

Minutes of a Meeting of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council held on Tuesday 30th January 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Moray Council Chambers

1. Presentation Inspector Craig Donald – Grampian Police

Inspector Donald briefed the Community Council on a six month pilot project which had commenced in Elgin on 21st Jan 2007. As a result of losing the Elgin control room two years ago and calls being routed through the service centre in Aberdeen and also the introduction of the Airwaves communication system, there has been a loss of local control in Moray. Calls are graded from 1 to 5 and put onto the computer system by the control centre in Aberdeen. Elgin police deal with approx one grade 1 call, 5/6 grade 2 calls, and 11/20 grade 3 calls per day. Whilst there were no complaints on the delivery of service for grade 1 and 2, often grade 3 calls would not be allocated for several hours even although Elgin units were not busy. The pilot project has been launched to try and improve the performance of dealing with grade 3 calls. Elgin has now an allocated quick response vehicle to deal with all grades 1 and 2 calls thus freeing up the other units to pick up grade 3 tasks and any backlog work. The project will be analysed by the governance department to measure its success at the end of the period.

Inspector Donald anticipated that this project will allow a more visible presence of police in the community and will improve communication. He also feels that officers will have a more structured timetable at work allowing them time to complete their paperwork, statements and enquiries. A crime analyst will produce monthly statistics for antisocial crime in Moray allowing resources to be allocated where needed.

Questions were invited from the floor and the following was discussed: 999 calls are answered and graded by the control centre in Aberdeen, usually resulting in a grade 1 but sometimes as an inappropriate emergency call and graded 2: Calls are graded by trained support staff and not police officers: The pilot project should provide a more visible police patrol in the community although there may only be one police officer per patrol. Concerns were expressed about the recorded message during out of hours in Elgin. This message quotes a long number which proves difficult to remember and redial especially when on a mobile phone. Members enquired if it was possible that the calls could instead be automatically redirected. Cllr Bissett said that local people needed a local number to remember regardless of where the number is redirected to and suggested that a local number be allocated. Inspector Donald would pass these points on. There is a possibility that members may visit the control centre at Bucksburn. This will be considered by members and liaised via the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Donald and he left the meeting at 7.36pm

2. Present

Chairman:	Alex Macmillan (Chair)	
Members:	David Terron (Secretary)	Donald McIntosh (Treasurer)
	Anne Glover	Richard Oakley
	Stewart Gordon	Bryan Watson
	Murray Ross	Irene Tapping
	Alastair Kennedy	
In Attendance:	Cllr Sim	Cllr Divers

Cllr Keith (from 7.30pm) Ann Griffin (Minutes)
Inspector Craig Donald (Grampian Police)

Apologies: Cllr Burgess. Late apologies received from Hazel & Tony Cowan and George Littlejohn.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 19th December 2006

The previous minutes were approved as accurate.

Proposed: Alastair Kennedy Seconded: Richard Oakley

4. Matters Arising from 19th December 2006

3. Aldi underpass/footpath. No response has been received from BEAR Scotland.

6c. Historic Capital of Moray/Signage. Anne Glover had received a letter in response to her correspondence with Moray Council regarding the requested signage being disregarded. The reply received from Gordon Holland said the signage had been agreed in principle only and had thereafter been part of further consultation where it had been turned down. The letter apologised for not informing the Community Council of this decision. The Chairman was disappointed with this procedure. Cllr Bissett said he was slightly concerned that elected members had not been privy to the correspondence between Gordon Holland's department and the Community Council and questioned how the elected members had managed to be bypassed. Alastair Kennedy suggested that this is evidence that this Moray Council is officer led and not elected member led. Cllr Bissett strongly denied this. The Chairman agreed to write to Moray Council, Chief Executive, with regard to the apparently "high-handed" way that this had been handled.

6c. Bushes in Reiket Lane. The bushes have now been planted alongside the bunds on Reiket Lane.

10h. Remembrance Sunday 2007. Cllr Sim said that Lieutenant Colonel Grenville Johnston (Lord Lieutenant) had confirmed that a pipe band and the Station Commander RAF Lossiemouth are participating in the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony. A meeting will be held in April and the Community Council and other interested bodies will be invited to attend.

6b. Benches for the river banks in Morryston Woods. It was confirmed that there are no surplus benches. Benches would be sourced and sited along the river banks as requested. The Duke of Gordon is now illuminated.

5. Community Planning –Neighbourhood Forums

Stuart Gordon had attended the Elgin Neighbourhood Forum (North) on the 24th Jan 2007. There had been a better attendance and the meeting had involved a Community Safety Action Group. The project in Lesmurdie Woods has a budget of £15k and is being taken forward. It was confirmed that the budget did not have to be spent before April. The next meeting is scheduled for 1st February in Bishopmill Primary from 7pm and Community Council members are welcome. The Safety Action Group will hold an update meeting in Elgin Community Centre on 7th February at 7pm.

~~The Elgin Neighbourhood Forum (South) meeting is on 31st January 2007.~~ Cllr Divers said that at the meeting on 23rd January there was a DVD presentation on "street football" which is being arranged for the school holidays. They will be looking at the new housing estate and will meet on 31st January. The Community Safety talk for Neighbourhood Forum South will take place on 6th February. There will be a further meeting on 6th March looking at Community Safety.

The Chairman confirmed that the JCC had responded to Bob Waddell's Report regarding the interaction between the Local Neighbourhood Forums and Community Councils. It had been suggested by the JCC that the Local Neighbourhood Forums were not necessarily an appropriate vehicle to implement Community Planning at a local level. It was said however that Local Neighbourhood Forums should be given every opportunity to succeed. It was recommended that the Neighbourhood Forums be given terms of reference and be properly constituted to ensure duplication of work did not remain an issue. Cllr McGillvray had responded to the JCC and said that the steering group recognised there was a lack of guidance and there was a need for a restatement for the purpose of LNF's and a set of protocols to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of agencies involved. This correspondence is available via the secretary for any interested members. Alastair Kennedy said that issues raised at the last Community Council meeting regarding the Neighbourhood Forums have been addressed.

6. Bypass Campaign Update

There had not been a meeting since the last update.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Planning. Nothing to report
- b. Recreation, Leisure & Environment. Nothing to report
- c. Roads & Transportation. Alastair Kennedy reported that the Volunteer Centre had been in touch and passed details of a lady who expressed an interest in volunteering her services for the beautification scheme.

8. Correspondence

The Secretary presented correspondence and invited members to read the following submitted documents:

1. Letter from Moray Council regarding re-tender of transport contracts.

9. Treasurer Report

Donald McIntosh circulated the financial statement. Number 1 Account = £2,596.17.
Number 2 Account = £5,053.47

10. AOCB

- a. Richard Oakley said he was concerned about Yeadon's Bookshop closing down. Cllr Bissett confirmed that this was no longer the case.
- b. Bryan asked if anyone knew if Aldi had purchased the old Somerfield site. Nothing could be confirmed.

- ~~c. Donald McIntosh asked members to visit the Oldmills site in Elgin so that they could make comment on this at the next meeting. Cllr Bissett said that the area is in private ownership. It was believed that there may be something happening on this site in the future and if this was the case the Community Council would see the planning application in due course. Alastair Kennedy will email to enquire if any plans had been submitted. It was also recognised that this site is part of the Flood Alleviation Scheme.~~
- d. The Chairman suggested that it may be appropriate to invite the Flood Alleviation Team to update the Community Council in the near future as they are meeting with the Moray Council on the 31st Jan.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council will be on 13th March 2007 in the Moray Council Chambers.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

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