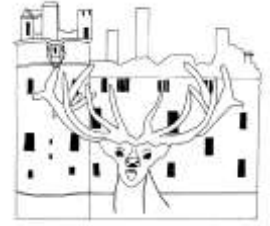




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Hazel McIntosh; Freda McRae; Karen Reid; Gillian Petrie; Norma Milne; PC Neil McAdam; Pat Scott (HE); Cllr Joanna Strathdee; Cllr Moira Ingleby; Cllr Richard Stroud; Cllr Alastair Ross

Apologies: Kathryn Henderson; Bob Ness; Trine Luno; John Greer

Hilda welcomed everyone, including PC Neil McAdam, Pat Scott, and Cllrs Ingleby, Strathdee, Stroud and Ross, to the meeting. She confirmed that Steven Gray, Environmental Planner, Aberdeenshire Council, would be the speaker for this month.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The January minutes were proposed for acceptance by Tony Gill and seconded by Freda McRae. Hilda reminded those present that minutes can now be viewed on the Huntly.net website.

3. Guest Speaker

Hilda introduced Steven Gray and his colleagues, artist Nicola Atkinson and Ranger Helen Young. Steven gave a talk on Huntly's woodlands and in particular the plans for the Battlehill and the Meadows where the original spruces are under threat from windblow, and a programme of felling and replanting is underway - around 9,000 trees will be planted by various community groups, as well as new path routes, waymarking etc being developed. The Forestry Commission have awarded a grant for the project, and for a woodlands public art project. Nicola Atkinson welcomed ideas for the latter and it was suggested she have a presence at the Stewart's Hall Coffee Morning, visit the primary school, and contact the Huntly Woodturning Group when she returns mid April. Helen Young advised that a series of events, including walks and workshops, would take place, mostly at the Meadows – details to be announced in the press.

4. Matters Arising

- a) **Police Issues** PC McAdam presented his report for the period 21st January to 17th February. There were 23 crimes during the period, 6 of which were "priority" vandalism crimes – mostly damage to windows and cars. 9 have been detected so far. In response to a query from Cllr Ingleby on what could be gleaned from these statistics, PC McAdam advised that they did not

reflect a surge in crime and were on the whole acceptable for a town the size of Huntly.

PC McAdam reported on the Cycle Safety Awareness sessions held on 5th February, mainly for 7 – 13 year olds. Further sessions may be held in outlying villages and secondary school pupils targeted. There will be a police surgery in Huntly on 2nd March.

Concern was expressed about the current craze for “street racing” whereby youths climb over walls and through gardens. Although no crime is being committed, it is an unsettling experience, particularly for those living on their own. PC McAdam said no complaints had been received but they would bear the concerns in mind.

b) **Market Muir Update** Tony advised that a committee meeting had been held on 7th February. A coffee morning, possibly shared with another group, is planned for 23rd April, and a quiz night for September. Tony emphasized that the work being done on the Market Muir is continuing, with Landscape Services scheduled to start reseeded and rotovating in the spring (the topsoil was laid before the onset of bad weather last year). Meantime the Boys League and the Rugby Club are using the all-weather pitch. A meeting is to be held with the Planning Department re relocating the pavilion; next meeting of the MM committee is on 28th March.

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

Responses to issues raised/letters sent:

- Statutory consultation on proposed charge increases at Pay and Display car parks – a reply from Richie Fraser, Strategy Officer Infrastructure Services, was read.
- Central Aberdeenshire Licensing Forum – a meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd March at the Gordon Arms Hotel to which members of Huntly Business Association and Pubwatch have been invited. Paul Robinson, Vice-Convenor of the Forum, will give a talk.
- The nomination received for the Sports Award was unfortunately not valid as the individual is not affiliated to Aberdeenshire Council.
- Budget Paper 4 (Strategic Management Team Update on 2011/12 Revenue Budget) and 5 (2012/13 Savings Accelerated to 2011/12)
- Invitation from ACSEF to join Planning Modernisation Group Forum on 2nd March
- Temporary Traffic Restriction re 2011 Farmers’ Markets in the Square
- Weekly Round-Ups issued by the Scottish Government
- Planning and Building News issued by the Scottish Government
- Online bulletin from the Association of Scottish Community Councils

d) **Community Planning**

- February Community Ward Forum – four members of the Community Council attended the meeting which included presentations on renewable energy projects. Lizzy Shepherd subsequently circulated an

email detailing a development in Renfrewshire which is expected to generate £11m in profits over its lifetime for community use

