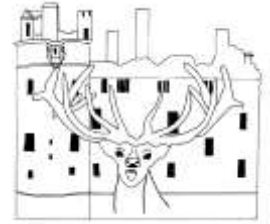




# HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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## Minutes of the January 2011 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, The Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 20 January at 7.30 pm

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair) Bob Ness (Treasurer); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Hazel McIntosh; Freda McRae; Karen Reid; Norma Milne; Pat Scott (HE); Cllr Joanna Strathdee, Cllr Moira Ingleby (PCs Neil McAdam and Malcy Smith (joined meeting at 8 pm)

Apologies: Kathryn Henderson, John Greer, Gillian Petrie, Cllrs Ross and Stroud

Hilda welcomed everyone, including newly co-opted member Norma Milne, Pat Scott and Councillors Strathdee and Ingleby to the meeting, and wished all a Happy New Year. With Norma's co-option, membership is now up to 11. She apologized for the cramped conditions in the Council Chamber, which are due to Aberdeenshire Council decamping to the Stewart's Hall while their offices are being refurbished. Hilda confirmed that Lizzy Shepherd of the Marr Area Partnership would be the speaker for this month.

### 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The November minutes were proposed for acceptance by Bob Ness and seconded by Freda McRae.

### 3. Guest Speaker

Lizzy Shepherd gave a talk on the Marr Area Partnership and Community Planning. MAP is a community development charity which supports community groups in setting up, fundraising etc. It promotes community engagement with service providers and runs the quarterly Community Ward Forums (see under 4d), providing information, training and networking opportunities for community groups. After Lizzy's talk there was a Question and Answer session, following which Hilda thanked her for coming to the meeting. Hilda advised that Steve Gray will be the speaker for February.

### 4. Matters Arising

- a) Police Issues PC McAdam presented his report for the period 19<sup>th</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> January. There were 29 offences in Huntly in the period, 4 of which were classed as "priority", and 9 of which have been detected so far. The planned cycle safety awareness session in December was postponed due to snow and it is hoped to now hold it on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Bob remarked on how little anti-social behaviour there had been in the town over the festive period – it was felt that Pubwatch was working well, and PC Smith believes that Huntly’s is the best Pubwatch initiative in the area. PC McAdam advised that a police “surgery” (based in the mobile police station) is planned for Huntly in March. Hilda summarized the latest Local Policing Update which referred to the Community Council’s concerns re cycling.

b) **Market Muir Update** No update - next committee meeting is on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Tony confirmed that a coffee morning and a quiz are still planned for 2011.

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

- Closure of Nelson Street Car Park from January to September 2011
- Statutory Consultation re proposed Charge Increases to Pay and Display Car Parks in Aberdeenshire – concern was expressed at the percentage increases proposed for shorter periods in particular, and that there is no provision for half-hour parking. Letter to be sent to Aberdeenshire Council before consultation closes 4<sup>th</sup> February.
- Central Aberdeenshire Licensing Forum – request to attend a future CC meeting. Agreed to invite them, plus local interested parties to a specially-convened meeting some time in March
- Management of Unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller Encampments – policy available online and comments requested by 18<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Ingleby advised that Aberdeenshire is being encouraged to come into line with Aberdeen and Moray Councils who treat requests on their own merits rather than stipulating maximum numbers of caravans/a time limit for travellers.
- Aberdeenshire Sports Council Awards Evening 11<sup>th</sup> March – nominations sought by 31<sup>st</sup> January
- Marr Budget Briefing – was held on 13<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr Ingleby reported that it had been well attended and facts and figures clearly explained. Cllr Strathdee advised that £4.6m of savings need to be identified at the meeting scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> February.
- News release re bogus salesmen
- Local Housing Strategy Bulletin (on the table)
- Advice from Lizzy Shepherd re various courses/funding opportunities/budget briefing statements
- ACSEF Planning Workshops in early 2011
- ASCC online bulletins
- Woodlands Group – advice re commencement of felling and replanting work at Battlehill in February, plus Public Art Plan bids. Cllr Ingleby advised there are 4 bids and she is on the interview panel scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> February. It is hoped that Steve Gray will give an update on these issues when he addresses the Community Council in February.
- Scottish Government weekly round-ups/Planning and Building news

d) **Community Planning**

- Notes from the November Community Ward Forum attended by Hilda, Tony and Mary
- There is a Community Ward Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> February at the Cooper Park Pavilion in Huntly and Hilda encouraged CC members to attend. To be covered are Community Benefits of Renewable Energy and Sustainable Projects, and Training Needs of Community Councils, plus a Community Debate.
- MAP have become a Company Limited by Guarantee and require to have a membership list. Huntly Community Council has submitted its membership form.

