

# The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10 November 2015 at 7.00pm

1.	<b><u>Sederunt and Apologies.</u></b> (* Associate, ** Youth)	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
a.	<p><b><u>MEMBERS</u></b></p> <p>Alastair KENNEDY(Chair),                      Gordon METHVEN(Sec'),                      Bryan WATSON (Vice Chair),  Steven CHRISTIE,                      David CHAPMAN*,                      Andrew GRAY,  Catriona GREY                      Ann GLOVER,                      Steven MILNE,  Pat PATERSON,                      Mary WALL,                      Maureen MANSON,  Iain CATTO</p> <p><b><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Mike SHAND                      Cllr Kirsty REID,                      Hazel Lawson (Northern Scot),  Sarah CROWE (Community Support),                      PS Sean JONES (Police Scotland)</p> <p><b><u>APPOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Eddie WALLACE,                      Jim WISEMAN (Minutes),                      Gordie WELLS,  Cllr James ALLAN,                      Cllr Patsy GOWANS,                      Cllr Graham LEADBITTER,,  Cllr John DIVERS,</p>	
b.	<p><b><u>WELCOME</u></b></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Sarah Crowe to the members.</p>	
c.	<p><b><u>SPEAKER – Sarah Crowe</u></b></p> <p>Sarah Crowe briefly explained her role and said she was looking forward to getting to know everyone and working with us on future community initiatives.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></b></p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Steven Christie and seconded by Andrew Gray with the following corrections.  Item 6c should read, 'The proposed changes to the constitution of Elgin Community Council are to be held in abeyance.'625</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING.</u></b></p> <p>a. Page 1 item 3a – Cancellation of 7.25am train – Continue to monitor</p> <p>b. Page 1 item 3b – Bryan Watson did not attend the Community Resuscitation Conference being held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015 as he was away at the time.</p> <p>c. Page 1 item 3c – Eight Acres flower bed – Councillor Reid is to contact Glenmoray Distillery.</p> <p>d. Page 1 item 3e – Car dealerships displaying cars on the verges of the A96 East Road – Ongoing with Eddie Wallace and David Chapman</p> <p>e. Page 1 item 3f- Letter to John Swinnie re Elgin High replacement project – Gordon Methven advised Mr Swinnie's reply had been circulated. The project will hopefully receive it's funding as soon as possible. It was agreed to monitor the situation.</p> <p>f. Page 2 item 3g – Iain Catto attended a community empowerment conference in Inverurie and his report had been circulated. Alastair Kennedy commented on it being an excellent report.</p> <p>g. Page 2 item 3h – Refugee plans for Moray area – Cllr Reid advised a steering group had been set up for interested parties/groups. A collection point has been set up at Moycroft but they are not taking anything until logistics are in place for sorting items received. There is no update on when refugees would arrive but around 70 in number has been mentioned. A Facebook page has also been set up.</p> <p>h. Page 4 item 11b – Crossing at Poundland – David Chapman advised that Eddie Wallace had written to the roads engineer.</p> <p>i. Page 2 item 4(d)(4) – Iain Catto attended the consultation event at Lhanbryde regarding the solar farm at Milton Airfield. He advised a planning application was still to be submitted but he believed the proposals look fine as they stand. It is too early to know if community benefit funding will be</p>	

