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**Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008**  
**Moray Council Chambers**

**1. Flood Alleviation Update**

The Flood Alleviation Team was not present. It was decided to proceed to item 2 of the agenda.

**2. Present**

Chairman: Alex Macmillan

Members: Bryan Watson (Vice Chair) Donald McIntosh (Treasurer)  
Alastair Kennedy Morna Abernethy  
George Littlejohn Harry Torry  
Murray Ross Anne Glover  
Lewis Watson

In Attendance: Cllr Russell Cllr Divers  
Cllr Leadbitter (from 1940) Cllr Shand  
Cllr Sharp Ann Griffin (Minutes)  
Inspector Mowat (till 1945) Peter Haslam (for Flood Alleviation Update)

Apologies: Glennis Oakley, Richard Oakley

The chairman reported that he had received resignations from Tony and Hazel Cowan.

**3. Minutes of Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October**

The previous minutes were approved as accurate.

Proposed: Harry Torry Seconded: Murray Ross

**4. Matters Arising from 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2008**

**3.3. Cllr Bisset Cup.** Nothing to report.

**3.10b. Children's Play Park at Glassgreen.** Anne Glover has written to Springfield Properties on two occasions but has received no response. She will now telephone Mr John Main.

**3.3 6b. Elgin Academy Windows.** The Chairman had contacted Elgin Academy to advise them of the possibility of a better quotation.

**9a. Remembrance Day Parade.** The Chairman thanked all that attended and supported the Remembrance Day Parades, both in Elgin and New Elgin.

**9a. Elgin Christmas Lights.** The Chairman had helped with collecting money. He also said that a receipt has been received for the £400 donation from the Community Council.

**9a. Post of Secretary.** The Chairman asked if anyone would be prepared to take on the post of Secretary for the Community Council. There were no volunteers or nominations at this meeting.

**9b. Deanshaugh Playing Fields.** The Chairman had written to the Chief Executive asking for action. A letter of receipt has been received and a response is expected by the 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. The lack of toilet facilities was also considered in relation to the proposed new skate park opening hours.

**9c. Doggie Lane.** Anne Glover had spoken to Ian Douglas and Doggie Lane is now listed as a core path. No planning application has been received to change the use of this lane.

**9f. Anti Social Behaviour Robertson Drive.** The Chairman has spoken to Jill Stewart, Moray Council Housing, and expressed concerns about the lack of feedback being passed to the residents in this area about regarding the anti-social incidents. It was reported that a multi-agency meeting had taken place last week and also that there had been a fire-raising incident at the weekend which was reported by several residents via the 999 emergency services. Warning letters have been sent to the tenants. Inspector Mowat said that there had been an incident but he was unable to comment as it was an ongoing enquiry. He did however offer to speak to Andy Jamieson about the possibility of feeding information back to residents. There was a discussion about the response times from Aberdeen Call Centre and the Inspector offered to report this back. All residents in the neighbourhood of Robertson Drive have been sent information about what contact numbers should be used in emergency and during on-going incidents.

**9c. Reiket Lane.** Murray reported that he would be attending a meeting on Thursday night with the Elgin South Area Forum – Linkwood Residents Group to discuss the crossings and pending work in the area. Cllr Sharp will also be in attendance.

**9d BIDS Project.** The Chairman attended the first Business Improvement District meeting and offered to keep members informed about the progress although there was not much the Community Council could contribute at this time. The steering committee has yet to be formed.

The chairman requested any further items for the police should be submitted now to allow Inspector Mowat to return to police duties.

