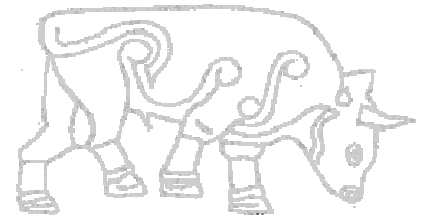


# Burghead and Cummington Community Council



## Minute of regular meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Allan Wright, Inspector Alistair Robertson.

**In Attendance:** Councillor David Stewart.

### **Adoption of minute of previous meeting:**

With 2 minor corrections the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of events.

**Proposed by:** Mollie Fraser.

**Seconded by:** Ken Ward.

### **Matters Arising**

#### Police Response Time.

John Main reported that during the last week he had cause to telephone the police call centre to report 3 people drunk and urinating in full view of children at the playing fields. He stated that it was just over an hour before police attended. The car drove slowly past the scene and then headed out of town without even contacting the complainant. However, Chris Tuke informed the meeting that following a street brawl the previous night the police were there within 10 minutes and the slow response may have been due to a matter of priorities due to chronic police understaffing.

#### Burghead Amenities Association.

Chris Tuke said that he had attended 2 meetings between officials from Burghead Amenities Association, Burghead Community Hall, Burghead Thistle, Burghead United and the Burghead Sub Aqua Club. There was talk between the interested parties but no firm outcome. The parties did agree to work together, in the future, for the good of the town and also agreed to hold another public consultation exercise to ascertain the community's feeling for the use of the old station yard site.

#### Harbour Shelter.

The new ceiling is now in place in the harbour shelter. Gratitude was expressed to Jake Mackenzie for his labour and to Tulloch of Cummington for providing the materials. Both time and materials were provided free of charge. The secretary was instructed to write letters of thanks to both parties. The secretary said that he had received a bill for £90 for the annual ground rent for the site which would need to be paid from the shelter maintenance fund but, more positively, he had also received a letter confirming that the non-domestic rates exemption would continue. This will save the Community Council £595.40 at the current rate.

#### Youth Shelter.

A meeting had been held in the Burghead bowling club between interested parties and David Millar, a youth worker from The Moray Council. Work is on-going to provide a lit shelter for young people and for lighting on the football field for use in the winter months.

#### Community Council Funding.

There was still no final decision from The Moray Council on the new system of funding for Community Councils and area forums. It has been mooted that the administrative grant could be cut slightly to £500 with a further £500 to be used, at the discretion of the Community Council, for local projects.

### Public Toilets at Cummington.

Mollie Fraser informed the meeting that the replacement public toilets at Cummington had now been connected up and that it was hoped that they would be opened very shortly.

### Police Surgeries.

The secretary had contacted the Grampian Police call centre to attempt to establish the number of people visiting the recent police surgeries in towns around the area. Unfortunately, this information was not available but it is believed that attendance was low. The Community Council was still of the opinion that residents would be much more likely to stop to chat with a police officer in the street than they would be to attend a set event.

### Dangerous Fence along Old Railway Track by Burghead Maltings.

Once again, the condition of the fence along the old railway line behind the maltings was raised. Councillor David Stewart agreed to investigate whether or not it could be removed as it is now very dilapidated and a danger to people walking and cycling past. Alastair Mackenzie suggested that The Moray Council write to Diageo regarding the problem. The secretary also suggested that he should also write to the manager with our concerns.

## **Correspondence**

### Car Park at Playing Fields.

It was disappointing to hear that the offer of funding from a third party towards the costs to level a car parking area at the playing fields had not come to fruition. Communication is still going on with the Forestry Commission to see if we can make progress on this project.

### Lanes in Burghead.

The secretary had been in contact with The Moray Council estates department to obtain clarification of the status of the lanes in Burghead. The answer stated that The Moray Council legal department had no record of any 'asserted' or 'vindicated' rights of way over the lanes. The letter went on to say; "As the lanes have been in use for decades for providing access to and from houses adjoining the lanes there would be an 'implied' right of access to those houses from the lane even if there was no specific provision in their title deeds. This implied right of access would be **unlikely** to extend to a vehicular right of access and would **not** extend to a right to park vehicles."

This was translated as, a pedestrian right of way exists on all lanes but vehicle access and parking are a matter of negotiation between residents.

### Planning.

An e-mail had been received regarding alterations to the planning system. This was a long and rambling message and the only major point of interest appeared to be that the time limit for comments and objections to planning applications was to be raised from 14 to 21 days. Anyone requiring further information will find it on The Moray Council website.

## **AOCB**

### The Moray Council Expenditure.

John Main voiced appreciation for the concern by Councillor Allan Wright that had been reported in the press on some issues of excess expenditure by The Moray Council. The whole Community Council hoped that all future expenditure would produce the best value for council tax payers.

### Visit to Grampian Police Call Centre, Bucksburn.

A visit has been arranged to the call centre in Bucksburn for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. John Main, Alastair Mackenzie, Les Taylor and Ken Ward agreed to attend.

