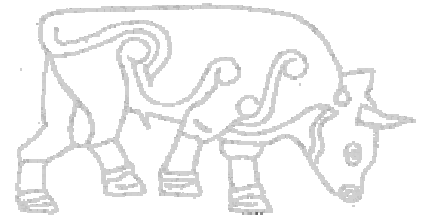


# Burghead and Cummington Community Council



## **Minute of regular meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**

**Present:** John Main (Chair), Mollie Fraser, Johnny Gordon, Alastair Mackenzie, Jim Patterson, Marie Slater, Chris Tuke.

**Apologies:** Les Taylor, Jennifer Walker, Ken Ward.

**In Attendance:** Moray Councillor Allan Wright

### **Adoption of minute of previous meeting:**

**Proposed by:** Mollie Fraser

**Seconded by:** Jim Patterson

### **Matters Arising**

#### Litter Bins.

It is still proving most difficult getting the litter bins replaced at the playing field and at the bus stop at the top of Grant Street after the lamp-posts were renewed. Conflicting information has been coming from different people at the council. Some say that there is no money and others say that it will be done. Further attempts are to be made to have the bins replaced.

#### Car Park at Playing Fields.

A Mr. John Gell, land agent for the forestry commission, had been in touch regarding the proposal to provide better car parking at the playing field. He said that the forestry was supportive, in principal and that there were two ways forward. Firstly, that the project could be completed under their community and recreation department but they have no money. Or secondly, through the harvesting and marketing division. Harvesting are looking to build a loading bay, (simply an area of cleared land), to help with removal of cut timber. However, the next major felling operations are not due in the area for 5 to 6 years. Mr. Gell said that with some community contribution, they would probably be able to bring this option forward. He was looking into costings and would get back to us at a later date. Initially, the forestry would be asking for a contribution of approximately £2,000. Negotiations are to continue.

#### Bus Stops and Shelters.

The bus stop has been moved from its dangerous position at the junction of Grant Street and Brander Street back to its original site outside the chemist's shop. After much persistence, we have been assured that the bus shelter at the school will be repaired in the near future.

#### Cemetery Cut.

The pedestrian access to the cemetery from St. Aethan's Road has been out of commission for some time now. With the building works almost complete it was agreed that contact be made with John Tulloch to obtain a timescale for reopening of the pathway.

#### Wind Turbine at Rowan Bank, Cummington.

A formal objection has been made on behalf of the community and the Community Council was informed that comments will be dealt with "as a statutory response". The planning application was still "pending consideration". No further information was available.

## **AOCB**

### Oil Buying Group.

John Main and Chris Tuke attended a meeting in Hopeman on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September about the formation of an oil buying group. The idea is to buy in bulk and gain a discount for all members of the group and to save the need to phone around all suppliers to obtain the best price for heating oil. The meeting was very well supported and considerable interest was shown. The group was hoping to place its first order during the first week of October. After the meeting the Community Council representatives spoke with the organisers to gauge their interest of assisting or expanding into Burghead and Cummington. Mr. Graham Brain and Mr. Ken MacDonald, who had formed the group, were primarily interested in getting the group working efficiently but said that they would then be very keen to enhance the group's buying power.

**Note:** Since the Community Council meeting it has been arranged for Graham and Ken to deliver their presentation in the Community Hall on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7.00pm.

### Lighting on Old Station Yard.

An approach had been made to The Moray Council for the light on the pole in the station yard to be reconnected. After several site visits and a quote of £4,000 was given. The Community Council thought that this was an astronomical amount and that the possibility of providing lighting at the football pitch by the bowling green may be a better option.

### Resurfacing of Grant Street.

The resurfacing of Grant Street is now complete after 8 years of asking. However, complaints have been received regarding the work carried out.

Why has the amount of camber been increased?

Why is the kerb so low at the chemist's?

Why is some of the iron work still at the incorrect height?

Why was the road left part-finished for so long?

It was agreed that these questions would be passed on to Moray Council Roads Department for further clarification with the intention that lessons could be learnt for the future.

