

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7.00pm

1.	<u>WELCOME</u> Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
	<u>Sederunt and Apologies.</u> (* Associate, ** Youth)	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>OFFICE BEARERS</u> Alastair KENNEDY(Chair), Jim WISEMAN (Vice Chair). Patsy GOWANS (Secretary), Steven CHRISTIE (Treasurer),	
	<u>MEMBERS</u>	
	Iain CATTO, David CHAPMAN*, Bruce FLETT, Jeff GABLE, Aileen MARSHALL, Margaret PARK, Pat PATERSON, Mary WALL,Eddie WALLACE, Bryan WATSON.	
	<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	
	Jim GIBSON Craig POTTER (Speaker)	
2.	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Paul BRIGGS, Douglas CLARK, Catriona GRAY, Cllr Frank BROWN, Cllr John DIVERS, Cllr Graham LEADBITTER, Sgt McPHAIL	
3.	<u>AGENCY UPDATES</u>	
a.	<u>POLICE SCOTLAND</u> - No representative	
b.	<u>STAGECOACH</u> - No representative	
c.	<u>SPEAKER – Craig Potter – Rothes III Wind Farm</u>	
	Craig Potter gave an overview of the Rothes III windfarm. Fred Olson Renewables Ltd (FORL) were one of the first renewables companies in Scotland and has a portfolio of windfarm projects of various sizes and at different stages of development across Scotland. Natural Power Renewables (NPR) are a UK company advising FORL on Rothes III which is 29 turbines in 2 phases totalling 122 MW. Rothes III will be visible from most of Moray and there will be community benefit available although the distribution mechanism and amounts are not yet known. After Alastair Kennedy asked who got the Rothes I and II grants it emerged that the final recipients are difficult to find out. It was also unclear whether any community benefit would be considered community property or the property of the receiving organisation. A shared ownership option will be available and Community Councils should obtain their own impartial advice. Iain Catto declared a possible conflict of interest with his employment managing windfarm funds.	
4.	<u>PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 13 th February 2018 were not read out and a proposer and seconder were sought. Steven Christie proposed, Eddie Wallace seconded with no objections therefore the minutes were adopted as a true record of that meeting.	

5.	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> , - None	
6.	<u>ELECTED MEMBERS FEEDBACK</u> - None	
7.	<u>COMMUNITY ISSUES</u>	
a.	<u>FAIR TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT</u>	
	<p>The Fair Trade group have just finished a programme of events for Fair Trade fortnight. They have carried out 3 school talks and a public event in the Inkwell. Each event had a talk, film and trade tables. Young people participated in an event in the Council Headquarters for the young Persons Committee. Tesco, Bijou, Starbucks and Cobbs all put on fair trade displays</p> <p>The next event for the Fair Trade Group is a stall at the food and drink festival.</p>	
b.	<u>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</u>	
	<p>Iain Catto circulated the following report.</p> <p><i>Roads & Transport Committee Report – Notes of Meeting on 7 March</i></p> <p><i>1) Response received from Craig Woodall from Stagecoach as follows:</i></p> <p><i>1. Mr Whitelocks has advised me that he had not guaranteed a connection to the Airport, as guaranteeing a connection is impractical to do when there could be a range of events take place that through no fault of ours would make a connection very difficult to facilitate - and perhaps not even in the customers best interests dependant on the circumstance. What we have said is we would ensure that we provided the opportunity for a connection to be made in Nairn and a through fare would be made available. We have provided a connection window of four minutes on arriving on the 10 service from Elgin and a departure on the 11 service for most of the day. In the other direction there is a connection window of five minutes. Of course customers may choose to extend this by travelling on the preceding journeys and allowing for a longer connection period. We have advised our drivers to be vigilant about delays when they have someone travelling through Nairn to or from the airport and make use of the messaging facilities they have through their ticket machines to advise our control of this so as appropriate decisions can be made to facilitate the onward journeys. This may mean delaying the connecting service to facilitate the connection or another measure dependant on the scale of the delay and the best decision that can be made for all concerned. 2. With the routing of the number 10 service, we are trying to improve reliability and simplicity in the network as we know this is what our customers want, this is why all number 10 services will go the same way. We also have concerns about the ability to egress from the Wittet drive junction onto the A96 in a consistent time, given the need to occupy both lanes of live traffic when heading west. We are considering whether to re-route the 10 Service journeys heading East back to Elgin as this would naturally mitigate the need for anyone to cross the road from Dr Gray's but this could have implications for how we operate Service 34 and therefore we are making use of operational experience before we consider this. In any event we must operate the current timetables and routes without amendment for a minimum of 90 days before making any further changes. Clearly I will be able to update you on this at future meetings. In the meantime, if there are continued concerns about crossing a busy road to entering or leaving the hospital when buses are travelling from Inverness, it might be that you wish to raise these with Transport Scotland who operate and are responsible for the A96. I hope these answers assist in understanding the decisions that were made when making changes to our network, if you require any additional information or if I can assist further in any way please do not hesitate to contact me directly.</i></p> <p><i>2) Letter received from Douglas Ross MP dated 2/3/2018 on the bus service issues he has raised with Stagecoach – following the press release on bus issues issued after the January meeting of the community council, his parliamentary assistant had got in touch with Iain Catto to ask if it was in order to raise those issues at the MP's forthcoming meeting with Mark Whitelocks of Stagecoach, and if there were any other issues needing to be raised. It was noted that local councillors, Moray Council, the MSP, and the community council had all also been pursuing similar issues.</i></p> <p><i>3) It was agreed that we would amplify the point we made in our submission to the consultation last year on concessionary travel on the subsidy for bus services from the Scottish Government and pass that to Mr Lochhead and other local stakeholders for action. This would involve introducing a tiered subsidy, giving the lowest levels of subsidy to inter-city routes where there are competing train services, a middle range to urban routes, and the highest level to rural routes.</i></p> <p><i>4) Crossing at Dr Gray's Hospital – it was noted that eventually Transport Scotland planned to</i></p>	

