

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 29th July 2008
In the Moray Council Chambers

Before standing orders commenced, the chairman introduced Mr Nick Goodchild, Education Resource Manager, Moray Council who presented proposed plans for the Regional Sports Facilities for Elgin. He gave a brief history of the project and described how it had become part of the PPP aspirations and consultation. The current position was reported as part of the capital programme from 2008/13 budgets to the sum of £3m and a further £1m from reserves. There is also the possibility of a further £1m from the lottery programme so long as the facility complies with set criteria. The preferred site is Elgin High School although there are issues relating to the site with ground conditions and road infrastructure. The next steps are to set priorities by the newly appointed working group which comprises of Elected Members and Officers. They are meeting for the first time next week. There is still a need to consult with the local community about this project at some stage.

Questions from the floor discussed how secure the funding was. It was reported to be secure although not ring-fenced. The road infrastructure around the Wittet Drive extension and the Elgin Bypass was discussed as were the issues around the flood alleviation work in the area. It was confirmed that this facility would consider both. There would be a business plan drawn up to ensure the business was sustainable with staffing, charging and sharing facilities between the community and the school. Nick described the proposed facilities as the only one-site facilities in this part of Scotland. Aberdeen, Inverness and Perth have facilities but not all in one location. Nick then left the meeting and standing orders commenced at 19.30.

1. Present

Chairman: Alex Macmillan

Members: David Terron (Secretary) Bryan Watson (from 19.14)
Donald McIntosh (Treasurer) Alastair Kennedy
George Littlejohn Harry Torry
Michael Pirie Murray Ross

In Attendance: Cllr Russell Cllr Jarvis
Cllr Divers Cllr Leadbitter (from 19.24)
Ann Griffin (Minutes) Nick Goodchild for presentation

Apologies: Hazel Cowan, Tony Cowan, Richard Oakley, Glenis Oakley, Anne Glover,
Cllr Sharp, Cllr Shand

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 17th June 2008

The previous minutes were approved as accurate.

Proposed: Murray Ross Seconded: Harry Torry

3. Matters Arising from 17th June 2008

10b. Tourist Information Centre. Murray has been in contact with Mr Jamie Connor in a bid to set up a meeting in the near future.

3. Cllr Bisset Cup. David had the cup on show and will arrange a meeting with Principle Teachers of English from both Elgin Secondary Schools. He will also arrange the publicity.

4. Neighbourhood News Donation. Alastair had expressed concern at the previous meeting about the sustainability of this project and also the area forums. Michael explained that the action group were looking for a one off contribution from the community council and not a long-term commitment and that future advertising was considered for future contributions. Harry proposed that the community council made a one off contribution of £300 to the next edition of the community newsletter, seconded by Michael Pirie. George proposed that the community council did not make a contribution at this time, seconded by Alastair. Members voted 6:2 against contributing to the next edition of the Neighbourhood News community newsletter.

10a. Relocating Victoria Crescent Medical Centre. Harry reported that the practice manager from Victoria Crescent would attend the next meeting of Elgin North Area Forum on 12th August to answer questions regarding the relocating of the practice to Southside on Thornhill Road.

10b. Children's Play Park at Glassgreen. Anne Glover was not present. Carry item to next meeting.

10e. Stagecoach Service to Aberdeen Airport. Cllr Russell has discussed the concerns about the loss of the facility at a meeting on 9th July. This has resulted in the company considering the case to retain this facility.

10d. Funding for Employment of Community Wardens. Alastair said that he had misunderstood the funding between anti-social monies and the community wardens. It would appear that Community Wardens had only secure funding for one year at a time. Harry Torry reported that this has resulted in Elgin Community Warden resigning his post for a more secure future. Members expressed that this was disappointing for Elgin.

7c. Rail Freight. George reported that the trial for transporting goods by rail is complete and was a success. It is hoped that further trials will take place in September. The MOD is to use this mode of transportation.

