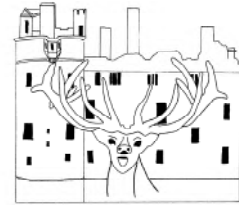




# HUNTLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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## Minutes of the March 2013 meeting of Huntly Community Council held in the Council Chamber, the Stewart's Hall, Huntly on Thursday 21st March 2013 at 8 pm

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** Hilda Lumsden-Gill (Chair); Tony Gill (Vice Chair); Hazel McIntosh (Treasurer); Mary Burgerhout (Secretary); Freda McRae; Bob Ness; Rev Norma Milne; Colin Grant; PC Christine Warren (Grampian Police); Pat Scott (Huntly Express)

**Apologies:** Councillor Strathdee

Hilda welcomed members (including Colin who is back after two months abroad) and extended a special welcome to Councillor Ingleby, PC Warren, and Pat Scott. She thanked those members who had attended the Community Council Engagement Seminar at 7pm in the Stewart's Hall New Room. She advised that a list of all correspondence received since the February meeting had been circulated by Mary prior to tonight's meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the 21.02.13 meeting were proposed for acceptance by Norma Milne and seconded by Freda McRae.

### 3. Matters Arising

A. Police Issues PC Warren advised that in the period 21.02.13 to 20.03.13 there were 18 crimes and offences recorded within Huntly, the majority for thefts and vandalisms. 7 have been detected and 6 have positive lines of enquiry. Incidents include a driver warned for antisocial driving, the theft of a collection tin from a charity shop, a lamp-post set on fire in Gladstone Road, a female charged with stealing from a works van in Depot Road and a male given a Fixed Penalty for urinating in Duke Street. In response to observations that vehicles are still parking too close to the Granary Street/Church Street junctions, attention has been given to the area and 4 motorists have been spoken to.

The issue of yellow lines in Duke Street and other parts of town was again raised. Cllr Ingleby advised she had reported fading lines near Asda/King George V Avenue and been told that repainting cannot be carried out in winter weather as the paint lifts off the road surface, but remedial action will be taken when practical. Freda raised the issue of a Princes Street resident who has placed notices on cars parked illegally in front of her drive. PC Warren asked that any such incidents be reported to the police as they have the power to move vehicles on. PC Warren reminded members that this would be the last time an officer would attend a CC meeting under the Grampian Police banner, the new Police Service of Scotland taking effect from 1st April. A PSS officer will continue to attend meetings from this date.

PC Warren left the meeting at 8.15 pm. Hilda thanked her for her contribution, and thanked Grampian Police for their service to the local community.

**B) Huntly Topics**

**i) Current Issues**

a) Temporary Traffic Restriction – Deveron Street from 25th March for 2 weeks for street lighting works.

b) Response from Ralph Singleton re barriers Hilda read out the response to the concerns expressed by the CC re the barriers being stored outside in the Council Yard. Priority has been given to keeping snowploughs and other winter weather-related equipment dry but as many of the barriers as possible will be stored in doors again when practicable. Tony queried whether the original intention of having a container for the barriers could be revisited but it was felt that the Council's undertaking to move them back indoors was sufficient.

c) Talk to Huntly Guides Hilda had given a talk to the Huntly Guides on 18th March about the work of the CC which was well-received. The Guides have issues of concern and ideas for improvements re the town which they will send to us. Hilda had advised them that while the CC does not have the resources to carry out improvements/implement suggestions, it can highlight these to the appropriate organisation.

d) Creative Spaces Cultural Fund Hilda referred to the article in the HE of 15th March outlining the aims of the scheme and how to apply for funding. The CC plans to apply for funds for EIS 2014 and Hilda asked for members' approval for her and Mary to complete the application form (which must be submitted by 29th April) on behalf of the CC. Up to £1,000 can be awarded. Hilda also advised that she had been contacted by Donald Boyd of HDT to ask if she would become a member of the panel which will consider applications. She has indicated her willingness to do so, but will declare an interest and exclude herself from participation when any application by the CC is discussed. A copy of the application pack was put on the table for members' information.

e) Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Hilda advised that a copy of this document was on the table and available for members to borrow (borrowed by Hazel). Comments are invited by 12th April but members are asked to advise Mary beforehand of any response they intend to submit.