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	<p><i>install a crossing near the hospital. It was discussed whether the 33 service could be routed round Wittet Drive and Pluscarden Road, but that seemed unlikely due to difficulty making the turn into Wittet Drive, and the need then to lose part of the service elsewhere to ensure timetables were adhered to.</i></p> <p><i>5) Bus stops – it was noted that some of the bus stop timetable information was believed to be incomplete at certain locations. Further investigation would be made.</i></p> <p><i>6) Bus station survey – it was agreed that the community council should do some survey work at the bus station. A draft questionnaire should be compiled that would be easy to complete when interviewing passengers and give a coherent basis for making representations to Stagecoach, HiTrans and the Council.</i></p> <p><i>7) Citizens Advice Scotland had published a report on customer satisfaction with buses in Scotland. The report itself was not yet available publicly but Iain Catto would circulate it when it was.</i></p> <p><i>8) A95 – there was unhappiness with the general state of the A95 which is a critical arterial route for Elgin. Iain Catto agreed to write to the Transport Minister, copied to the MSP, as to what changes have been made recently or are planned.</i></p> <p>David Chapman related an incident where a passenger had been incorrectly directed, by a staff member at Dalcross Airport, to the A96 to board a bus for Elgin.</p>	
c.	<u>CARE LOCATIONS</u>	
	Jeff Gable distributed a report on the Care Location visits undertaken to date. It was agreed to respond after a discussion at the next special meeting. The visits were thought worthwhile and further visits are to be considered perhaps with more contact with the care locations prior to the visit.	All
d.	<u>PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING</u>	
	Alastair Kennedy praised the participatory budgeting and advised that the next one is in Rothes on Sunday 18th March 2018 in Grant Hall Rothes at 1:30pm. There are 37 applications for £93k with £60k available.	
e.	<u>PLANNING</u>	
	James Wiseman reported that we are responding to the planning application for the area behind the Town Hall. It is important that SSE keep the area looking good for tourists. See Local Development Plan.	JW
f.	<u>SPICE</u>	
	Steven Christie had circulated the minutes of SPICE. Steven Christie had asked for a donation of £400 for promotion of the Community Council by provision of hanging baskets in Elgin High Street with some suitable promotion signage. There were no objections. A litter pick is proposed for 24/3/2018 at 10:00am at Blackfriars Road.	SC/AK
g.	<u>ELGIN TOWN HALL</u>	
	Patsy Gowans had circulated a report from Barry Jarvis. It was expected that the Community Council would be invited to any group considering a Community Asset Transfer. Barry Jarvis will speak on this in the coming months.	
h.	<u>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN</u>	
	James Wiseman reported on progress responding to the Main Issues Report with a further meeting this Thursday after which the report will be circulated for comment. It was agreed that comments about Findrassie would be added by our representatives after the next Findrassie Forum had met and may not be circulated for comment..	JW/IC
i.	<u>ELGIN SOUTH GROUP</u>	