### Local Road Issues.

John Main, Alastair Mackenzie and Chris Tuke had recently met, in Burghead, with Mr. James Smith of The Moray Council road department. During his visit Mr. Smith the following problems were discussed:

1. The “school” sign at the top of the playing fields was to be removed. This was deemed to be too far from the school and had been superseded by the electronic signage.
2. The old “welcome to Burghead” sign, which blew down in recent gales, was to be replaced at the entrance to the town. Further discussion was had later in the meeting regarding the coat of arms.
3. Investigations were to take place to establish whether or not the piece of rough walkway up the Cemetery Brae could be tarred.
4. Mr. Smith noticed a sign by the cemetery which was dangerously low and promised to have it repositioned.
5. The dangerous bend chevrons at the Cemetery Brae, which were removed during building of Headland Rise, were to be replaced.
6. The direction signs at the Red Craig corner were to be replaced with reflective signs to help make the junction more obvious.
7. Thanks go to Peter Hizzett of MFJ Homes who agreed to alter his boundary wall slightly to allow the erection of a second “Welcome to Burghead” sign at the Red Craig corner.
8. Options to address continuing difficulties with parking on the Fraser Road / Firth View / St. Aethan’s Drive junction were to be investigated.
9. A speed limit review is expected in the near future. It is the intention of the Community Council, unless we hear major opposition, to call for a standard speed limit of 30mph from the coastguard station at the headland all the way through Burghead, Cummingston and Hopeman as far as the Golf Course.
10. Further discussion was had over the bus stop and zigzag markings at the school. Mr. Smith informed us that there were legal maximum dimensions for these markings. Moving the bus stop markings nearer to the bus shelter would create a space on the school boundary where 2 or 3 cars would be allowed to park. As it appeared that these changes would make the situation more dangerous, it was decided to leave things as they are at present.
11. A “bus stop” sign was requested to replace the one removed by vandals at the bus shelter by the school.

The representatives of the Community Council thanked Mr. Smith for his visit and congratulated him on his helpful manner.

### Burghead Coat of Arms.

The “Welcome to Burghead” sign which is due to be replaced displayed the town coat of arms. After discussion with The Moray Council and the Court of the Lord Lyon, (who is responsible for the control of Coats of Arms), it was established that the coat of arms belonged to the old Burghead Town and that there was no longer a right for it to be shown. Much research was put into this subject and the information proved to be correct. There was also no system to inherit from the Town Council.

To regain the right to display the coat of arms, a new petition would have to be submitted to the Lord Lyon at a cost of approximately £1,200. The Community Council would then be the trustee of the arms and would be able to authorise its use to interested parties.

Although the cost was considered to be bordering on exorbitant, it was unanimously decided to go ahead with the application. Information from the Lord Lyon leads us to believe that this will be a “relatively simple application which may be able to be fast-tracked”. However, the whole process is expected to take between one year and 18 months.

It was also decided to delay installation of the welcome signs until authorisation to display the coat of arms was obtained.

### Dead Ground Between Sigurd Street and the Grounds of the Red Craig.

Alastair Mackenzie raised the issue of this area of ground which appears to serve no purpose. It had been brought to his attention that the area was being used as a smoking and drinking den and there were concerns over the security of the properties. It was also noted that there were several similar areas particularly around developments which were initially built for public housing. The secretary would write to Clare Bradley of the Moray Housing Partnership to ascertain why this area of ground is left barren and to see if, and when, the fences and gates, which were originally proposed, would be installed.

Cummingston Rocks.

Mollie Fraser reported that the cliffs at Cummingston were extremely busy with climbers over the last month.

Parking on Pavements in Cummingston.

Johnny Gordon reported that there were still several drivers parking on the pavements in Cummingston. Although the Community Council appreciates that residents are trying to keep the roadway clear for traffic they are, in fact, causing a danger to pedestrians and wheelchair users by forcing them out into the road. Jim Patterson asked to be provided with copies of the 'polite parking tickets' which had been used before.

Bridge at Roseisle Maltings.

Councillor David Stewart informed the meeting that there had been discussion within The Moray Council regarding the removal of the bridge at Roseisle maltings. Opinions within Moray Council are divided and, as always, it comes down to money. The removal of the bridge and subsequent resurfacing was likely to cost in the region of £800,000. Councillor Stewart raised concerns over excess speed if the bridge was removed but the Community Council was unanimous in their opinion that the road would be much safer with the bridge removed.

5-a-side Goal Posts at the Playing Fields.

Chris Tuke said that he had been approached by a local resident who had suffered a nasty fall by tripping on the netting of the 5-a-side goal which had been left overlapping the path beside the bowling green. He was asked to ascertain ownership of the posts. Meantime, the goal posts have been stacked against the bowling green wall. Anyone using the equipment is requested to leave it in a safe and tidy state.

Being no further business the meeting was closed.

**Date of next meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.**

Chris Tuke  
Secretary

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

[www.thelocalchannel.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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.