

# The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.00pm

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| 1. | <b><u>Sederunt and Apologies.</u></b> (* Associate, ** Youth)   | <b><u>ACTION</u></b> |
|    | <p><b><u>OFFICE BEARERS</u></b></p> <p>Alastair KENNEDY(Chair),                      Jim WISEMAN (Vice Chair).                      Patsy GOWANS (Secretary),<br/>Steven CHRISTIE (Treasurer),</p> <p><b><u>MEMBERS</u></b></p> <p>Iain CATTO,                      David CHAPMAN*,                      Bruce FLETT,<br/>Catriona GRAY,                      Aileen MARSHALL,                      Pat PATERSON,<br/>Mary WALL,                      Eddie WALLACE,                      .</p> <p><b><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></b></p> <p>Cllr John DIVERS,                      Cllr Graham LEADBITTER,<br/>PC Jad LEACH Police Scotland,                      PC Sally CLARK Police Scotland,</p>  |                      |
|    | <p><b><u>WELCOME</u></b></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>  |                      |
| 2. | <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Paul BRIGGS,      Douglas CLARK,      Jeff GABLE,                      Graeme LESLIE (Stagecoach),<br/>Margaret PARK      Bryan WATSON      Cllr Paula COY,</p>   |                      |
| 3. | <b><u>AGENCIES</u></b>  |                      |
| a. | <b><u>POLICE REPORT</u></b>   |                      |
|    | <p>PC Jad Leach gave an overview of the police Community Safety Report highlighting the operations involving driver education around schools in Elgin where parking and speeding need to be addressed. Further operations are planned with an emphasis on education rather than enforcement.</p> <p>Action Counters Terrorism was also mentioned with an overview of some community engagement examples.</p> <p>Iain Catto asked about the domestic abuse figures which are no longer reported.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy praised the format and content of the report.</p>   |                      |
| b. | <b><u>STAGECOACH</u></b>  |                      |
|    | <p>Update from Graeme Leslie, Operations Director, Stagecoach North Scotland</p> <p>I intended to offer a short update on our operations in Moray but will summarise below .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have invested nearly £3 million for on service 10 in recent months</li> <li>• The fleet previously operating on service 10 has been fully refurbished and is now operating on service 35 which has significantly improved the age profile of vehicles on that route.</li> <li>• Stagecoach have rolled out new contactless equipped ticket machines on our fleet within the past month, again this is a big investment and hopefully makes travel easier and more attractive.</li> <li>• Our Moray depots operate service as far as Aberdeen and Inverness- clearly we have had a very difficult winter with the weather. This can and has caused issues with our fleet mechanically in the aftermath. Excess salt, water etc on the roads causes issues with modern vehicle components which we have been working hard to overcome. On occasion we have drafted in extra fleet to Moray to assist this year.</li> <li>• From an Elgin perspective we restored new service 34 to South Lesmurdie and Bishopmill in January. We were pleased to have been able to identify a solution on the back of community</li> </ul> |                      |

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|    | <p>requests.</p> <p>Again sincere apologies this evening, more than happy to get something in the diary if further discussion with the community would be beneficial?</p>   |    |
| c. | <b><u>HATE CRIME</u></b>  |    |
|    | <p>PCs Jad Leach and Sally Clark gave an introduction to hate crime with statistics showing that Moray has a relatively low level of hate crime (33 in Moray during 2017 compared with 3,349 across Scotland) and that hate crime in general is at its lowest since 2003-04.</p> <p>A hate crime is a crime motivated by malice or ill will towards a social group by race, sexual orientation, religion/faith, disability, or transgender/gender identity. The effects can be isolation, depression, fear and anxiety, mistrust, anger, shame and embarrassment.</p> <p>PC Jad Leach outlined various categories of hate crime of which most were self-explanatory eg by race, religion, or gender. It is proposed that misogyny may be categorised as a hate crime. Iain Catto suggested that making misogyny a hate crime was opening a can of worms, bearing in mind the ongoing vicious debates down south and in the US between transgender activists, and trans-exclusionary radical feminists who do not think that pre-op transgender women are actually women who should get access to women's refuges, bathrooms etc.</p> <p>An area of growing concern is Extreme Right Wing groups such as Blood and Honour or Combat 18. These usually indicate their presence by stickers on lampposts etc. and sightings should be reported to the Police</p> <p>Finally, not all hate crimes are hate crimes for example some thefts at graveyards have been found to be the work of seagulls.</p> |    |
| 4. | <b><u>PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></b>  |    |
|    | <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2018 were not read out and a proposer and seconder were sought. Patsy Gowans proposed, Iain Catto seconded with no objections therefore the minutes were adopted as a true record of that meeting with one correction that the action to contact Teresa Ruggeri about cars for sale being displayed on the banks of the Tyock Burn at Edgar Road should have been allocated to Alastair Kennedy.</p>   |    |
| 5. | <b><u>MATTERS ARISING.</u></b>  | AK |
|    | <p>Action to contact Teresa Ruggeri about cars for sale being displayed on the banks of the Tyock Burn at Edgar Road should have been allocated to Alastair Kennedy.</p> <p>Representation about SEE planning applications for work behind the ElginTown Hall – JW – Complete</p> <p>Special Meeting re' Local Plan/Care Locations/Core Paths – All – Complete</p> <p>Steve sought assistance for Community Awards – Complete</p> <p>Donation of £400 to SPICE for hanging baskets with suitable signage promoting the Community Council - AK</p> <p>DATA Protection Workshop – Sat 7 April – AK/PG/EW/DC - Complete</p>  |    |
| 6. | <b><u>ELECTED MEMBERS FEEDBACK</u></b>  |    |
|    | <p>Councillor John Divers reported that the Council had met with the Secretary of State for Scotland regarding the Moray Growth Deal and noted the argument that additional money is required to provide services associated with growth in the number of military families at both bases.</p> <p>John also advised that there will be a meeting of the full council tomorrow (11/4/2018).</p>  |    |
| 7. | <b><u>COMMUNITY ISSUES</u></b>  |    |
| a. | <b><u>FAIRTRADE</u></b>   |    |
|    | <p>There was little to update due to a lull in their calendar of activities although they continue to promote Fairtrade and have been in discussions with the Beechtree Restaurant and training facility about Fairtrade.</p>   |    |
| b. | <b><u>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</u></b>  |    |

