

Buckie Community Council



Minutes of Meeting

Held on Tuesday 20th January, 2009 at 7.00pm

Present: James Smith (Chairman), Ian Moir (Vice Chairman), Allan Fraser (Secretary), James Grieve, James Newlands and Howard Cartwright.

In Attendance: Cllrs J Mackay G McDonald and A McKay, Alan Beresford (Banffshire Advertiser), Sgt Euan Strachan representing the police.

Apologies: John Grant

Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all to the January meeting of the Community Council.

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Chairman asked for the suspension of Standing Orders so that the Community Council members could deal with questions to the police. This was agreed.

Questions to the Police

Mr Moir said that he had observed a police car closely following a cruiser car through Buckie. He had also seen a police car parked behind the cruisers in the Square. Sgt Strachan said that this was one of the many ways use to tackle the problem. Mr Smith said that the concern regarding these drivers was long standing. Mr Cartwright asked if the police regularly check for offences previously committed by these drivers. Sgt Strachan said that this was done. Cllr A McKay enquired about legislation regarding noise outwith certain times, e.g. ice cream vans. Sgt Strachan said that there was other legislation for cars. Mr Cartwright asked about the fitting of large exhausts to cars and the possible failure to notify insurance companies. Sgt Strachan said that the police do not check insurance against modifications unless there is an accident.

Mr Moir asked about vandalism in Buckie. Sgt Strachan said there had been few problems and that the detection rate had been increased.

The chairman thanked the Sgt Strachan for his attendance. He then withdrew from the meeting.

Minutes of the December Meeting

The minutes of the November meeting were approved. This was proposed by Mr Grieve and seconded by Mr Cartwright.

Matters Arising

1. Christmas Lights. There was some query regarding whether the Buckie Community Council had a Christmas light or not. The secretary would further look into the situation.

Correspondence

1. From Moray Council

(a) From Tracey Rae, Community Council Liaison Officer.

(i) **Acknowledgement.** This has been received regarding issues raised at the December meeting.

(ii) **Gollachy Road.** The Moray Council is still trying to buy land adjacent to the road in order to proceed with improvements.

(b) **From Buckie Area Forum per Ann Griffin.** Minute of last meeting and agenda for January 21 meeting has been received.

2. Correspondence had also been received from the following

(a) **Mr Kenneth Anderson.** Acknowledgement has been received for £250 towards the Christmas Lights and £30 for auditing services.

(b) **Rhona Grant, MSP.** Intimation of Scottish Government proposals to lease for 75 years a sizable proportion of the Forestry Commission estate has been received. Mr Moir queried the proposals in respect of tree harvesting periods and replanting periods during the lease. He also enquired if public access would be maintained.

(c) **Charles Gordon, MSP.** Consultation document received on Regulation of Bus Services Bill.

(d) **Association of Scottish Community Councils.** Notice received of meeting in Elgin on Saturday, 21 March

3. **Booklets, Newsletters, etc.** 'The Tenants Voice' booklet and Wicksteed Playscapes brochure have been received

Planning Applications

Minor Applications There is an application to extend Netherha Nursing Home and change the entry road.

Previous Applications With regard to the new Tesco store the Moray Councillors said that a decision could be months away. With the Barhill Road development, in addition to the new roundabout, there would be an upgrading of the road.

A.O.C.B.

1. **New Year Celebrations.** Mr Smith said that he had received a request for the Community Council to organise New Year celebrations in Buckie using the Fishermen's Hall. Mr Moir said that there were not enough people within the Community Council to man and supervise such an event. Mr Smith thought that it was not practical. It was agreed that there were no objections to another body or bodies organising such an event.

2. **Litter in the Buckie Area.** Mr Smith reported that there was a lot of litter, mostly plastic, in the Pot of Linn area and along the old railway line. Mr Newlands thought that the tidying up of such areas could be a duty for those on community service. Mr Moir proposed that the secretary write to the appropriate authorities. Cllr J Mackay thought that this would not be appropriate. Mr Newlands added that there were areas where brambles were spreading and causing problems.

3. **Car Parking.** Mr Moir presented a document on car parking in Buckie. The document said that there were very few parking spaces in the Square by 9am each morning from Monday to Friday. It went on to offer alternatives for the Square. These included a two hour restriction on parking times with or without charging meters. Cllr McDonald said that it might be possible to have meters but no charge. It was pointed out that there were plenty parking spaces in Buckie, but virtually all the car parks

were not signposted. Mr Moir proposed that the people of Buckie should be consulted. This was seconded by Mr Cartwright. Questionnaires would be available in the Library.

4(a). Bridge at Gollachy Road/New Cemetery. Mr Cartwright said that the water pipe at the cemetery had been vandalised. As a result more water was getting on to the wooden pedestrian bridge and making it increasingly slippery. He added that a non-slip surface was needed. Cllr McDonald said the Parks Dept was to look into the problem. Mr Newlands added that the road to the new cemetery was bad in frosty conditions.

4(b). New Cemetery Parking. Concern was raised about funeral parking at the new cemetery. There were limited parking spaces at the gate and the bus had difficulty parking. As a result there were many cars parked in neighbouring streets, often blocking driveways. Various suggestions were put forward, including using the Gollachy Road for access and converting the unusable part of the cemetery into a car park. In conclusion there appeared to be no simple solution.

5. Rochomie. Mr Moir said that he had been on a group walk to the reservoir at Rochomie. He was informed by a worker there that the reservoir was being gradually emptied and that there was still a lot of fish in the reservoir. Mr Grieve said that the drainage of the reservoir represented a great loss of a first class amenity. Mr Moir added that Scottish Water was considering creating a landscaped area. Mr Fraser said that Scottish Water was retaining the purification plant to deal with the water from the Spey. Mr Grieve proposed that the secretary write to Scottish Water seeking further information. This was seconded by Mr Newlands.

6. Mobile Phone Mast. Mr Moir raised the question of the proposal by Orange to erect a mast on a piece of land at the top of the old road from Buckie Station. On a query Cllr McDonald said that the land in question belonged to the Moray Council

Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those who attended for their contributions. The meeting was closed at 8.35pm

The next two meetings of Buckie Community Council will be on Tuesday, 17th February, 2009 and on Tuesday 17th March, 2009.

Previous minutes can be found on the Moray Council website at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_49776.html.

Meetings of the Buckie Community Council are held in Room 1 of Buckie Town House at 7.00pm on the third Tuesday of each month, except July. All members of the public are welcome to attend. If any members of the community wish to raise any community matter, they should in the first instance contact the Secretary or any other member of the Community Council.

Signed as a correct minute Chairman

Proposed by

Seconded by

Minute Secretary: Mr Ian Moir