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	<p>available. Although the company has Elgin in their name it has nothing to do with the city of Elgin. It is an Irish company.</p> <p>j. Page 2 item 5a – Alastair Kennedy and Andrew Gray attended the Findrassie consultation event. They were happy with the proposals as they stand.</p> <p>k. Page 4 item 4d – Elgin Skatepark. It was agreed to re-visit this when a community warden has been appointed.</p>	
4.	<b><u>AGENCY UPDATES</u></b>	
a.	<p><b><u>POLICE SCOTLAND</u></b></p> <p>See Report</p> <p>PS Sean Jones read out the police report and then took questions.</p> <p>Iain Catto asked a question about housebreaking gangs possibly operating in the area as had been reported in the national media. PS Jones said there wasn't presently such criminal activity in Elgin and advised that the most recent spate of break ins in Elgin had been carried out by a local criminal who was well known to the police.</p> <p>Gordon Methven asked a question on behalf of James Wiseman who was unable to attend the meeting. He had experienced youngsters on bikes without lights cycling out in front of traffic on the sea front in Lossiemouth and also on Edgar Road in Elgin. He wanted to know if there was a problem and whether an operation would take place to address this matter. PS Jones advised that Mr Wiseman was probably just unlucky and he wasn't aware of the problem of no lights on bicycles being any worse than in previous years. It is something however that police officers are well aware of when the lights go back and they do give warnings to young people they come across cycling without lights during the hours of darkness.</p> <p>David Chapman asked a question about drivers not using dipped headlamps in conditions of reduced visibility. There followed a discussion on running lights and whether or not they were a legal requirement. PS Jones advised there wasn't any initiative planned to address this particular matter but he did say he would research and report back.</p> <p>Andrew Gray commented on reports of a 25% rise in domestic violence in the north east. PS Jones said he would also investigate this and report back.</p>	
b.	<p><b><u>STAGECOACH</u></b></p> <p>No report</p>	
c.	<p><b><u>COMMUNITY WARDEN</u></b></p> <p>No report. Cllr Reid commented that Andrew Mackie who had been covering Elgin had been seconded to another role and two of the current wardens were on temporary contracts. There is therefore no full time cover in Elgin.</p> <p>Andrew Gray advised members that the post of community safety officer had recently been advertised.</p>	
d.	<p><b><u>CONSULTATIONS</u></b></p> <p>Health and social care integration –</p> <p>Community Engagement Meetings –</p> <p>Both were discussed in a fairly lengthy conversation on the merits of the consultation event held on Monday 9 November at the Alexander Graham Bell Centre. No definite decision was reached as to the success or otherwise of such consultation events other than they needed to happen. However it was suggested they needed to more user friendly to encourage more members of the public to attend.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy advised he had circulated a report on the digital workshop which included 8 videos members may like to look into.</p>	
5.	<b><u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u></b> (See reports previously circulated)	
a.	<p><b><u>PLANNING</u></b></p> <p>No report</p>	
b.	<p><b><u>RECREATION, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT</u></b></p> <p>On the occasion of her retirement as a community councillor Anne Glover gave a report concerning her involvement over the years as a community councillor. Alastair Kennedy remarked she was one of the founding members of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council and had provided years of sterling service to the community. Anne was given a presentation and members expressed their</p>	