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|    | <p>See also Stagecoach above.</p> <p>The following report was received from George Littlejohn: -</p> <p>Subject: Keith Station and the Aberdeen-Inverness upgrading</p> <p>The current £330m project improves the corridor between Elgin and Inverness and Inverurie and Aberdeen. The only works in between are platform extensions at Insch. The long-term aspiration is for an hourly service between Aberdeen and Inverness, and the ScotRail Alliance have set up the timetable so that the new Elgin-Inverness and Inverurie-Aberdeen services may be extended and join together. However this does require major infrastructure works at Keith.</p> <p>It will be another 2-3 years before business cases are prepared for this work and the Government understands if it is worth funding. Realistically this means delivery by 2023-25 if at all.</p> <p>No business cases have been prepared for new stations along the route other than Dalcross and Kintore, both of which will be delivered in 2019/20. The new timetables that ScotRail are introducing will make it easier for additional stations to be justified – however there will be a trade-off in journey time.</p> <p>A study is under way for HITRANS on options for reconnecting the Keith &amp; Dufftown Railway.</p> <p>Not the best of news, from a reliable source, regarding the upgrade to Keith Junction that would allow an hourly end to end Aberdeen / Elgin / Inverness service in the near term.</p> <p>Those who have been promoting the present CP5 and CP6 – 2014 / 2024 upgrades as is ongoing at present, must continue to lobby the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland that main line upgrade to the Inverurie / Elgin section of this important main line must be included during CP6.</p> <p>The Aberdeen / Elgin / Inverness present CP5 &amp; CP6 main line improvements need further addressing, especially at the key location of Keith Junction.</p> <p>Transport Scotland have arranged workshops on their rail investment strategy for both ends of the route at Aberdeen on 24<sup>th</sup> and Inverness on 27<sup>th</sup> April which will give an opportunity to engage on how the new Local Rail Development Fund can help take matters forward.</p> |  |
| c. | <b><u>CARE LOCATIONS</u></b>  |  |
|    | This was discussed at the special meeting in March and Jeff's is managing the programme of visits.  |  |
| d. | <b><u>PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING</u></b>   |  |
|    | <p>Alastair Kennedy gave the following report on the Participatory Budgeting event held on 18<sup>th</sup> March in Grant Hall, Rothes.</p> <p>Initially 67 applications were whittled down to 37 applications bidding for £92,571.44. One withdrew so 36 applications were heard on the day. The 24 successful applications shared £60,000 based on the outcome of the 2440 votes cast.</p> <p>300+ were in attendance and it was encouraging to see a full hall. The size of audience created some problems and complaints the venue was too small, slightly late in starting due to queues at registration and also the huge number of votes took longer than usual to count. A bigger venue will be required in future.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy reported that he attended the conference entitled The Future of PB in Scotland and that Money for Moray, the group Alastair set up, was praised for its work by Kevin Stewart MSP and Minister for Local Government and Housing.</p> <p>The M4M group are organising a development day on 24<sup>th</sup> April for the CEG, CP Partnership and CPOG.</p>   |  |
| e. | <b><u>PLANNING</u></b>  |  |
|    | <p><b><u>MAIN ISSUES REPORT</u></b></p> <p>The Elgin Community Council's response to the Local Development Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.</p> <p>James Wiseman read out an email from Gary Templeton thanking the Elgin Community Council for putting together a comprehensive response.</p> <p><b><u>BILBOHALL MASTERPLAN</u></b></p> <p>A special meeting has been arranged for the 17<sup>th</sup> April at Cedarwood to discuss the Bilbohall Masterplan.</p>  |  |
| f. | <b><u>SPICE</u></b>   |  |
|    | Steve Christie reported the successful litter pick last month organised by SPICE. 13 volunteers, including 3 cub scouts working for a badge, picked 28 bags of litter from the area around Blackfriars Road. Compliments  |  |

