wreath to be laid on behalf of the CC has been ordered via the Ex-Servicemen’s Club. He will not be able to take the parade this year but will lay a wreath on behalf of the ESC. The Council has agreed to put barriers along both sides of the War Memorial to hold wreaths in place. The question of whether the town flag displaying the Coat of Arms should be carried was discussed. As we do not yet have a pole, belt, etc nor the funds to purchase these, it was agreed to defer this to 2014. Mary will meantime contact PC Neil McAdam re sourcing/purchasing these items with a view to the CC carrying out fundraising to purchase the necessary accoutrements. (It was noted that the flag in the Stewart’s Hall has drooped in its display case and will need to be straightened). Bob advised that to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWI in 2014, a local committee comprising members of the Ex-Servicemen’s Club, the Community Council, HDT and other groups is planned to be formed, with a parade and a non-denominational service taking place at the War Memorial on 4<sup>th</sup> August.
5. Research Request Hilda and Mary are to be interviewed separately by a research student from the James Hutton Institute. Mary had recently circulated to members a Dissertation Questionnaire from an Aberdeen University student on the subject of windfarms.
6. Access within Stewart’s Hall Hilda referred to the issue raised at the September meeting re access to the upstairs rooms in the Stewart’s Hall. It was agreed to contact the Clerk of Works to enquire whether there are any plans for a stairlift or lift to be installed.

### ii) Road Issues

- Market Muir Junction Hilda read an email from Les Allan advising that the new “Stop” signs were to be erected; this has now been done. The materials for the build-out on Gordon Road have been ordered and it will be put in place on a trial basis to gauge its effectiveness. Hazel was concerned that no mention had been made in previous updates from the Council that it would be

installed on this basis. In response to our concerns on this issue Les Allan has advised that a trial period is normal procedure for this type of improvement works.

- Signage Hilda read an email from Ralph Singleton advising that funding is confirmed as available for the signs and they should be erected in the next few weeks. Frustration was expressed at the delays in completing this exercise.

- iii) **Clashindarroch Community Fund** Hilda and Tony had attended a meeting at Glass on 8<sup>th</sup> October of representatives from the various CCs/community groups and Foundation Scotland. Amongst items discussed were the terms of reference for the working group and its membership, purpose and frequency of meetings. Foundation Scotland are keen to draw up an Area/Community Profile and carry out a “community conversation”. We have been asked to bring to the next meeting (on 26<sup>th</sup> November) a map showing the CC’s boundaries, and a list of the groups in Huntly who may be major “players” in the process, although all groups will be encouraged to apply to the fund. The first awards are planned to be made in June 2015. Small awards will be made with little bureaucracy, but larger awards will require more scrutiny. Hazel suggested that renovation works on the Simpson Building/Arch would be an ideal project to attract large-scale funding.
- iv) **CC Membership/Promotion and Image of CC** There has been no interest/enquiries following the article published by the Huntly Express. A variety of ways to try to recruit new members was discussed. Mary has contacted AB54 magazine and will submit to them by mid December a summary of CC activities over recent months and a recruitment “pitch” in time for the publication of the next issue. She has agreed to become a member of the CC if required although stated her contribution would be limited given that she will continue to act as Secretary. Although the quorum could potentially be reduced to 3 (current membership 7), Hilda felt such a number provided insufficient representation. The situation will continue to be monitored over the coming months.
- v) **EIS 2014** Hilda thanked Pat for promoting in the Huntly Express the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October to gauge support for/interest in helping with, EIS 2014. The Football Club wish to hold an event at Christie Park at the same time as EIS which would include many similar forms of entertainment, but Dr Carter, the Vice-Chairman and Director of Huntly FC, does not want the event to clash with/jeopardise EIS, so the FC would be willing to hold theirs at a later date if necessary. They do however need to know if EIS is going ahead by 31<sup>st</sup> October, when they meet to discuss their own plans. In addition to Hilda, Tony, Mary and Norma, three other people had attended the 14<sup>th</sup> October meeting, with an apology from the FC. Peter Rawlings was present to confirm he and his team will provide technical support (sound system etc), Fiona Alderson of The Gordon Schools PTA sought support for events planned for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TGS, and Allistair Grant of the Woodturners’ group advised of its wish to have a presence at any events being planned. There were however no other members of the public and the question remains of whether a handful of CC members can organise EIS on their own. Hilda and Mary had reviewed the 2011 file - the sheer volume of work involved and recent changes to Public Entertainment Licensing regulations are considerable. Mary has contacted the Council’s legal department to find out the implication of changes, particularly in terms of stewarding requirements. Hilda reminded members that when EIS started in 2001, it was “the” annual event in the town, but that in recent years all sorts of other events have sprung up, which, although to be applauded, means that EIS is perhaps not the draw it once was. Hazel suggested that if EIS was not to go ahead, then the CC could instead concentrate its efforts in being part of the WWI commemoration committee, given its experience in organising the Coat of Arms ceremony and the Service of Dedication for Corporal Pike. It was agreed that a further article appear in the Huntly Express of 25<sup>th</sup> October stating that the event cannot go ahead unless further volunteers come forward, and to contact those volunteers who have helped out in the past to see if they wish to do so again.
- vi) **Suggested Topics for Future Community Ward Forums** Tony and Mary independently suggested Developer Contributions (Planning Gain) as a topic so that light can be shed on the criteria for

