

Elgin Community Council Zoom Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 8 June 2021
7pm

1 Welcome and Apologies

Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees - Alastair Kennedy, Sheila Cochrane, Gordie Wells, Steven Christie, Eddie Wallace, Graham Jarvis, David Chapman, Jack Wright, Brian Irvine, James Wiseman, Douglas Clark, Graham Leadbitter, John Divers, Paul Briggs

Apologies - Frank Brown, Paula Coy, Sean McAngus

2 Previous minutes

Douglas Clark noted that it was Moray Council not Stagecoach that had to be thanked for reactivating the bus information sign at the bus station. The minutes were proposed by Eddie Wallace and seconded by Gordie Wells. There were no objections and it was accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3 Matters Arising

Stagecoach - There has been an increase in trade as Covid restrictions ease and as a result there are now some issues with space on the buses. There had been a complaint about a bus idling. Jack Wright said that this can happen due to timetabling issues, finding the balance between being on time and not being late. Newer buses have start/stop technology and he confirmed that the information about buses having difficulty restarting was correct. Jack agreed to look at the timetables with a view to reducing idling if possible. He said that bus idling in this area is flagged as 'green' and therefore does not receive attention. He was asked what that meant in idling minutes in order to quantify the carbon emissions.

Dr Gray's waiting times update - It was agreed to follow up our question on delays for NHS hospital services. There was evidence of significant delays which is at odds with a leaflet recently issued. It had been observed that surgeons were being called away to the Central Belt at short notice and the delays are getting worse. Dr Gray's News was asking for feedback from the public. Sheila to send a reminder to Jamie Hogg.

4 Planning

Hamilton Drive - James Wiseman summarised the problems with the Hamilton Drive Planning Application which has been open for over a year and is causing concern to neighbours. Neither the Council nor the Developer have sought to resolve these matters. The issues are concerning a drain that protects lower properties from flooding and the provision of space to enable maintaining the said drain. It is unacceptable that councillors are listed as contacts for an application who then cannot talk about it because they are on the Planning Committee. James to write to Beverley Smith regarding this matter.

5 Elgin Town Centre Masterplan - also forthcoming meeting about Art Strategy

The proposed response to the Elgin Town Centre Masterplan had been circulated and there were no objections. James to submit a response to Moray Council.

There is a Zoom meeting with Eily Webster at 7pm on 16 June regarding the Public Art Strategy. All members welcome; the email link had been circulated.

6 Elgin Town Centre Access Consultation

The proposed response to the Elgin Town Centre Access Consultation had been circulated and there were no objections. James to submit a response to Moray Council.

7 Community Development Trust Update

The group looking at the Development Trust were reminded that they had autonomy and didn't have to wait for a Community Council meeting in order to progress the Trust.

8 Website

Brian Irvine gave an update on the progress of the website. He asked members for any topics of interest with photographs for the website.

9 JCC Speeding Traffic Update

A link had been circulated for the forthcoming meeting.

10 JCC Campervan Facilities

There was a discussion on campervan issues in Moray and whether there should be a servicing or disposal point designated in Elgin. It was thought there wasn't really a problem at the moment.

11 Illegal Car Parking/Dumping at Brodie Place Update

Alastair Kennedy had mentioned this report to the Police whilst talking about another Community Council matter.

12 Deanshaugh Playing Fields Area Response

The letter sent to licensing and planning at Moray Council was ratified. There was a discussion on the future use of Deanshaugh Playing Fields. The use of the site as playing fields had been popular in the past however it was reported that that demand had waned. It was thought that Elgin Sports Community Trust or another body may be interested in using the area.

13 Gulls Nest Removal Update

John Divers gave an update on the removal of seagull eggs in Elgin and outlined some of the rules that constrain this practice. The initiative seems to be working though it will take a number of years to succeed.

14 Audit Scotland Report

It was noted that there was a rather poor account of Moray Council in a recent Audit Scotland Report. Alastair Kennedy said that he had responded to the survey. Appreciation was given to Graham Leadbitter and John Divers for their regular attendance at Community Council Meetings over many years.

15 Elected Member Updates

Graham Leadbitter said that it had been a quiet time with nothing of significance for the Community Council to know about.

16 AOCB

Eddie Wallace presented a leaflet designed to encourage people to apply for election to the Community Council in Autumn 2021. He also had costings for postal distribution which, from experience, he recommended as the best way to ensure that the leaflets will be read. Eddie to finalise the leaflet, obtain costings for production and update the price for distribution to include all of Elgin. The proposal was that this would be our contribution to the Community Council election promotion fund. It was proposed to have a special meeting to discuss further once members had received a copy

of

the

leaflet.

Steve Christie initiated a discussion about Elgin reaffirming its city status. It was understood that this had been confirmed around the year 2000. Alastair Kennedy to contact Alec McMillan (previous Secretary of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council) to find the letter of confirmation.

17 Items for Next Meeting

There were no new items.

18 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 16 June 2021

Date of Next *Regular* Meeting Tuesday 13 July 2021

If any member has an item they would like to raise, please contact the Chair or the Secretary in advance so as to ensure it can be included in the Agenda.