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	<p>appreciation of her years of dedication.</p> <p>Anne further expressed her appreciation for the help she was given by the members of the Ladyhill Gardens Group and particularly thanked Pat and Mike Paterson and a member called Bob. Discussion followed on who had painted the railings. It was mentioned Anne Glover had provided the gold paint but didn't get it back.</p> <p>The gifts from Elgin Illinois were discussed. Members were reminded we were to send a reciprocal gift back to them but this had not been done. Members asked to give thought as to what we can send them.</p> <p>Mary Wall and Pat Paterson will attend a sustainable forum meeting and report back.</p>	
c.	<p><b><u>ROADS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</u></b></p> <p>As previously mentioned the problem of car dealerships parking on roads verges on East Road is ongoing.</p> <p>David Chapman advised that Eddie Wallace and he had joined the committee of the Moray Disability Forum.</p> <p>David Chapman and Eddie Wallace are to attend the Moray Transport Seminar on 29<sup>th</sup> November in Lhanbryde Community Centre.</p> <p>Bryan Watson asked if feedback had been received on the free after 3.00pm parking in the multi storey Elgin car parks. Cllr Reid said they hadn't received any feedback on this matter.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the possibility of a new pedestrian crossing on the A96 East Road, Elgin. Although positive noises have been heard from the Scottish Government on this as yet nothing had been promised. However, all pedestrian routes and school crossings are to be reviewed along with the school rezoning.</p>	
d.	<p><b><u>YOUTH.</u></b></p> <p>No report</p>	
e.	<p><b><u>LICENCING</u></b></p> <p>See report.</p> <p>Iain Catto apologized for an obvious typo in his report.</p> <p>He advised there was nothing material forthcoming on the gambling consultation and therefore no objection.</p>	
f.	<p><b><u>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS</u></b></p>	
	<p>Alastair Kennedy advised that Gordie Wells is now a trustee of Elgin Benevolent Fund</p>	
g.	<p><b><u>GRANT LODGE</u></b></p>	
	<p>Maureen Manson reported that the consultation on transfer of ownership to the trust was ongoing but it is a slow process. There will be a meeting of the friends of Grant Lodge on 19<sup>th</sup> November and Maureen pointed out one does not require to be a member of that group to attend their meetings.</p>	
h.	<p><b><u>SOCIAL MEDIA</u></b></p> <p>Bryan Watson informed us the Facebook page now had 527 followers with a reach of 1350. Things were going fine.</p>	
i.	<p><b><u>CHAIR'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>See report</p>	
j.	<p><b><u>SECRETARY'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>No report</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>COMMUNITY PLANNING.</u></b></p>	
a.	<p><b><u>ELGIN SOUTH AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUM</u></b></p> <p>The November meeting is the AGM. Steven Christie advised that no office bearers had come forward.</p>	
b.	<p><b><u>SPICE</u></b></p>	

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	<p>Steve Christie reported that at the AGM a new committee was formed. The next litter pick will be on 21/11/15 and those taking part will meet 10.00am at the fountain on the Plain stones. The litter bags will be placed at the fountain for members of the public to see before they are moved elsewhere to be collected. The bags will not be left overnight. He further reported that they had purchased new high viz vests for the litter pickers.</p> <p>The matter of community wardens had been discussed and SPICE are to write to Andy Jamieson regarding cover for Elgin.</p> <p>A question was asked about the fountain. Cllr Reid said this was going back to common good for discussion. There are however concerns regarding how to take this matter forward as there are a number of costs involved in restoring the fountain to its full use. There are also concerns about it being used as a flowerbed as the existing flower planters in the area are not well looked after.</p>	
c.	<p><b><u>JCC &amp; COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION IN COMMUNITY PLANNING</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting of the JCC is 12/11/2015. Les Morgan from Findhorn &amp; Kinloss will chair the meeting as Alastair Kennedy is unable to attend.</p>	
d.	<p><b><u>EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCE PLANNING</u></b></p>	
	<p>Andrew Gray will take the proposals to the JCC meeting. It is hoped to get other community councils involved in the resilience plan along with the chair of the Halls Federation who is to be at the meeting.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>EDUCATION</u></b></p>	
a.	<p><b><u>New Elgin High School</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Shand advised that the replacement project will be discussed at the full council meeting on 11/11/15. However he believed it would be into next year before resolution. Things are moving slowly but it is proposed Moray Council make a temporary payment up front now to get things moving and will get it back later. The hold up is being caused by the cash flow problems at the Scottish Futures Trust.</p>	
b.	<p><b><u>Elgin Academy</u></b></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy reported it had been acknowledged there was a bullying problem in Elgin schools. This matter had been previously raised by Elgin Community Council but we had received a cool response from education. He felt we had been vindicated.</p>	
c.	<p><b><u>Primary Schools</u></b></p> <p>No Report</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>The number 1 account is on target and number 2 is at £3,200 although there were cheques for £500.00 which had still to come off.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>ONGOING TOPICS</u></b></p>	
a.	<p><b><u>LIGHTING UP CATHEDRAL</u></b></p> <p>Not progressed. Alastair Kennedy reported that Peter Haslam had advised him the Landshut bridge was to be relit and it had been hoped it would be lit red for remembrance Sunday. It was unknown if that had happened. He further advised cctv would be installed to deter vandals and then it would be properly lit.</p> <p>It was suggested cages could be installed around the lights to protect them from vandals.</p> <p>Cllr Shand said consultants were looking at the lighting strategy for the Cooper Park which may include the Cathedral.</p>	
10.	<p><b><u>EVENTS</u></b></p>	
a.	<p><b><u>COMMUNITY AWARDS</u></b></p> <p>Gordon Methven said the event was being held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the Alexander Graham Bell Centre and all EC members and elected members were invited.</p>	

