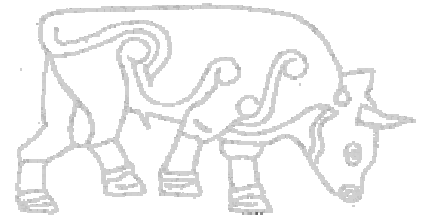


Burghead and Cummingston **Community Council**



Minute of regular meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on Thursday 5th February 2009

Present: John Main (Chair), Mollie Fraser, Johnny Gordon, Jim Patterson, Chris Tuke, Ken Ward.

Apologies: Alastair Mackenzie, Marie Slater, Les Taylor, Jennifer Walker

In Attendance: Moray Councillor Allan Wright, Moray Councillor David Stewart, John Foster - Burghead Amenities Association.

The chairman suspended proceedings to allow Mr. John Foster, Chairman of the Burghead Amenities Association to address the meeting.

John Foster informed the meeting that he had recently attended a rural development funding seminar in the Elgin Town Hall. He said that funding was available from several sources and that they intended to progress a claim under the Rural Priorities Programme. Mr. Foster said;

“I am sure that the Rural Priorities Programme offers an excellent opportunity for Burghead to develop amenities which will improve the quality of life for everybody. To do this, a cross-community group is needed to bring together all the community interest groups to make a joint bid for our own local priorities. We may not be successful in getting all we need but it is even more certain that if we don't ask we won't get any of the things which could make a good place even better.”

To this end, the Burghead Amenities Association is hoping to hold a meeting for representative of all the local clubs and groups at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th March in the Church of Scotland Hall to reassess priorities prior to an open public meeting at a later date.

There were also concerns that events were starting to overtake the project with the Community Hall undergoing a major renovation, Burghead Thistle looking into building indoor sports facilities and the Burghead Sub-Aqua Club in negotiations with Diageo for use of the railway shed at the maltings for a clubhouse, store and bunkhouse.

The chairman thanked Mr. Foster and wished him luck in the venture. Mr. Foster left the meeting.

Adoption of minute of previous meeting:

Proposed by: Ken Ward.

Seconded by: Mollie Fraser.

Matters Arising

Road Signs and Parking

No further correspondence had been received from The Moray Council. The secretary would issue a reminder.

School Buses.

The Community Council was pleased to hear that school buses were now stopping opposite the playing fields and not on the junction of St. Aethan's Road and Fraser Road.

Harbour Shelter Rates.

Recent confirmation that the non-domestic rates bill of almost £600pa had been discounted to zero was well received but the secretary said that he was still awaiting confirmation that this was a permanent reduction.

Common Good Funds.

Immediately before the previous meeting a long legal letter had been received from The Moray Council. After much consideration it was decided that the pursuit of the old common good funds would be more costly than any benefit that they might generate. Also legally, any property of the old Town Council would have been inherited by the Regional Council at that time.

New Water Outlet at Cummington.

Jim Patterson had investigated the lifting inspection cover at the foreshore, Cummington and found that it was not the property of Scottish Water but was the responsibility of The Moray Council. Action was expected to secure it.

AOCB

Textile Recycling.

A letter had been received from The Moray Council detailing the change of textile recycling facilities. The new provider would be Northern Textiles based near Peterhead. The secretary had had informal discussion with the headmistress at the primary school who was happy to accept a recycling bin on the school site and to receive any funds that arose from it. Presently the going rate is £25 per tonne.

Scottish Government Central Heating Program.

A letter from Scottish Gas contained a reminder that the current free central heating for senior citizens programme will end on 31st March 2009. There are several qualifications and further details will be available in the library or by contacting Scottish Gas on 0800 316 1653. It is also expected that application forms will be delivered in the Midweek Extra. The scheme is not just for gas central heating but also covers oil, electric and solid fuel systems.

Alteration to Planned Housing at Cromarty View, Burghead.

A letter was received from a resident regarding the change to a planning application for housing on Cromarty view. As this letter was addressed to a local councillor and only for the information of the Community Council, it was decided that no further action need be taken at this time.

Christmas Lights.

The chairman put the secretary in an awkward position by insisting that he minuted a vote of thanks to himself and all those who helped with the Christmas Lights in Burghead. John Main said that the display was very impressive for a small town and something of which everyone should be justly proud. On behalf of the Christmas Lights Committee, Chris Tuke thanked the chairman for his appreciation. He also said that volunteers are always needed particularly in the installation, repair and removal of the displays.

Salting of Pavements.

The chairman was pleased to note that the salting of the pavements in the recent cold weather was carried out in a much better manner than over the New Year period. It was understood that the council has to prioritise its activities but hopefully, lessons will have been learnt from the beginning of the year when the town was like a skating rink for almost a week.

Pavement at Cemetery Brae.

John Main said that he had received complaints that the walkway along the cemetery brae was too narrow and unsuitable for pushchairs. The matter would be investigated.

Increased Council Tax Take form Burghead.

John Main informed the meeting that with the building of new houses over the past years, the council tax income from Burghead has increased by approximately £250,000. He asked if more of this money could be made available in the town. Councillor Allan Wright explained that the local authority was under financial pressure and that any increase in income was used to provide the extra services required.

Lighting at Playing Fields and Youth Shelter.

The chairman explained that he had been contacted by Mr. David Millar and informed that the lights for the playing fields had been assessed and costed. It was hoped that money could be found within the budget and it was hoped that the youth shelter could progress in tandem with the project.

Town Signs.

Mr. Smith from the roads department had contacted John Main regarding the replacement town signs. Standard town signs in black and white with only the name on would cost £300 and be provided by The Moray Council. Larger brown signs with "Welcome to Burghead" would cost £600 with the Community Council having to pay the £300 excess. It was asked if any other message could be placed on the signs but legislation dictates that only a "simple road safety message is permitted". In light of these fact and also considering that the Community Council may have to partially fund the playing fields car park, the youth shelter and other projects, it was decided that the money could be better spent and to go for the simpler and cheaper option.

Harbour Shelter.

With the rates problem now having been resolved, the harbour shelter fund is quite healthy and after discussion with the main users, it was decided that options would be looked into for the installation of a ceiling. At present the roof space is open. A portable gas heater has been donated and it was agreed that the cost of gas would be met from the fund. John Main is to obtain quotes for the building work and it was also suggested that a carbon monoxide detector be purchased and fitted.

Accounts Audit.

The treasurer accepted that the auditing of the accounts had been delayed this year but he usual auditor had been unwell. Johnny Gordon said that Marion Masson had offered to do the audit and that it was now in progress.

Parking in Cummingston.

Mollie Fraser again raised the issue of parking in Cummingston. There was a particular problem around Marched Cottage with vans parking on the pavement. The Community Council can understand that the owners are trying to assist in keeping the road clear but this action is causing an obstruction and danger to pedestrians and wheelchair users. The Community Council has produced polite parking tickets which can be placed on offending vehicles and if this 'soft-touch' approach fails then the matter will be passed to the community warden.

Local Government Finances.

Councillor Allan Wright informed the meeting that there was shortly to be a consultation on funding for Community Councils with a possibility that more money could be devolved down to local level for allocation. However, the Community Council were sceptical that this would ever happen.

Councillor Wright also told that The Moray Council budget was "extremely tight" this year but at the meeting of the full council on Thursday 12th February it was hoped that there would be agreement to freeze the council tax for a further year.

Comment: The council tax freeze has now been announced.

Being no further business the meeting was closed.

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

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

david.haytack@grampian.pnn.police.uk

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.

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