ii) **Brander Museum Space** Mary advised that she had that afternoon received an email from Carol Leathley in response to our second request for a follow-up to our meeting with her in January. She has provided dates when she is available to accompany Hilda and Mary to Museum Services at Mintlaw and has suggested that this visit be combined with a meeting, possibly with a Community Learning Officer, to discuss further the future of the Brander Museum Space. Hilda and Mary to discuss the Mintlaw visit dates and Mary to reply to Carol accordingly. Hilda advised that she had received a further email from a member of the public who remains, along with others in the community, concerned about the current and future use of the Museum rooms.

iii) **Clashindarroch Community Trust Update** We have received two emails from Daljit Singh of Foundation Scotland (formerly the Scottish Communities Foundation) re progress with the setting up of a Working Group. Various discussions between Vattenfall and FS have taken place over recent weeks, and we expect to hear from those who will lead on convening the Working Group and setting up the Community Trust in the next week or so.

iv) **HCC AGM and CC Elections** The AGM will take place on 16th May; a notice to this effect will be placed in the HE on 3rd May. There are 7 vacancies for Community Councillors – 3 unfilled, 3 due to existing members' three-year terms ending, and one for a Youth Member. A notice will be placed in the HE on 12th April advertising these positions, and nomination forms, available from the Council Offices, will need to be completed and returned to Mary by 29th April. Hazel suggested that an article explaining the work of the CC and encouraging people to become members be placed in the HE. Hilda advised that an article which she had submitted at their request to AB54 magazine had not yet been published but that the huntly.net website has a CC page which highlights who we are and what we do.

v) **Planning** There were no comments on the five applications listed.

vii) **AOCB**

- a) **Sir Malcolm Bruce letter** Following the decision arrived at at the February meeting, letters have been sent to both Sir Malcolm and Frank Smith.
- b) **Handrail at the Stewart's Hall main entrance** – this was installed at the end of February.
- c) **Nelson Street Car Park** A member of the public had approached Hilda to suggest that this car park, which is under-used, become a free parking area to alleviate the congestion on Nelson Street itself. It was noted that a similar suggestion had been made during the Car Parking Review, the recommendations from which have yet to be implemented.
- d) **Window Replacements** Hazel advised that white plastic/PVC-framed windows have been installed in an upstairs property near the Blythwood Charity Shop and queried whether this was permissible in a conservation area. The CC will investigate and contact Aberdeenshire Council if necessary.
- e) **Resurfacing at New Cemetery** Tony noted that work has started on this area which had been highlighted by the CC last year as requiring action.
- f) **Market Muir Update** Tony advised that there is to be a Coffee Morning, in conjunction with Johnston Carmichael, on 27th April, for which volunteers are sought. He also advised that an informal meeting has been held with planners to discuss the potential construction of a new pavilion near the toilet block. The discussion was positive and the MM committee is now in a position to develop outline plans for a building to house changing rooms and a community hall, although funding is still to be raised. It is felt that an attractive building visible to those entering the town will be an asset. The existing pavilion will be retained as a storage facility.

4. **Treasurer's Report** Hazel reported that the General Account holds £595.01, the EIS account £3,721.74, and the Gordon Highlanders £632.69. She and Bob will meet shortly to discuss the information required by Bernard Henderson (by mid April) so that he can audit our accounts.

5. **Correspondence**

A list of all correspondence received had been circulated in advance, with relevant items discussed earlier in the meeting. **MAO/Aberdeenshire Council** - Bob sought clarification on the documentation received from the Council re the Ex-Servicemen's Club's application for a license extension and a discussion ensued on the services provided by the Club and the flexibility that the extension will allow. **Community Planning** - Hilda advised that Mary had attended the Social Media training session organized by the Marr Area Partnership but that the CC would not as a result be setting up a Facebook or Twitter page.

Pat Scott left the meeting at 9 pm.

6. **AOCB** The CC Engagement Seminar held before the CC meeting was discussed. Hazel asked Cllr Ingleby about the previously proposed new school, which does not appear in the latest development plan. Cllr Ingleby advised a school would only be built if new houses were constructed, and that that is some way off. A general discussion ensued on the possible extension of the Secondary School if new houses were built, and the implications of the existing primary school site being owned by Historic Scotland. Members were reminded that a shorter version (in the form of a Powerpoint presentation) of the Engagement Seminar presentation was available online and members could submit comments via the website, but it was also felt that a separate meeting of the CC was required to address any issues it wishes raised.

Cllr Ingleby left the meeting at 9.05 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 18th April 2013.