- Consultation e-newsletter
- Aberdeenshire Community Plan 2011-15

e) **Coat of Arms Project**

- A letter of thanks has been received from Help for Heroes to whom a donation was made
- Displays in Stewart's Hall – Duncan Anderson has advised he will hang the Letters Patent week commencing 21st February; he will also supply the wood onto which Barry Driver will signwrite two Coat of Arms, one for the Chairman's Board and one for above the stage in the main hall. Barry has submitted a revised quote for both and this has been accepted. The display case for the flag will be made at a later date after funds have been raised.
- Usage of Coat of Arms – usage is encouraged by local organizations but they must first request in writing approval from the Community Council, who are the keeper of the Coat of Arms on behalf of the town. This is in accordance with the protocol associated with the granting of the Coat of Arms and also enables the Community Council to maintain a log of all requests and usage. Approval has already been granted for incorporation of the Coat of Arms onto litter bins and planters.

f) **Road Traffic Management Review** Cllr Ingleby was thanked for contacting Mark Skilling thus enabling the Community Council to be brought back into the loop re communication of the Review's progress. Hilda read out two subsequent emails from Mark which stated there had been delays with receiving some responses but that a draft report would be issued shortly and the review was still planned to go before the Marr Area Committee on 29th March. It was agreed that the draft would be circulated to members immediately on receipt and comments requested; depending on the views expressed, a special meeting of the Community Council may be convened to discuss the report further. Cllr Stroud advised that comments could also be given to councillors at the CC's 17th March meeting which they could then feed back on the 29th.

g) **Entertainment in the Square 2011** The meeting planned for 14th February had to be postponed and will now be held on the 28th. Hilda has received an expression of interest from a new act.

5. **Treasurer's Report** In Bob's absence Gillian reported that the General Fund contains £947.85 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.

6. **Correspondence**

On the Table: E-newsletter and Community Plan (see under **d**)); SEPA Newsletter – Flooding News

Planning Applications – two items for the period 21.01.11 – 17.02.11.

Hilda, Tony and Mary attended the Strathogie Community Council's 31st January meeting to hear a presentation by Burcote Wind on their planned

development at Meikleton of Ardonald. Huntly Community Council were given the opportunity to ask questions and did so, but Hilda had stressed that the main comments should come from Strathbogie CC in whose area the windfarm would be located. An information pack was put on the table.

Hilda and Mary met with two representatives from the Balhousie Care Group who plan to build a 60-bedded care home and 6 close-care units at the vacant unit beside Tesco as part of their expansion plans for north of the Central Belt. If approved, the development would start to be built mid year with potential benefits for the community in terms of jobs and services eg. local staff, produce and pharmacy services. A public event to keep the community informed of developments will take place once the plans are approved.

Other

- Notes of meeting with Huntly Development Trust; HDT Community Groups and Organisations Feedback Survey – to be completed by Hilda/Mary
- Invitation to Scottish Natural Heritage evening reception 24th February at Gordon Arms – names to be submitted to Mary
- Yes to Fairer Votes – offer to come and talk to Community Council in advance of May elections
- Email from Save our Forests Campaign
- Clashindarroch Windfarm Update
- Deveron Arts – various items of correspondence
- Review to be undertaken of Public Entertainment Licence conditions

Councillors Ingleby and Ross left the meeting at 8.50 pm.

7. AOCB

- Cllr Strathdee advised that the remaining Area Top-Up budget has been allocated to the cost of storage containers for sandbags at the Meadows
- Hazel raised the issue of the neon sign on Duke Street advertising fast food and queried whether planning permission had been granted. Cllr Strathdee will follow this up.
- Pat Scott advised that the Huntly Floral Fund would be emptying tubs at the Council Yard on Sunday 20th and asked for volunteers to help the HFF members with this task.
- Freda noted that the road surface at the top of Duke Street is still in a bad condition despite being repaired three times
- Gillian raised concerns about the potholes on the A96 between Bainshole and Huntly, in particular the crawler lane. Concern was expressed generally about the standard of filling in of potholes, but councillors pointed out that repairs were temporary pending an improvement in the weather after which the job will be done properly.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 17th March at 7.30 pm.