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|            | were received from passers-by.  |   |
| <b>g.</b>  | <b><u>ELGIN TOWN HALL</u></b>   |   |
|            | Patsy Gowans gave a brief update on Elgin Town Hall. An expression of interest has been lodged and work is progressing on the CAT bid. There was a discussion about the unrealistically short timescale being set by Moray Council. However, it was noted that a number of major events and weddings have been protected due to the impact on the economy of cancelling these events. Alastair Kennedy indicated that he hoped to be able to book the Town Hall for a future PB event.  |   |
| <b>h.</b>  | <b><u>ELGIN SOUTH GROUP</u></b>   |   |
|            | Aileen Marshall said there had been difficulties meeting up and the format of the group may change.   |   |
| <b>i.</b>  | <b><u>POLING STATION AT PINEFIELD</u></b>   | - |
|            | It was noted that it was important to have a polling station that people would use and the proposed change from Pinefield to Elgin and District Indoor Bowling Club, Moycroft Road would put voters off voting more so than they already are as they would have to cross the A96.   |   |
| <b>j.</b>  | <b><u>COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE</u></b>   |   |
|            | To be discussed at special meeting  |   |
| <b>k.</b>  | <b><u>COMMUNITY AWARDS</u></b>  |   |
|            | Alastair Kennedy proposed sponsoring the Overall Champion Award in the sum of £200 as we have done in the past by way of promoting the Community Council. There were no objections. The Community Awards ceremony will be held on 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 and all members are welcome to attend.  |   |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>  |   |
|            | There were no objections to the Licensing consultation for 25 Batchen Street.   |   |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b><u>COMMITTEE HOLDER REPORTS</u></b>  |   |
| <b>a.</b>  | <b><u>ROADS &amp; TRANSPORT</u></b>   |   |
|            | David Chapman gave a report on the A96 community council's event in the library which was poorly attended. It was agreed to submit a response to the A96 consultation in line with the comments expressed in the Main Issues Report consultation response.  |   |
| <b>10.</b> | <b><u>OFFICE BEARERES REPORTS</u></b>   |   |
| <b>a.</b>  | <b><u>CHAIR</u></b>   |   |
|            | <p><b>Chair's report for Elgin Community Council's April 2018 meeting.</b></p> <p><b>07/2/18</b> Because there have been numerous applications for LEADER funding in a short space of time it was necessary to hold an extra meeting of the Local Action Group (LAG). These are heavy going as they are about the technical side of applications and whether they should be funded or not.</p> <p><b>08/2/18</b> This was the first meeting of the JCC since the inaugural meeting in November. It was heartening to see over 30 members attending.</p> <p><b>09/2/18</b> I continue to work with the couple from Roseisle who have encountered numerous problems due to a core path running through their garden and down the inside of the boundary of their land. I visited to update them on my endeavours.</p> <p><b>12/02/18</b> I attended a Money for Moray (M4M) meeting as we continue through the process required before a Participatory Budgeting (PB) event can take place – for example, sifting through applications to ensure they</p> |   |