### Treasurer's Report.

Johnny Gordon reported to the meeting that the working fund balance stood at £2,391.32 and that there were still ample funds in the harbour shelter account to conduct any maintenance that may be required. It was agreed that the name of the account dealing with the shelter would be changed to the "Harbour Shelter Fund"

Concern was raised as to the ownership of the shelter if the Community Council was to fold. At present the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are trustees of the building by merit of their appointments and there was worry that The Moray Council may attempt to take over the property if the Community Council was to be dissolved.

**It was therefore agreed by all those present, this second day of October 2008, that before any motion of dissolution of the Community Council, every effort should be made to transfer the trusteeship of the harbour shelter into the hands of the community.**

### Laich Forum Report.

Chris Tuke reported the following items from the last meeting of the Laich Forum:

#### **Community Champion.**

Chief Inspector Mackenzie spoke to the forum about the idea of starting a "community champion" initiative whereby people would report "graffiti, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, anti-social behaviour and damage to private and public utilities to the appropriate authority". Chris pointed out that all these issues are already reported but it is extremely difficult to get the 'appropriate authorities' to take any action. Further discussion has been had with Chief Inspector Mackenzie and it has been agreed that an Inspector Robertson will attend the December meeting of the Burghead and Cummington Community Council.

### **Burghead Drop-in Centre.**

The Laich Forum had managed to obtain £650 from the anti-social behaviour fund for the Burghead drop-in centre.

### **Community Planning.**

Local Area Committees were discussed. Chris Tuke also had the privilege of attending the 'Moray Forum' where the chairpersons of the various 'Area Forums' meet. At both meetings there was great jubilation that the forums had been preserved instead of adopting the local area committees. Chris said at both meetings that it was important to be able to contact the right people within the authorities and asked for an internal council telephone directory to be made available. Nothing has yet been forthcoming and the meetings went on to discuss, at great length, "how procedures could be put in place to facilitate the flow of information..." Chris once again said that it was not important to people how the information was imparted or what the committees were called but it was more important to the general public that things were done. The Moray Forum meeting ended with no decision being made.

### **Funding and Support.**

At the Moray Forum meeting it was reported that funding for the Local Forums and the Moray Forum was to be maintained and that support workers would continue to be employed. Ian Todd, Community Learning & Development Team Leader (Adult Learning), was asking for more development workers, council-funded secretaries for forums and a manager to manage them all. Chris found this hard to condone because one of the roles of the Community Council is to try to extract best value for the Council Tax-payer.

### **Publicity.**

The Moray Forum is hoping to produce a presentation to go 'on the road' with to publicise its activities. Chris asked if this could be done in "real-person-speak" and not council gibberish. The Laich Forum is hoping to have a road show in the near future and Chris suggested that it would be better to have stalls at other functions such as school Christmas Fetes etc. as attendance was likely to be poor for a stand-alone event.

### Burghead Boat Club.

The secretary reported that he had spoken to the secretary of the Burghead Boat Club and received the minutes of its latest meeting. Kenneth Ross, the Burghead Boat Club Secretary, had done much work discussing options with the Council Harbours Department, commercial enterprises and the Department of Transport with regard to port security. To summarise the boat clubs ideas, they are looking at;

1. a 'display disc' to ensure that visiting boat owners are paying their launch fees,
2. ensuring that boats are properly insured,
3. improvements to the slipway and harbour ladders,
4. liaising with other local boat clubs,
5. improving harbour services information including water, electricity and radio facilities,
6. and options to enable the coasters to return to Burghead.

Mr. Ross has interest from a local stevedore who is prepared to make a substantial investment and has spoken to local maltings and distilleries with some positive results. Kennie has also spoken with the Department for Transport and been assured that any site security necessary for the coasters' return would be possible at reasonable cost and that rumours of the harbour having to be totally secured with security fencing were unfounded.

The Community Council wished Mr. Ross and the Burghead Boat Club every success in the future.

Being no further business the meeting was closed.

**Date of next meeting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.**

Chris Tuke  
Secretary

Copies of previous minutes and information regarding Burghead available on-line at:  
[www.thelocalchannel.co.uk](http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk)

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emergency issues.**

**0845 600 5 700**

**Community Warden - Dave Haytack - 07800 670666**

If the police are not informed of problems they can not act and if crimes are not reported then  
there are implications with regard to police staffing levels.