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<b>b.</b>	<b><u>ELGIN FESTIVAL</u></b>	
	A reminder to be sent to Jim Royan of the CCC group.	
<b>c.</b>	<b><u>TRAINING</u></b>  No report.	
<b>11.</b>	<b><u>A.O.C.B.</u></b>  Gordon Methven asked members if they would be interested in having fleeces with the community council logo on them. There followed a discussion on the merits of this and the conclusion was if members paid for such themselves then there would be no objections. Gordon is to follow this up.  It was requested the feedback on the Western Link Road be circulated to members.  Alastair Kennedy invited members and those in attendance at the December meeting for refreshments at Weatherspoons following the December meeting.	
<b>12.</b>	<b><u>NEXT MEETING</u></b>  7:00pm Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2015 Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin.	
<b>13.</b>	<b><u>CLOSE</u></b>  There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting.	

CITATION: These Minutes were adopted as a True Record of Proceedings:

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT**

**ELGIN**

**10 NOVEMBER 2015**

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### 1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

- **Ongoing Investigations in Elgin**

Enquiries are still ongoing into the damage caused to car tyres in New Elgin as a result of tacks being thrown onto the road.

Between 9.00am on 1 October and 9.52am on 2 October 2015 a number of cars were vandalised at Arnold Clark on Edgar Road, this incident featured in the local press. The incident is currently undetected but enquiry is ongoing.

Anyone with any information on the crimes mentioned above and any other crimes in the Elgin Policing Area should contact the Police Scotland on 101, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or call in person at the Elgin Police Office.

### 2. FEEDBACK ON POLICE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

### 3. DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL PRIORITIES

Our multi member ward plans are designed to address your priorities, which are:

#### **Community Focus**

Elgin based officers can be alerted to issues in your neighbourhoods by means of email. Messages should be sent to

[ElginNorthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ElginNorthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)  
[ElginSouthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ElginSouthCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

During the month, amongst other things, Elgin-based officers have devoted effort to issues raised by the community including:

Parking issues in the area of the Community Centre.  
Parking issues and driver behaviour around schools, especially Bishopmill Primary School / Elgin Academy, and New Elgin Primary School.

#### **Road Safety and Road Crime**

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11 drivers have also been dealt with for a number of driving offences. 1 person was dealt with for failing to have insured their vehicles. Two drink driver's were reported to the Procurator Fiscal. 1 driver was reported for speeding within Elgin.

### **Antisocial Behaviour**

During the period, 1 October 2015 to 31 October 2015, 90 antisocial crimes in Elgin have been reported to Police. 45 of those crimes have been detected and offenders dealt with. Enquiries continue into the currently undetected crimes. Incidents investigated included assault, vandalism and theft.

12 Anti Social Behaviour Fixed penalties were also issued.

Over the period there have been 22 vandalisms of which 1 have been detected.

### **Drugs**

There have been 2 cases relating to the illegal supply of drugs and 10 others regarding possession of illicit substances. Small quantities of Class A, B and C drugs have been recovered.

### **Other Crime of Interest**

There were two break in's to domestic properties these are still undetected and enquiry is ongoing.

There was a series of 10 break in's to commercial premises within Elgin these have been detected and the offender reported.