- a) **Previous Matter Arising for Police - Speeding Traffic on Lesmurdie Road.** Inspector Mowat reported that a completed traffic survey provided evidence that speeds are slightly higher than the legal restrictions. Further traffic surveys would take place in the next few weeks. Cllr Divers requested that the police consider the survey to be extended to Linkwood Road around the Cottar Hoose as he felt the speeds were inappropriate for the area. Inspector Mowat will speak to Inspector Mann.
- b) **AOCB for Police - Mobile Phone/Driving.** Murray asked if there was anything further could be done to reduce the number of drivers using mobile phones when driving. Inspector Mowat said that this was an ongoing problem but with ongoing action.
- c) **AOCB for Police – Elgin North Area Forum Litter/Anti Social Group.** Inspector Mowat reported that the police had been under a misapprehension that people who dropped litter had to be given the opportunity to pick it up before they could be prosecuted. This was not the case as there was no need to give a warning. A pilot scheme is being tried in the Tesco/Elgin Academy area where any offence will be actioned. Cllr Russell wondered what could be done to ensure that local businesses emptied their bins regularly as this contributed to litter problems in Elgin. The Chairman has spoken to Stagecoach about their overflowing bins and after a debate about who owned the bins, it was reported that Stagecoach have ordered newly designed bins for the bus station and a cleaner will be responsible for emptying these bins each morning. It was reported that there is a problem area behind the bus station where drinkers congregate which is not a welcoming site when arriving at Elgin Bus Station. Inspector Mowat said that this is a well-known area and that measures are being considered and offered to make enquiries on behalf of the Community Council.

**Flood Alleviation Update from item 1 -** The Chairman welcomed Peter Haslam from the Flood Alleviation Team who proceeded to update members on the current situation in relation to the Elgin Flood Alleviation scheme. There had been a total of 27 objections lodged with one being withdrawn. Several are still being negotiated. There will be a public enquiry. The design and utilities company are currently working on designs for the scheme which should be finished next year. The work will then go to tender with work planned to commence early in 2010 – depending upon the results of the public enquiry. In the worst-case

scenario, the scheme could be delayed several years due to the petitions and public enquiry but is hoped that this would not be the case. There is a 3½-year construction programme planned. There were questions from the floor resulting in debates about the responsibility of fallen trees in the river. Rivers are checked approximately 6 monthly for potential blockages but if reports from the public indicate a problem then they are acted upon by Moray Council.

The chairman thanked Peter for his presence and Peter left the meeting at 1945. Standing orders recommenced.

#### **5. Data Protection Registration.**

There was a continued debate regarding Community Council's requirement to register as data holders with the Data Protection Act. It was agreed that the Community Council should register as they kept records about membership of the Community Councillors. The subscription will cost £35 per year and the Moray Council has offered to pay this on behalf of Community Councils.

#### **6. Ladyhill Project Update**

Alastair Kennedy had received an email from Inspector Mowat saying that Grampian Police are considering a donation of £2000 from the Elgin Fund towards a viewpoint at Ladyhill. Ladyhill is an ongoing project and plans are being considered for the area which did not include disabled access. The site is a Historic Scotland protected site and it was thought that there might be problems with digging in pathways. After debate, it was decided that Alastair would ask the police to retain their donation at this time.

#### **7. Young Citizen Certificates**

Harry Torry suggested that the Community Council develop an awards scheme for young citizens. He felt that there is a lack of recognition for community work done by young people. He proposed that the Community Council develop a certificate scheme for outstanding work done by young people in the community. The Chairman echoed his support for this project and suggested that a focus group be formed to formulate criteria then feed back a further proposal at the next meeting. Members agreed in principle to the idea. Lewis Watson, Bryan Watson, Harry Torry, Anne Glover, and Moira Abernethy offered to form the Awards Committee, which would be chaired by Harry Torry. This was agreed by all present.

#### **8. Community Planning – Local Area Forums**

The Chairman said that the Elgin South Annual Report was available in correspondence. A joint update was circulated to all present.

Elgin North Area Forum update – Harry reported that the North has formed a subgroup looking at anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the Elgin North Area and was considering extending this to a Moray-wide group. The Chairman reported costs of vandalism for the Elgin Schools in comparison to other schools in Moray. Elgin Academy had significantly higher costs. Harry reported that the newly installed BMX equipment in Lesmurdie Woods has already been vandalised. Cllr Divers reported that the newly erected community shelter in the Dovecot Park has also suffered vandalism. The police have been informed of both incidents.

