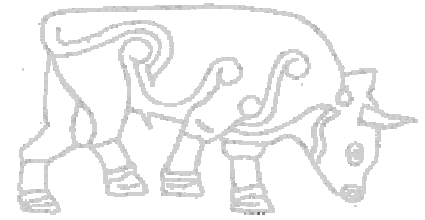


Burghead and Cummingston **Community Council**



Minute of regular meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on Thursday 4th December 2008

Present: Alastair Mackenzie (Vice-Chairman), Mollie Fraser, Johnny Gordon, Jim Patterson, Les Taylor, Chris Tuke, Jennifer Walker, Ken Ward.

Apologies: John Main, Marie Slater

In Attendance: Moray Councillor Eric McGillivray, Moray Councillor David Stewart, Inspector Alistair Robertson.

The vice-chairman suspended proceedings to allow Inspector Robertson to present his report.

Inspector Robertson informed the meeting that since the start of April 2008 there had been 51 reported crimes in Burghead. The detection rate was 57% which compared very well with the Grampian average of 32% detected. He went on to say that, although there are now more police officers than ever in the Grampian force, the new shift pattern of 2003 gave officer several more rest days each year. Therefore, staffing was still stretched more thinly than would be liked. On the matter of police attendance at Community Council meetings, it was understood that it would be preferable for officers to be “out on the streets” but there needed to be some sort of liaison with residents. Inspector Robertson advised that he, Sergeant McQueen, PC Roy Thomson, or the community warden would attempt to attend future meetings.

According to Inspector Robertson the Bucksburn call centre for non-emergencies is functioning much better and local knowledge has improved amongst its operators. He encouraged people to put aside any previous experiences and use the number when required.

Several other police related matters were discussed mainly relating to traffic.

The three main topics were;

Parking at the Junction of Fraser Road and Firth View.

After numerous requests and the trialling of white lines at this junction, people are still parking on this dangerous corner. It is with regret that the Community Council feels that the only resort left is to request “double yellow line” no parking restrictions.

Bend Chevrons at Cemetery Brae.

The sharp bend chevrons had been removed during construction work. The secretary was instructed to contact The Moray Council to request replacement.

Parking restrictions at the school.

There was an agreement to investigate if further zigzag parking restrictions could be painted outside the school to improve safety.

The vice-chairman thanked Inspector Robertson who then left the meeting.

Adoption of minute of previous meeting:

The minutes were adopted as a true and accurate report with the item about the sewage pipes rewritten to read;

Old Sewage Pipes at Cummingston.

It was noted that repairs were in progress on the old sewage pipes which now form surface-water sea outlets at Cummingston.

Proposed by: Les Taylor.
Seconded by: Ken Ward.

Matters Arising

Community Service.

It was noted that people serving community punishments had recently cleaned up the beach around the first war hut. Unfortunately, only the inside had been cleared with much broken glass still around the outside. The secretary would contact community justice to arrange further action. Mollie Fraser also requested that they be employed to paint the notice board at the Cummington car park.

School Buses

It was noted that, even after contacting The Moray Council regarding school buses stopping at the bowling green junction, pupils were still being dropped off in a dangerous area. Further comment will be made to the local authority.

New Public Toilets at Cummington.

Moray Councillor Eric McGillivray told the meeting that new public toilets should be in place shortly at the Cummington car park. This news was well received.

Clavie.

The association of the Community Council with the Clavie has been agreed by all concerned. As there is no procedure in place to bring any-one onto the Community Council for special events, Les Taylor agreed to act as the Clavie representative. Les also agreed to act on behalf of the Burghead Floral Committee. Chris Tuke remains the Christmas Lights' representative. These appointments are to assist with administrative affairs and in no way will the Community Council exert undue influence upon the way that the respective groups carry out their business.

AOCB

Harbour Shelter Rates Demand.

Chris Tuke told that he had recently received a bill for £386.60 in respect of non-domestic business rates for approximately 8 months. The bill for a full year would be almost £600. As the shelter is funded by lottery money and private donation, replaces a facility allegedly illegally demolished by the previous local authority and receives no council services, it was felt that this bill was a disgrace. The secretary had been in contact with the Grampian Rates Assessor to agree a revaluation to less than half the current value in line with other similar buildings and was in the process of negotiating discounts and rebates with The Moray Council. He said that it was just this sort of bureaucratic madness that takes so much time to resolve, which makes people just want to give up. One moment of thought in council circles could save everyone many hours of work. Moray Councillor Eric McGillivray agreed to take up the case and that, initially, account would be held.

Moray Core Paths.

Alastair Mackenzie had attended a meeting about the Moray core paths (footpaths) where there was a large attendance and the production of an A3 glossy brochure running to almost 100 pages. Alastair reported that there was much talk of committees and sub-committees but not much discussion on footpaths. The Community Council welcomed the promotion of the footpaths but questioned the expense incurred and hopes that, in future, the money could be spent on maintenance of the paths.

Common Good Funds.

Just prior to the meeting the secretary had received a long legal letter from The Moray Council regarding common good funds. It was agreed that the vice-chairman would take the letter and discuss its contents with the chairman and that the item would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

Cemetery Car Park.

Concern was expressed at the number of vehicles and portakabins in the cemetery car park. It was hoped that the owner would be mindful of any funeral due to take place and clear the site accordingly. As this was seen to be a temporary problem, it was agreed to take no formal action at this time.

New Water Outlet at Cummington.

Jim Patterson said that the shore-side inspection cover on the new water outlet at Cummington Beach was regularly being blown off by tidal back pressure. The secretary is to contact Scottish Water to seek a solution. Meanwhile, anyone walking in the area is requested to be careful to avoid tripping on the raised manhole cover.

RAF Personnel Travelling to and from Work.

Concern was raised at the number of service personnel driving through Cummington. It was pointed out that improvements had been made to the road from College of Roseisle to Duffus to provide a route for service vehicles travelling between bases. It was agreed that no Air Force transport had been seen transiting Cummington and that service personnel have the right to travel to their place of work by whichever route they choose just like anyone else.

The Old Favourite.

Once again, with the nights drawing in, the amount of dog excrement around the town is increasing. Everyone is reminded that it is an offence not to clean up after your dog punishable with a fine of up to £100. If you wish to report the matter it would help to take some details of the offender, the dog, and note the time and place the incident occurred. This information will be passed to the Council's Environmental Health Section or Community Wardens at the earliest opportunity who will decide whether the matter can be taken further. The more accurate and specific the information that is provided, the greater the chance that this will result in a dog fouler being penalised. The Community Warden's contact details are shown in the box at the end of the minutes and Environmental Health can be contacted on AnimalServices@moray.gov.uk or 01343 563345.

"Doggie-bags" are available, free of charge, from libraries and council access points.

Being no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm.

[There will be no meeting in January.](#)

Chris Tuke
Secretary

Copies of previous minutes and information regarding Burghead available on-line at:

www.thelocalchannel.co.uk

Please use the Grampian Police number to report all non 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.