### **Violence**

There have been 2 assaults in Elgin during the period which have resulted in the victim requiring hospital treatment for an injury. The offenders for both of these cases have been reported.

Further to the above, crimes relating to domestic abuse still occupy a considerable amount of our time with 11 reports made during the month. 6 of these cases have been detected and the offender reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The remaining five enquiries are ongoing.

## **4. ONGOING LOCAL/FORCEWIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Prevention activity is increasing in importance. With the onset of the darker evenings, Police Scotland are reminding householders to be aware of not leaving their houses in darkness when they are out. This gives an easy indication to thieves that you are out, persons are encouraged to use lights on timers to give the impression that a house is occupied. Consideration should also be given to fitting security lights. We are keen to pass the message to our community that, although



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Elgin and the surrounding area is a safe place to live, with very low crime rates, the likelihood of becoming the victim of theft can be greatly reduced by taking a few moments to make sure that property is secure.

The 'After Dark' initiative will be running during the winter months whereby officers will put notes through the doors of houses which are unlit and obviously unoccupied to remind householders to take care.

### **Elgin Inspectors:**

Inspector Ewan Strachan  
Inspector Grant McCutcheon

Your team is based at Elgin Police Office

Contact us: In a non-emergency – **101**

Once an incident has been recorded a decision will then be made, dependent on the circumstances as to which officer is best placed to address the problem.

### **POLICE SCOTLAND**

Police Scotland are keen to highlight their use of social media and advise the public that our latest news can be found at [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) and using the Twitter feeds @policescotland and @ShireMorayPol or on Facebook at [facebook.com/policescotland](https://facebook.com/policescotland)

### **CRIMESTOPPERS**

If anyone has any information relating to controlled drugs or drug dealing, please call the Police Scotland on 101. Alternatively, contact can be made with Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers allow information to be passed in relation to any crime or criminal activity anonymously. They can be contacted via the website at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

### **PARENTLINE SCOTLAND**

ParentLine Scotland is a free helpline (0800 28 22 33) and email service [parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk](mailto:parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk) for anyone with concern about a child. [www.parentlinescotland.org.uk](http://www.parentlinescotland.org.uk)

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**Licensing Report 8 November 2015**

- 1) Application for an alcohol licence for Allanburn Farm Shop, Edgar Road, Elgin

This was for service in the café during its opening hours. The only comments received were supportive of the application, so no objection was offered.

- 2) Gambling Act 2015 – Moray Council Statement of Licensing Policy for 2016-2019

The changes proposed to the existing guidance are largely technical in nature, do not involve any substantive changes in policy, and no-one has offered any comments, so I suggest that no comments are offered to this consultation.

*Iain Catto 8 November 2015*

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### **Chair's report for November meeting**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.** Along with David, Eddie and George Littlejohn I attended a meeting with a representatives from Network Rail and Scotrail/Abellio. We covered much ground and got answers to a number of outstanding questions. We also raised the very local problem of the continuing problem of the cancellation of the early train. Unions/staff problems were blamed. I think we all agreed was a good meeting.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October.** I attended the Elgin South Area Forum meeting. Steven also attended and James is the current chair.

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October.** I attended the Moray Forum meeting at which there was a presentation on Sustainable Education

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October.** In company with Gordon and others I was a member of the final panel for deciding on the winners and runners-up of the Moray Community Awards.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October.** I attended the SPICE meeting and AGM in the evening.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October.** I was invited to present on the subject of ECC's success in the use of IT at the CC digital event in the Gallery, Elgin Library. I thought it was a rather poor event.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.** Due to circumstances I continued to chair Innes Community Council.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November.** I had what has become a regular quarterly meeting with Roddy Burns, Chief Executive of Moray Council. Various topics were discussed, including the forthcoming consultation events where Health and Social Care Integration and the Moray 2023 10 year Plan. We also discussed the need for the Scheme for Community Councils to possibly be tightened up. A sub-group of JCC members will be formed to look at achieving this.