Elgin South Area Forum update – No update was offered.

Moray Forum - Alastair Kennedy reported that he had attended the last Moray Forum and that a new Chairman and Vice Chair have been appointed. There had been a discussion about the way forward in community planning for the Local Area Forums and Community Councils.

#### **9. Committee Reports**

- a. Planning. Alastair Kennedy reported that he had received notification about a new housing development at Linkwood which would comprise of mixed housing requirements with a good play area. He felt that a fairly aggressive tree-planting programme was needed.

- b. Recreation, Leisure & Environment. Anne Glover said that she was continuing with writing to shop owners to ensure that their guttering was cleared of foliage. She reported continued success. There were reports that drivers are still turning into Ladyhill Car Park at the “no right turn”. Cllr Russell said that the area of red-painted road would be “hatched” shortly and that the central reservation would be extended to ensure this problem ceases.
- c. Roads & Transportation. George Littlejohn had previously circulated a detailed letter and action plan considering all major roundabouts and road junctions in Elgin which his group had concerns and issues with. He felt that some junctions and roundabouts were not fit for purpose and that work is commencing too slowly. It was debated who the report should be sent to. Cllr Russell suggested that Gordon Holland would be very happy to consider the report line by line with the Roads and Transportation Committee. It was decided that the report would be sent to the Chief Executive and Elected Members. Murray had requested that James Smith forward any road traffic orders. George reported that the new wintertime table for the railway network is now published and has details of two new train slots including a direct train from Edinburgh. It was also reported that the RAF have been transporting major parts of equipment via the network rail containers.

**10. Correspondence.** The following correspondence was presented for members to consider:

1. Community Planning – Area Forum update
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 Sheet – Regarding Moray Council’s investments in Landbanksi
7. Town Centres & Local High Streets – Review by Scottish Government
8. ASCC Conference 2008 – 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 year proposed
11. Minutes of Local Licensing Forum
12. BBC reporter – Documents from seminar in Elgin Library

**11. Treasurer Report**

Donald McIntosh reported that as of 14th November 2008, Number 1 account has a balance of £1563.75 and Number 2 account has a balance of £5173.17. He asked members if they felt that the cost incurred from subscription to the Coach Drivers Yearbook was value for money as he felt that it was expensive. Anne and George expressed their opinion that this was good value for money and that the book was being used by coach drivers out-with the area. The Chairman said that members had voted on the cost at the time the subscription was due and had agreed the cost of subscription renewal.

**12. AOCB**

- a) Harry Torry expressed concern that the disused Safeway car park had been closed thus causing congestion of cars parking in the area. The car park was now open again but, when ALDI develops the site, it would likely be closed once more.
- b) Alastair Kennedy read a letter addressed to Peter Peacock MSP regarding relocating of government departments. The letter expressed concern about relocating government departments with regard to local economies and suggested that job relocation could make a difference. Alastair also attended the ASCC conference last week where several speakers were present. It is hoped that a report about this event will be available for members shortly.
- c) Cllr Divers reported that the crossing has been agreed for Reiket Lane.

- d) Cllr Russell reported that he had had a meeting with BEAR Scotland where several issues had been discussed and resolved. It was acknowledged that roundabouts in general in Elgin are poor and would be enhanced by flowerbeds. Anti-skid surfaces will be developed and speed restrictions around Pinefield will be considered. Road restrictions on Alexandra Road will be revised and the new crossing for Lossie Wynd will be complete by the end of March 2009. The underpass area towards ALDI will be enclosed to ensure footpaths are used.
  
- e) Lewis Watson asked if consideration had been given to enhancing the pavilion on the Dovecot Park as he felt this was a dull building which could be “spruced up”. It was reported that the Dovecot Action Group have recently had the pavilion painted in anti-graffiti paint.

#### **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 13<sup>th</sup> January in the Moray Council Chambers.

**There being no further business, the Chairman wished all present the compliments of the season and closed the meeting at 2102 hours.**