	<p>No meeting was held this month due to weather.</p> <p>The issue was raised of parking on the verges at the Tyock Burn on Edgar Road by vehicle sales. Aileen to contact Teresa Ruggeri.</p>	AM
j.	<u>COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP IN RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS</u>	
	Alastair Kennedy to investigate the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).	
k.	<u>ELGIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE</u>	
	To be discussed at next special meeting.	
8.	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
	<p>1) letter 13 Feb from Transport Scotland on drop in sessions for A96 Dualling Hardmuir to Fochabers (2 ECC reps required for Central Community Council event 21 March 10.00am Elgin Library-Eddie Wallace one rep, one place left)</p> <p>2) letter 2nd March from Douglas Ross MP with updates on Stagecoach bus routes</p> <p>3) Elgin Sports Trust – Reply to MFR From JW:</p> <p><i>Elgin Community Council is aware of the Elgin Sports Community Trust (ESCT) and its aspiration to acquire land at Lesser Boroughbriggs to market for sports, mainly football, purposes and for that enterprise to enable improvement of other sports facilities. The idea has merit and we have met ESCT to find out more about them and their plans in order to assess the likelihood of success with their Lesser Boroughbriggs project and their potential to bring wider benefits across Elgin in future. As yet we have not formed an opinion but clearly it hinges on their business plan which ESCT are actively working on.</i></p> <p><i>I understand that the land in question is Common Good land of which all Moray Councillors are collectively the Trustees, and the land carries certain burdens of what can and cannot be done with it. Moray Council are running a seminar in March for anyone thinking about a Community Asset Transfer. Regardless of the value of the land, the terms of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) will need to be determined and will play an important part in the success of the ESCT project. Hopefully the potential wider benefit can be taken into account to enable ESCT to offer a viable business plan. We await further developments.</i></p> <p><i>I don't have any detail on any other potential CATs other than what I read in the press and hear on the radio.</i></p>	
9.	<u>COMMITTEE HOLDERS REPORTS</u>	
	None	
10.	<u>OFFICE BEARERS REPORTS</u>	
a.	<u>TREASURERS REPORT</u>	
	Steven Christie reported a balance of £1,820.01	
11.	<p><u>A.O.C.B.</u></p> <p>Data protection training is planned for 18/3/2018. Alastair Kennedy, Eddie Wallace, Patsy Gowans, and Bruce Flett to attend</p> <p>Future Speakers include Barry Jarvis in May to speak about the Town Hall and Nadine Weiland to talk about mental health.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy had a request from the Princes Trust enquiring about projects it could fund but we have none to offer.</p> <p>Patsy Gowans highlighted that the land in front of the Mansion House Hotel is Common Good land and we should look to making more of it. It was understood that Moray Council cuts the grass.</p> <p>Steven Christie asked for help shortlisting nominations for the Moray Community Awards. Patsy Gowans offered to help.</p>	AK/EW/PG/BF

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	<p>Iain Catto advised that the Moray Transport Seminar due to be held in March has been postponed till September.</p> <p>23rd March 2018 Moray Cuppa Club will meet in the Activities Room at Elgin Library 13:30 to 16:30.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy informed the meeting that the “tacks on the road” attacks were still occurring in New Elgin from Robertson Road to near the Scotmid shop.</p>	SC
12.	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>7:00pm Tuesday 10th April 2018 Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin.</p>	
13.	<p><u>CLOSE</u></p> <p>There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting.</p>	

Minutes taken by James Wiseman.