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| <p>meet the relevant criteria.</p> <p><b>13/02/18</b> This was our normal meeting of ECC but I had not managed to find time to write this report on my activities for it.</p> <p><b>14/02/18</b> Today we had a Moray Community Awards (MCA) meeting. Unfortunately only Steven and myself were available to meet with the tsiMORAY staff. Nevertheless, we made good progress towards the MCA event.</p> <p><b>26/02/18</b> I had been on holiday so the first meeting on my return was a m4m meeting where shortlisting took place.</p> <p><b>27/02/18</b> This morning was a Community Engagement Group (CEG) meeting.</p> <p><b>27/02/18</b> Later that day I attended the drop-in session on the A96 dualling. It was difficult to gauge what progress has been made and what influence, if any, our previous response had had.</p> <p><b>27/02/18</b> In the evening I attended the training session on the Local Development Plan. The event was well attended by Community Councillors.</p> <p><b>28/02/18</b> Along with the other office bearers we met to look at the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p><b>01/03/18</b> In the morning there was a MCA meeting. Everything appears to be on track for the main event with nominations coming in.</p> <p><b>01/03/18</b> In the evening I attended an extra ECC meeting which was focused on the Main Issues Report and was an excellent meeting.</p> <p><b>05/03/18</b> I met with Iain Catto who had very kindly done some research on core paths for me around the planning system.</p> <p><b>06/03/18</b> I drove to Dingwall to attend a meeting of the National Committee of Rural Advisers on behalf of the Moray LAG. The meeting opened my eyes to how fragile and difficult the rural economy actually is and the various problems there are.</p> <p><b>07/03/18</b> Three of the M4M group met to ratify the synopses each had written for the applications that were to go forward to the PB event on 18/03/18.</p> <p><b>13/03/18</b> This was our normal meeting of ECC.</p> <p><b>14/03/18</b> I met with Jane Martin community Council Liaison Officer (CCLO) to discuss future training needs for CCs.</p> <p><b>15/03/18</b> In the afternoon I had our monthly LEADER catch-up meeting with the Vice-chair and LEADER programme manager.</p> <p><b>15/03/18</b> In the evening we had another extra meeting of ECC members to complete the work on the Main Issues Report.</p> <p><b>18/03/18</b> Today was the culmination of much planning when the main PB event was held in the Grant Hall, Rothes. We had approximately 100 more, people attending than anticipated with an estimated 300+ people there. That created seating problems and timing problems but was in fact, an excellent event with £60,000 being given in grants to the 24 applications voted for by the public out of 36 presenters.</p> <p><b>20/03/18</b> Today we had a meeting of the Project Assessment Committee (PAC) which is a sub-group of the LAG who undertake a robust study of LEADER applications before making a recommendation to the LAG to approve or not or to defer for further information.</p> <p><b>21/03/18</b> I attended the Join the Dots conference organised and run by tsiMORAY. I had been invited to give a short presentation on M4M's previous event which had the theme of social isolation then to participate in a workshop on that theme.</p> <p><b>22/03/18</b> I met with Councillor John Cowe to get his views on PB and how it might be brought in to mainstream budgets. We also had a discussion on the core paths review and the proposed change of route to the core path I've been working with the landowner to have removed.</p> <p><b>26/03/18</b> There was a meeting of the M4M group to review the recent PB event. I was only able to attend the early part as I had to leave early to travel to Edinburgh for a PB conference the next day.</p> <p><b>27/03/18</b> I attended a conference in Edinburgh which was intended to look at the future of PB in Scotland. It was opened by MSP Kevin Stewart, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Housing and it was great to hear him opening by highlighting the work of the M4M group which I had set up a couple of years earlier and for him to single myself out for praise – although a bit embarrassing!</p> <p><b>28/03/18</b> I chaired a LAG meeting which approved two LEADER applications and discussed a third which will be coming but wasn't quite ready technically and which is the largest to date. Following the meeting I met with a member of Rural Action Scotland who wished to discuss working on collaborative projects with other LAGs in the UK or abroad. The LAG have a couple of possibilities in the pipeline.</p> <p><b>29/03/18</b> I had an early meeting with the Events Co-ordinator at the Alexander Graham Bell venue at Moray College UHI. The meeting was to ensure the MCA event had everything it requires to run smoothly.</p> <p><b>29/03/18</b> The office bearers met once again to look at setting the agenda for the next meeting.</p> |  |
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| b.  | <b><u>TREASURER</u></b>  |  |
|     | Steve Christie reported a spend in March of £240 leaving a balance of £1,579 with the grant due to be paid in April.   |  |
| 11. | <b><u>A.O.C.B.</u></b><br><br>Taxi Fares Review: Following discussion propose to support the outcome.<br>Core Paths: No comments on proposed designations so support the proposal.<br>Moray Council propose to start budget Consultation in June 2018 which gives a better timescale.<br>The Pain Clinic still has long waiting times.<br>There is a drop in session on 17 <sup>th</sup> April regarding Maternity Services in Moray<br>Patsy Gowans to ask Pam Gowans for commentary on the Health and Social Care deficit.<br>Pat Paterson highlighted the situation where an Architecture student from Scotland was unable to get a place at a Scottish University because places were being kept for overseas students.<br>David Chapman highlighted that the Inverness Airport bus to Elgin via Inverness, as there is no suitable east bound pick-up point to travel to Elgin, so a passenger travelling to Elgin on a Sunday would require to go via Inverness. |  |
| 12. | <b><u>NEXT MEETING</u></b><br><br>7:00pm Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018 Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin.  |  |
| 13. | <b><u>CLOSE</u></b><br><br>There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting.  |  |

Minutes taken by James Wiseman.