4. Community Planning – Local Area Forums

Elgin North Area Forum update – Harry reported that the Lesmurdie Woods Project had organised a digger to mark out the proposed route for BMX but this had been hampered by poor weather. The forum is considering putting together an action group to consider the problems relating to vandalism at the Academy. The action group is still considering the continued problems for residents living around Dr Gray's Hospital with car parking. Members of this car parking action group have been invited to sit on the NHS transport forum.

Elgin South Area Forum update – Michael reported that the roads and transportation group met to consider proposed double yellow lines in areas of New Elgin. They have also been part of consultations and reporting for an Active Travel bid. Linkwood Residents have launched a "See it, Report it" campaign. The Dooky Action Group continues to meet and the new community shelter should be built very shortly. The Young Dookiteer Action Group hope to be ready to start a new youth club for children in the area of New Elgin Primary School in September. The forum is still developing a strategy group to look at the area action plan for the Elgin South Area. The Glen Moray Drive/ Springfield Shopping area action group continue to meet and have successfully attracted a response from the regional manager of Co-operative who has offered to travel up and help find a solution to the community concerns.

Moray Forum met with some Elected Members, JCC and Officers of Moray Council to debate the proposed area committees. Alastair reported that this was a productive meeting. He also commented about the general lack of knowledge about the single outcome agreement and highlighted that a training session has been arranged by MVSO on 22nd August in Elgin Town Hall.

5. Bypass Campaign Update

There has been no recent meeting. Moray Chamber of Commerce has written to the Scottish Government outlining the economic benefits to the area if a bypass was built. Cllr Leadbitter said that he had also talked to MSP Stewart Stevenson about this.

6. Elgin High School/Regional Sports Facility

Covered by presentation above.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Planning. Alastair Kennedy had nothing to report.
- b. Recreation, Leisure & Environment. Anne Glover was not present. Donald said he was concerned about a large Scots Pine tree which is overgrowing the main road and appeared unbalanced. Cllr Russell offered to look at this. Bryan expressed concerns about the overgrown banks of the Tyock Burn by the Robertson's Development on Edgar Road and commented that it was beginning to look derelict. Cllr Divers said that he has already brought this to the attention of the developer. Cllr Divers has also asked for a public bin to be situated by the Wards Wetlands Walk.
- c. Roads & Transportation. George Littlejohn expressed his view that the Robertson's Shopping Centre is looking derelict and is not a good image for the city. He and Murray will be attending the 150th anniversary commemoration event and buffet for the Inverness & Aberdeen Junction Railway. The Chairman has also received an invitation and will attend. George reported about a letter received from Michael McCormack regarding turnings in and out of North Street that they had no objections to. He also gave a detailed report which resulted in debate about several junctions and speed restriction issues around Elgin. These included the Pinefield and Reiket Lane Roundabouts, the undeveloped junction off this roundabout on the A96 and Maryhill Car Park. Bryan suggested that in Inverness, roundabouts were developed before the shopping developments were in use which suggests that this does work in other areas and in this case it would benefit the road safety for this to happen at this junction. The Chairman also wrote a letter offering his views on changing speed restrictions in this area.

George suggested that Nestrans have been reporting in the press about the Inverness and Aberdeen links. He felt that both Hitrans and Nestrans are shortsighted when it comes to upgrading the Keith and Elgin links. It was reported that The Moray Council Convenor sits on the Hitrans. Cllr Leadbitter is deputy for this committee and suggested that it might benefit Moray for the community council to continue adding pressure to ensure Moray is still remembered. The Chairman agreed that this might be a topic for the JCC to consider. George will write a summary for Alastair to bring up at the next JCC meeting on 21st Aug. Alex said he was unable to attend this next JCC meeting. Bryan offered that he might be able to attend as the vice chair. Bryan also asked if there is any further consideration being given to altering Sandy Road and Glen Moray Drive, which appears in the local plan. Cllr Divers said that this is not currently being considered. Bryan said that he had concerns

about the increase of traffic and speeds on Glen Moray Drive as many children cross this road to access Greenwards School and there is no crossing available. Cllr Russell said that it was too early to comment on this road development at this time but that the committee would keep this in mind when they meet.

