

Burghead and Cummington **Community Council**



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

Present: John Main (Chair), Mollie Fraser, Johnny Gordon, Alastair Mackenzie, Jim Patterson, Les Taylor, Chris Tuke, Jennifer Walker, Ken Ward.

Apologies: Marie Slater, Moray Councillor Allan Wright.

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

The chairman suspended the meeting to allow Inspector Alistair Robertson to deliver the police report.

Inspector Alistair Robertson informed the meeting that, so far this year, there had been 20 crimes reported with a 41% detection rate. These included 6 acts of vandalism plus offences of breach of the peace, assault and theft. Inspector Robertson said that he was expecting an increase in the number of officers allocated to 'community policing' and he was told that the increase in policing patrols was much appreciated.

It had been noticed that a speed monitor had been in position on the main street and the inspector said that speed traps could be expected in the near future. Speed checking can now be carried out not only traffic police but also officers in ordinary patrol cars, unmarked car and foot patrols.

The problem of residents in Cummington parking on the pavement is much improved and people should be reminded that the pavements should be left unobstructed.

Action was ongoing to reduce the disturbance in the woods and at the caravan site. Members reported that this action appeared to be bearing fruit.

Several complaints had been received regarding parking in the lanes. Inspector Alistair Robertson said that the police had no enforcement powers on this matter and that it was a matter to be resolved between residents. On the matter of access by the emergency services he said that fire engines "will get through".

The meeting was told that the call centre at Bucksburn was still improving and members stated that some residents had had improved service but that there were still some shortcomings.

Inspector Alistair Robertson left the meeting.

Adoption of minute of previous meeting:

Proposed by: Johnny Gordon.

Seconded by: Ken Ward.

Matters Arising

Burghead Amenities Association.

Following the visit of Mr. John Foster, chairman of the Burghead Amenities Association, the Community Council hoped that further meetings to be held would assist in reinvigorating the Burghead Amenities Association project and hopefully bring extra facilities to the town.

School Buses.

The problem of the school buses stopping on the junction by the bowling green appears to be solved with drivers only stopping there very occasionally.

Harbour Shelter.

After requesting quotes for the work to install a ceiling in the harbour shelter it was decided to award the contract to William 'Jakey' Mackenzie who has offer to do the work just for the cost of materials.

Textile Recycling.

Textile recycling bins are now in place. One is sited within the school building and the other is located alongside the other recycling bins on Station Road. This facility is expected to bring a small income, (£25 per tonne), into the community.

Roads and Signage Problems.

No response has yet been received from the roads department regarding the parking problems and the condition of some of the road signs. The secretary was instructed to chase up this matter.

Lighting and Youth Shelter at the Playing Fields.

No response on this matter had been received and Marie Slater was to contact David Millar to attempt to get the project moving.

Community Council Funding.

Councillor Allan Wright informed the Community Council that meetings were to be held within The Moray Council regarding the future funding of Community Councils and local area forums. Currently the Community Council receives a grant of £592 per annum from The Moray Council for administration. This sum is calculated by a set sum and 2p per resident. This allocation has been unchanged for several years.

Community Council Boundaries.

Information had been received that there were plans to redefine the Community Council boundaries. Representation had been made to The Moray Council and to the Electoral Commission to express the Community Council's opposition to any amalgamation of Community Council areas. The Community Council was assured that the boundary changes were a 'tidying-up exercise' and that there were no current plans to align Community Council areas with the enlarged multi-member local authority voting wards.

AOCB

Community Council Elections.

The chairman reminded the meeting that the next elections were due this October. It is expected that there will be a publicity drive to encourage residents to nominate themselves for election. The Community Council is a link between local residents and those who run our local services. Anyone over the age of 16 who lives within Burghead or Cummington is eligible to stand for election.

Moray Housing Partnership Housing, Sigurd Street.

Alastair Mackenzie raised a question over the security and behaviour of certain people on the strip of land behind the houses at the top left of Sigurd Street and the Red Craig Site. The secretary was instructed to write to Clair Bradley of the Moray Housing Partnership to investigate why gates and fencing had not been installed by the housing association.

Public Toilets at Cummington.

It was noted that work was in progress to replace the public toilets at the Cummington play area. It was hoped that the new facility would be complete by the middle of April.

Local Area Forums.

Information had been received that the local area forums were to concentrate on reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and dog fouling. The chairman welcomed this decision because, for some time, the forums had been seen as simply duplicating the work of Community Councils.

Police Surgeries.

It had been noticed that the police and community wardens had been holding surgeries in local communities. The Community Council welcomed this liaison between the police and residents but felt that there was still no better way of engaging with the public than having 'bobbies on the beat'. The secretary was asked to contact Grampian Police to establish the response to this initiative.

Seagulls at the Cemetery, Burghead.

Johnny Gordon again raised the issue of seagulls at the Cemetery. Notices have been erected to warn visitors of the hazard and Moray Councillor David Stewart agreed to investigate the possibilities of reducing the problem.

Signage at the Red Craig Junction.

It was again noted that the visibility of the road sign at the Red Craig junction, particularly at night. The secretary would raise this point when he reminded the roads department of other issues in the town.

Overgrown area near Green Brae, Cummington.

It was noted that an area of land by the old refuse tip at Green Brae was becoming particularly overgrown. As this was not deemed to be causing any road safety issues and was on private land the Community Council felt that there was no further action that it would, or should, take at this time.

Fencing behind Burghead Maltings.

The fencing along the old railway line continues to be in such a state of disrepair that it is now becoming dangerous. There previously have been disputes over ownership of this piece of land and Moray Councillor David Stewart agreed to investigate further.

Litter.

Comment had been made by visitors to the area on the cleanliness of the local street. The Community Council voiced a hearty vote of thanks to Jim Kelman, the street cleaner, for his sterling work in difficult circumstances.

Dog Fouling (Again).

It was noted that there is still a major problem with dog fouling in all areas. The Moray Council are unlikely to provide more dog bins or replace those that are damaged. Dog owners are reminded that dog excrement, in plastic bags, may be placed in any litter bin or should be taken home and deposited in the green domestic waste bucket. A particular problem had been noticed in the woods where excrement was being put into plastic bags and then left on the ground or even hung on trees. This simply ensures that the mess remains in place for longer. Dog owners are requested to be considerate of other residents and clean up after their pets.

Clarkly Hill.

The secretary informed the meeting that he had tendered a formal complaint to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) regarding its perceived inaction over the fly-tipping at the Clarkly Hill. A response from the local manager told that the issue was still receiving attention and would be more closely monitored.

Being no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting Thursday 2nd April 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.

DRAFT