

**Minutes of a City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council Meeting
Tuesday 21st October 2008 - Moray Council Chambers**

1. Present

Chairman: Alex Macmillan

Members: Donald McIntosh (Treasurer) George Littlejohn
Harry Torry Murray Ross
Anne Glover

In Attendance: Cllr Russell Cllr Leadbitter
Ann Griffin (Minutes)

Apologies: Hazel Cowan, Tony Cowan, Bryan Watson, Morna Abernethy, Alastair Kennedy, Lewis Watson, Cllr Divers, Cllr, Jarvis, Cllr Shand, Cllr Sharp, Insp Mowat

The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the low turnout. He had hoped to welcome the newly co-opted members Morna Abernethy and Lewis Watson. He also reported that the recently co-opted Michael Pirie had resigned.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 9th September 2008

The previous minutes were approved as accurate.
Proposed: Murray Ross Seconded: Harry Torry

3. Matters Arising from 9th September

3. Cllr Bisset Cup. Awaiting communication from Elgin High School.

3. 10b. Children's Play Park at Glassgreen. Anne Glover is awaiting a reply from her letter.

3. 3 Data Protection Act. The JCC has arranged a presentation with Ken McDonald regarding Community Councils' interest in the Data Protection Act. To be discussed at next meeting.

6b. Elgin Academy Window Cleaning. The Chairman had written to the Head Teacher expressing the concerns of the Community Council. A reply was received from the Depute Head, Ms Rennie offering that, historically, the windows had been cleaned every 2 years. A pulley that had been used to access the upper windows had been condemned by Health and Safety. New estimates to clean the accessible windows had been quoted at £5000 to £6000 from a company in Aberdeen; this excluded windows above the 3rd floor. The Education Department had researched the possibility of a lesser quote from a local company but offered no additional funding for the cleaning of the windows, as this was the responsibility of the devolved budget. The Chairman would inform the school of the possibility of a cheaper quotation.

9a. Remembrance Day. Cllr Divers will be laying a wreath at the Plainstones on behalf of the Moray Council. The Community Council will march with the parade to

the Plainstones and the Chairman will lay a wreath; he will also lay a wreath on behalf of the Community Council at New Elgin in the afternoon. Cllr Russell offered that, although he couldn't speak on behalf of all members, the elected members would also be represented, and march on Remembrance Day.

9a. Christmas Lights. The Chairman asked the Treasurer to raise a cheque for the Elgin Town Centre Benevolent Trust Christmas Lights Appeal - £400 had been agreed at the previous meeting. The Street Collection would take place on 22nd November and there will be a bag-pack in ASDA on 10th December in order to raise funds for the appeal. Members were encouraged to volunteer their assistance on both days.

9a. Secretary Resignation. The Chairman requested that all members consider the vacant position of Secretary. Item to be carried over to next meeting. He had also written a letter of appreciation to David Terron for his hard work on behalf of the Community Council.

9b. Deanshaugh Playing Field. The Chairman expressed the view that the playing field is in horrendous condition and must be unplayable for Bishopmill United Football Club. No solution was offered. *Chairman's note: Article appeared in P&J suggesting Community Council taking action.*

9b. Toilet Signage. Cllr Russell reported that this sign has now been removed.

9c. Doggie Lane. Anne Glover had been unable to make contact with the named person given by Cllr Divers. Anne to speak with Cllr Divers again and investigate further.

9f. Robertson Drive Residents. The chairman had written to Jill Stewart, Head of Housing regarding the residents' complaints in the Robertson Drive area. He had requested details about timescales that procedures would take. The reply received offered that they were unaware of recent complaints from Robertson Drive but that there are ongoing procedures with residents on Birkenhill Place regarding verbal abuse and rowdy behaviour with some tenants. A multi-agency approach is being taken to resolve the issues. No timescale for resolving these issues was offered. The chairman spoke to residents in the past week and some problems are still occurring. George Littlejohn said that the response was unsatisfactory and that the Community Council should correspond at a higher level. The Chairman offered to continue correspondence with the residents and also Sandy Ritchie to ensure that the community issues are resolved. Cllr Leadbitter reported that he was also involved in the situation and that possibly no timescale could be offered as this might be outwith the control of the authority and, by offering timescales, might prejudice any legal case.

9h. Coachdrivers Year Book. The renewal entry has been edited and sent with relevant photos. The invoice for £116.33 should arrive shortly.