- e) **Coat of Arms Project** It is planned to hang the framed Letters Patent in the Stewart's Hall, to erect a plaque with the new Coat of Arms on the Community Council Chairperson's Board, place a larger plaque in the "circle" above the stage in the main hall, and have a case built and mounted to display the flag (Listed Building Consent required for the latter). Quotes have been received (apart from the larger plaque) but there are insufficient funds for all the work – it was agreed to defer the construction of a display case but to go ahead with the mounting of the Letters Patent and erection of two plaques. Signwriter Barry Driver is to be asked to quote for the larger plaque and Duncan Anderson to be asked to hang the Letters Patent as soon as possible.

Hilda circulated an email from HDT attaching an illustration of the new waste bins for the Square incorporating the Coat of Arms.

- f) **Road Traffic Management Review** The Community Council has still not received a draft report in advance of the report scheduled to go to the Marr Area Committee - the latest date for the latter is 25<sup>th</sup> January it is apparently not on the agenda for that meeting. Hilda expressed the frustration of members that there had now been two costly public consultations and nothing concrete had emerged from them. The Councillors were asked to raise these concerns at the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> and to investigate the lack of progress.
- g) **Entertainment in the Square 2011** Hilda reported that the event is going ahead and that there are new faces on the committee who it is hoped will inject new life and blood into the event. The next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> February.
- h) **Christmas Window Competition** Congratulations were offered to the British Red Cross shop who won the 2010 competition. It was noted that several other shops had excellent displays too.

5. **Treasurer's Report** Bob reported that there is £380 in General Funds and £646 in the Coat of Arms fund; the Gordon Highlanders and EIS accounts are still with the auditor but stand at approximately £894 and £2,700 respectively. Hilda requested that the EIS account in particular be signed off as we need to know where we stand for this year's EIS event.

6. **Correspondence**

For the Table:

- Housing Strategy Bulletin
- NHS – Do You Know Who To Turn To? promotional leaflets

- Newsletters from Richard Baker MSP; Association of Scottish Community Councils; Aberdeenshire Sports Council; Aberdeenshire Citizens' Panel ("Viewpoint")

Planning Applications 18.11.10 – 20.1.11; Hilda reported that she had received a phone call from the Press and Journal re the proposed Balhousie Care Home 60-bed development at Deveron Road/Deveron Way which would create 60 jobs – to be carried over to the next meeting and a response then sent to Planning Department

- Thank You letter from Relay for Life Huntly 2010
- Invitation to opening of Cancer Centre (cancelled due to snow)
- NHS Grampian – letter accompanying above promotional leaflets
- Aberdeen University Students Association re tuition fees
- Meeting request from Burcot Wind (Community Council invited to presentation being made to Strathbogie CC on 31<sup>st</sup> January)

## 7. AOCB

- Jane Lockyer of HDT conducted a "semi-structured interview" with Hilda and Mary on 17<sup>th</sup> January
- Hilda has received concerns from a member of the public about traffic and road signs in the Square being deliberately turned around (eg. the Castle Hotel sign points towards Gordon Street) – these are the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council and the incidents have been reported to them
- A reporter from the Evening Express rang Hilda re the media item about upgrading of the A9, requesting her comments on the subsequent calls to upgrade the A96 first. Hilda responded that both, being main trunk roads, were equally important, and suggested the EE contact Strathbogie CC.
- The postponed Christmas night out takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> January in the form of a table at the Pipe Band's Burns Supper.
- Mary advised that she will be updating the huntly.net website with minutes of meetings and the list of members and that if anyone has concerns about their contact details being on the website, they should let her know (although details are the same as appear in Stewart's Hall window).
- Tony advised Bob that a cheque is required in annual payment of the Data Protection Act fee.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm.

**ACTIONS:** Contact Licencing Forum to arrange a meeting in March  
 Advise Aberdeenshire Council of concerns re increased car parking charges  
 Advise Planning Department that comments re proposed Balhousie Care Home development will be fed back after February meeting  
 Contact signwriter re quote for circular Coat of Arms plaque  
 Chase up joiner re mounting of Letters Patent