making payments, how much is in the kitty etc. Mary suggested that the Common Good Fund could be similarly covered as a topic.

- vii) **Planning Applications** There was no significant comment on the list of current applications. Hilda read the response from the Planning Dept re our email expressing concern that the proposed development at the former King Street supermarket site is in danger of being withdrawn due to apparently over-onerous planning restrictions re land contamination, as advised by Cllr Strathdee at the last meeting. It transpires however that it may have been the developer's own agents who raised concerns about possible contamination.

Pat left the meeting at 9.10 pm.

## 7. **AOCB**

- a) **Email from TGS PTA** At Hilda's request, Fiona Alderson of The Gordon Schools PTA had, following her attendance at the EIS meeting, put in writing her request for support in principle from the CC for the street theatre events planned for March and September 2014 as part of TGS's 175 year anniversary celebrations. Members gave their support and Mary will advise Fiona accordingly.
- b) **Halloween Window Competition** Members are to send Mary their nominations by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October so that the winner can be published in the Huntly Express of 1<sup>st</sup> November to coincide with the Halloween weekend events being organised by Deveron Arts.
- c) **AB54** magazine - see under 3.B(iv)
- d) **Free Trees Offers** Hilda suggested that Hazel might be interested in an offer highlighted by the Floral Fund Group of free trees for schools. Hazel advised the Primary School are developing a Sensory Garden and asked to be emailed the details. Mary will also send them to the Head Teachers of the Primary School and The Gordon Schools.
- e) **Christmas Night Out** It was agreed to have our Christmas night out on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Mary and Hilda will look at potential venues.
- f) **Market Muir AGM** Tony advised he had attended the Friends of Market Muir AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at which existing office-bearers had been reinstated. Plans for a new pavilion are ongoing with discussions having been held with the Council and an architect on board. They are keen to keep the group's momentum going and plan one fundraising event per year, either a Coffee Morning (provisionally booked for April 2014, however, membership of the senior Rugby Club, who share the Coffee Morning, is dwindling, so the event may not go ahead) or a Quiz Night. The S1 and S2s continue to use the MM ground, which is in good condition, for training, as do the Youth Football. The MM committee meets in November to decide on their fundraising event for 2014.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel reported that the General Account holds £754.31, the Gordon Highlanders Account £496.35 and the EIS Account £4,721.74. The closure of the Clydesdale Bank means that she must now visit the Keith or Elgin branch for any over the counter business.

5. **Correspondence** Items highlighted: **Community Planning**: The next Ward 14 CWF is to be held at Lumsden on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

6. **AOCB** None

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013.