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

1. Local Area Forums – Update for July 2008
2. Moray Council – Tenants Voice Newsletter
3. JCC – Agenda for meeting on 21st August
4. Energy Saving Trust – letter ref services
5. MVSO – Invitation for Seminar for Single Outcome Agreement
6. ASDA – Charity Challenge, action groups to do work in community. Secretary to forward to Elgin South and North Area Forums
7. Moray Council – Revised Community Council Areas

9. Treasurer Report

Donald McIntosh reported that as of 16th July 2008, Number 1 account has a balance of £2255.59 and Number 2 account for the Elgin Entranceway Beautification Scheme has a balance of £5157.14.

10. AOCB

- a. Alex Mcmillan reported that Andy Oliver has offered the community council a seat on the reference group for the PPP project. The reference group will be made up of 2 representatives from Elgin Academy, 2 from the Parent Council and 1 member of the Elgin Community Council. Harry Torry offered to sit on this group. Alex advised that Harry would be unable to report to the community council on decisions made by the group; he suggested that it was probably commercial in confidence due to the tendering process. Alex highlighted The Community Councillor newsletter relating to the data protection act. Members were requested to read this article and data protection would be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.
- b. Harry Torry highlighted on the previous minute that the agenda was to include an item for members to discuss the area committees. This had been omitted from the agenda. Members discussed whether they had to respond to the consultation as individuals or as a group. It was suggested that they should do both. George suggested that the proposed area committees were an additional form of bureaucracy and was not required. It was also suggested that community planning was trying to fix something that was not broken but needed a bit more time to evolve. The cost of the proposed new system was discussed and it was offered that a pilot scheme of reduced numbers of committees could be considered. It was also suggested that the consultation document gave no opportunity for a negative comment to be made. George Littlejohn proposed that the joint response from the community council should be that the proposed area committees should be rejected and that the area forums be allowed to evolve. This was seconded by Harry Torry and carried unanimously.

At 2100 hrs, the Chairman requested that standing orders be suspended to allow completion of business.

- c. Michael Pirie reported that the communal bins in the Pinegrove flats area of Elgin were overflowing and had attracted rodents. Cllr Jarvis had reported this previously which resulted in upgraded facilities. He offered to investigate this again.
- d. Murray Ross requested that a revised list of members should be circulated to include the newly co-opted members' details. The secretary already has this in hand.
- e. Alastair Kennedy reported that he had become concerned about the quantity of vehicles using the town centre Plain-stones for deliveries out-with permitted times. Cyclists are also failing to dismount to travel through the pedestrian area. The chairman offered to bring this to the attention of the enforcing agencies. Alastair also had concerns about the speeds of traffic on Lesmurdie Road and felt that there was a need for repeater signs to remind motorists of the limits. It was suggested that transport policies did not allow for repeater signs to be used in this way. Alastair also highlighted that previously, the community council had talked about encouraging more advertising and promotion for the Lady Hill site to promote viewpoints and the attraction. Bryan said that he had previously suggested this but did not have the time to commit to take this forward. Harry offered to ask the North Area Forum for volunteers to help form an action group. Alastair and Cllr Leadbitter also offered to be part of this group. Harry said that there might be the possibility of the RAF helping to build a pathway up the hill. It was suggested that the Ladyhill project action group should be an agenda item for next meeting.
- f. Bryan Watson said that his son, Lewis aged 14 from Elgin High School, was interested in becoming a youth member for the community council. Harry said he had also been in touch with the Academy who had a volunteer in mind and another potential member had expressed an interest. Bryan also has a potential new community member wishing to join the community council. The Chairman offered that there was still the opportunity for co-opted members to join.
- g. George Littlejohn said that he and Murray are currently compiling a list of issues relating to roads and transportation and when complete they will distribute this list to relevant bodies and members. He also enquired whether the new rail track under Reiket Bridge would be dual-track and if the contract had been awarded, it was confirmed yes to both.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council will be on Tuesday 9th September in the Moray Council Chambers.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.18 hours.