7b. SEPA and Flood Awareness. The chairman had written to SEPA with the thoughts of the Elgin Community Council. The letter stated that citizens of Elgin were well aware of flooding but any advice and assistance which could be offered to speed up the flood alleviation, work by Scottish Water and assistance with the

resolution of household insurance difficulties would be appreciated. No response has been received.

4. Community Planning – Local Area Forums

Harry reported that the Area Committee Consultation had concluded and that Area Committees have been rejected. No alternative plan has been offered at the moment and Harry reported that he felt that the Area Forums are now in disarray. He reported that there was now work being done to develop a plan to improve communication between Forums, the voluntary sector, the community and the Community Planning Structure. Buckie Area Forum has forwarded draft suggestions. Harry was concerned that Buckie suggested two Area Managers be employed as he felt this was not necessary but that the Forums needed a champion. He also suggested that the existing Area Forum staff should be concentrating on rural forums. Alex reported that having read Buckie's suggestions, there appeared to be little place for communication and input from Community Councils. The Chairman requested that Harry draft a response to the plan on behalf of the Community Council and he will circulate it for comment. Cllr Russell reported that he did not feel that the Forums are in disarray and that the Community Engagement Group is currently working on a plan to ensure that the structure is strengthened. The Group had met last week and work is being progressed to ensure that the plan for the way ahead is solid. The Chairman expressed concern that this might be a top-down solution and felt that the Community, as a whole, should be engaged in this process. Cllr Russell also highlighted the benefit of sub-committees working towards the Community Planning themes, as this is becoming the national language. The Chairman suggested that with many members not present, he felt they could not have a representative debate about this at this time. He also said that he understood that a code of conduct for Community Councils was being considered and felt that members might have difficulty if the current freedom of speech and communication, currently enshrined in Community Councils' conception, was to be inhibited.

Elgin North Area Forum update – Harry Torry reported that the North had had their AGM and had elected a joint chair position as he had stepped down. A meeting will be held on Thursday 30th October in New Elgin Primary School Annexe to debate the problems of antisocial behaviour and vandalism. The next meeting for the Elgin North Area Forum will take place on Tuesday 4th November in Elgin Community Centre.

Elgin South Area Forum update – None offered. The joint update was made available in correspondence.

5. Bypass Campaign Update

There has been no recent meeting.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Planning. Nothing to report.
- b. Recreation, Leisure & Environment. Nothing to report.
- c. Roads & Transportation. George Littlejohn had circulated a plan for current roads and transportation issues for consideration. This is to be discussed at the next

meeting. He has had no recent correspondence regarding road traffic orders and will discuss this with Mr James Smith.

7. Correspondence. The Chairman presented correspondence and invited members to read the following submitted documents:

1. Community Planning Document
2. PPP Update
3. Letter from Incorporated Trades of Elgin
4. Moray Divisional Police Performance Report
5. Moray Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual Report
6. Team Briefing – Moray Council investment in Landbanksi
7. Town Centres & Local High Streets – Review of Scottish Government
8. ASCC Conference 22nd November 2008 – register by 18th November
9. Petitions to Scottish Parliament – request for evidence of experience
10. Burghead & Cummington CC proposal to ASCC re Fixed Term Contracts for Local Council Officers – 8 years proposed
11. Minutes of Local Licensing Forum
12. Joint Local Area Forum Update

8. Treasurer Report

Donald McIntosh reported that Number 1 account has a balance of £1962.37 and Number 2 account has a balance of £5164.96.

9. AOCB

- a. Donald thanked Cllr Russell for the prompt action regarding the overhanging tree.
- b. Anne Glover reported that she is still keeping an eye on the shrubbery growing from the gutters on both High Street and South Street and will contact owners of the buildings, once identified.
- c. Murray reported that there had been two road traffic accidents in recent weeks in the area of Reiket Lane and Linkwood Road. He felt that many children are crossing this road and with the pending work being done on Reiket Lane, that traffic on this road will get faster and busier. A crossing is on the plan but it might be much later on in the development before it is built. Cllr Russell offered to investigate this further and will discuss this with Murray.
- d. Cllr Russell said that there is a Town Centre Bid (Business Improvement District) scheme meeting on Monday 27th October at 7pm. The Chairman will attend this meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council will be on Tuesday 2nd December in the Moray Council Chambers at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12 pm.