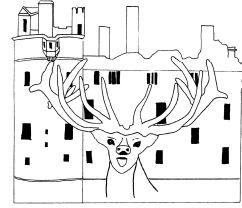




HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the June 2011 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, The Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 16th June 2011 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Bob Ness; Freda McRae; Hazel McIntosh; Colin Grant; PC Neil McAdam ; Pat Scott (HE).

Apologies: John Greer, Norma Milne, Cllrs Moira Ingleby, Richard Stroud and Alastair Ross. Condolences were extended to John Greer on the death of his father.

Hilda introduced Colin Grant and welcomed him as our new member. A welcome was also extended to Pat Scott and PC McAdam.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

a) Police Issues PC McAdam presented his report for the period 20th May to 16th June. There were 28 crimes in the period, 9 of which were "priority". 2 of the latter have been detected, along with 7 of the general crimes. There were 5 acts of vandalism and 2 drugs crimes. There has been a break-in at commercial premises and two "sneak-in" type thefts to houses, as well as lead thefts from properties in outlying villages and in Huntly itself. There have been two instances of shoplifting of alcohol by underage teenagers at a local supermarket.

Linked to the latter, underage drinking has been an issue during the exam study-leave period, requiring hospital admissions in some cases, but police and school intervention plus the end of study-leave time means this has been resolved. Underage drinking patrols continue however. Petty vandalism on the golf course is being monitored. The Mobile Police Surgery had a presence at Asda in May where the majority of public concern was around road safety issues.

PC McAdam had followed up members' queries re invalid buggies; the rules applying to the three different categories of buggies are somewhat vague and it is a case of common-sense being applied in their usage. However, it was confirmed that motorised buggies are entitled to use both roads and pavements and must be lit at night.

PC McAdam confirmed that the "road closed" sign for Torry Street (re blocking of road when the lorry is offloading at the baker's premises) has now been delivered.

The police were congratulated for their part in crowd-monitoring at EIS, where their presence was both reassuring and unobtrusive. Hilda also noted the good relations built up with Sgt Mackinnon in the run-up to the event.

Hilda advised PC McAdam that the town flag would be paraded on Armistice Day and advised that his help may be sought re provision of a flagbearer. Colin may be able to source a belt and other equipment.

PC McAdam left the meeting at 8 pm; Hilda thanked him for his contribution.

b) Market Muir Update Tony advised that the net profit to MM from the April Coffee Morning was £225.18. The Committee Meeting held on 13th June had discussed plans for the 16th September quiz night, for which the Community Council are to enter a team. Further reseeding may be required where the ground is patchy so that the area is ready for the Rugby Club and Boys League to resume playing in September. Architects' ideas are needed for renovation of the Clubhouse, and there is an outline plan to extend the building housing the toilet block, but it is proving difficult to get all the associated parties together. For Colin's benefit, Tony outlined the history of the reseeding project. Although recent events held at the MM did not damage the reseeding, Tony asked that any evidence of misuse of the ground be reported so that appropriate action can be taken. Aberdeenshire Council hold a retention fee from any booking eg. funfair, circus etc, which can be used to fund any necessary repairs.

c) Updates from Marr Area Office/Aberdeenshire Council

- Huntly Woodlands Newsletter (on the table)
- Temporary Restriction of Traffic – Old Road (completed)
- Notification of performance of Scottish Chamber Orchestra (dated)
- Invitation to Planning Modernisation Group Forum 15th June
- Association of Scottish Community Councils re all future correspondence to be sent by email
- Consultation Alert re Ellon Academy and Community Facilities – Mary to check criteria re our subscription to these Alerts
- Scottish Government Weekly Round-Ups and Planning and Building News
- Aberdeen City and Shire – Strategic Development Planning – Briefing Note
- Museum Service – letter re books and gifts presented by a group of Italian visitors some years ago, with particular reference to a Huntly Gordon Highlander who died in Italy in 1945. These were given to the Brander Museum and have now been returned to us by Aberdeenshire Council's Museums Curator. Mary to retain pending their display in the Council Chambers once Council staff move back to their own offices.

d) Community Planning

- Briefing note from recent Community Planning Partnership Executive and Board meetings

e) Coat of Arms Project We are waiting for Barry Driver to complete the two plaques for the Stewart's Hall and for Duncan Anderson to erect them, and hope this will be completed by the time of our next meeting (September). Fundraising will have

to be carried out to pay for a display cabinet for the flag; this will be discussed in September along with arrangements for parading the flag on Armistice Day. There are tentative plans to hold a fundraising Bingo Night at the Ex-Servicemen's Club.

In response to a request from Huntly Pipe Band for a memento incorporating the Coat of Arms, to be presented to the Belgian dance troupe who visited recently, a framed reproduction of the Coat of Arms was prepared and given to the Pipe Band. Hilda read out a letter of thanks from them.

A request has been received from June Carter of Carter Consulting to incorporate the Coat of Arms logo onto her letterhead. While it was acknowledged that she lives just outside the town (the logo is intended for use within the Community Council area), nevertheless her postal address is Huntly, and it was felt the use of the Coat of Arms should be encouraged, particularly as June is Secretary of Huntly Business Association. It was agreed to grant her request and to ask for sight of the new letterhead when ready.

f) Road Traffic Management Review Hilda read out Cllr Ingleby's response to our enquiry as to how the RTMR had been received by the Marr Area Committee on 24th May. This included a summary of the points raised at the meeting which were in addition to those provided by us to Mark Skilling. The minutes of the May meeting are not yet on the Council's website but Mary will advise when these are available. A general discussion on the flow of traffic on Chapel Street/Meadow Street and the issue of large lorries coming into town ensued. Appreciation was expressed that we are at last seeing some action following the review, although it was felt that those to be taken were only the minimum of what was required.

g) Entertainment in the Square 2011 The event had been a success with many positive comments from the public. A letter of thanks has been received from the Huntly Stroke Club who were the recipients of this year's charitable donation. Although money is still coming in, there are expenses still to pay, and in general the takings are down, reinforcing the need for us to watch costs. It was noted there was less drinking at the event than in previous years and that the police and Red Cross had done a good job. Mary is to email the organising committee to check their availability for a post-event drink/informal meeting on Friday 1st July.

h) Community Turbine - Joint Community Council Meeting Summary Hilda and Hazel had attended the first meeting of the working group on 7th June. A strategy for dispersing the monies which will accrue from the acquisition of a Community Turbine, including agreement of the criteria for assessing applications, is to be drawn up, with the process adopted by the Glens of Foudland Community Fund being used as a starting point. It is important that a wide cross-section of the community are represented on the board that is set up to manage the fund. The Planning Application for the development has been lodged, but if granted, it will be some 10 years before "big" money starts to come in, as the emphasis in the early years will be on repaying the loan. Although there was some scepticism round the table on the efficiency of windpower, Tony pointed out that windfarms are a reality in the north east (Pat advised there are some 700 turbine applications in progress), the benefits accruing from which should be tapped into. The working group meets again on 21st July.

i) Garden Competition The contribution made by former member Kathryn Henderson in revamping and organising the competition in previous years was acknowledged. A new coordinator is required for this year's competition – judging will take place during the weekend of 6th/7th August. As the newest member traditionally is one of the three judges, Colin was asked, and agreed to participate. Fiona Murray, last year's guest judge, is to be asked again. Mary to ask Norma Milne if she will be co-ordinator, failing which Mary will carry out this role.

4. **Treasurer's Report** In John Greer's absence, Bob reported that the General Account holds £616.97, of which £578.67 belongs to the Coat of Arms account, leaving around £38. Bob was concerned that the admin grant received from Aberdeenshire Council is insufficient since the bulk is used to pay the Secretary's honorarium, leaving very little for other expenses. He suggested that either fundraising be carried out or the Council be asked to pay the Secretary direct. An increase of £5 per month to the Secretary's honorarium was agreed.

The Gordon Highlanders account remains at £890.76, with an invoice for the insurance for the GH monument having been received. A cheque was written for the amount due.

The bank forms prepared by Bob re the transfer of the Treasurer's role from Bob to John were signed by the Chair and Secretary; Mary will pass these onto John for further processing.

5. **Correspondence**

For the Table:

- Executive Summaries from Huntly Development Trust re Retail Sector, Huntly Hub and Local Trades Flexible Workspace
- Viewpoint Newsletter May 2011
- Deveron Arts promotional material re "A Perfect Father" day and launch of "Artocracy" book in London

Planning Applications 19.5.11–16.6.11: 8 applications - no specific comments. An email had been received from Aberdeenshire Council requesting comments on the Cairnborrow windfarm application. Mary to respond confirming the Community Council's neutral stance.

- Letter from Forestry Commission re sale of land at Kinnoir Straight
- Special rates for IHG hotels
- Email from Belgian student re meeting to discuss tourism/whisky industry
- Licensing Forum – acknowledgement of our request for annual meeting
- Update from Burcote Wind Renewables
- Email from Donald Boyd re Corporal Michael Pike – it was agreed to send a letter of condolence to Corporal Pike's widow. If the funeral is to be held in Huntly, the Ex-Servicemen's Club will send a representative and a wreath. Bob to follow up the addition of Corporal Pike's name to the War Memorial.

6. **AOCB**

It was noted that Cllr Strathdee had been asked to find out whether the neon sign for the eaterie in Duke Street had been subject to planning permission. Mary to ask Cllr Strathdee to follow this up.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm; Hilda thanked all for attending and wished members a good summer. The Community Council now breaks for the summer recess – the next meeting will be held on Thursday 15th September.

ACTIONS: Pay Gordon Highlander insurance
Email EIS committee members re informal meeting on 1st July
Request address for Mrs Pike from Aberdeenshire Council and send letter of condolence
Respond to Aberdeenshire Council re Cairnborrow windfarm proposal
Reply to June Carter re use of Coat of Arms logo
Check Aberdeenshire Council website re minutes of 24th May MAC meeting
Contact Norma Milne re Garden Competition
Email to Cllr Strathdee re neon sign on Duke Street
Check criteria for CC subscription to Consultation Alerts