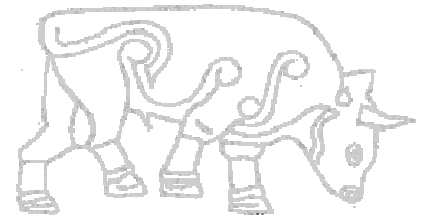


Burghead and Cummingston Community Council



Minute of regular meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on Thursday 7th May 2009

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

Apologies: Marie Slater, Jennifer Walker, Moray Councillor Eric McGillivray
Moray Councillor David Stewart.

In Attendance: Moray Councillor Allan Wright

Adoption of minute of previous meeting:

Proposed by: Les Taylor.

Seconded by: Ken Ward.

Matters Arising

Visit to Grampian Police Service Centre, Bucksburn.

John Main reported that he, Alastair Mackenzie and Ken Ward had visited the call centre at Bucksburn on Wednesday 8th April and that they were very impressed with the set-up. Although it is well known that there had been teething problems with the service, most of these were now resolved and the centre was functioning much more efficiently. The centre is staffed with up to 32 mainly civilian operators and handled an average of approximately 1700 calls per day. Calls are prioritised and analysed to find crime hotspots and best times to deploy officers to on-going problems.

Mollie Fraser raised the issue of motor cyclist once again using the cycle track along the old Burghead to Hopeman railway line. The advice to residents is to continue to report these incidents to the police so that an intelligence picture can be developed. John Main said that one example given by the call centre was that 3 people had recently been charged for using motor bikes in the woods. This had involved studying the likely times of future offences and sending officers to the scene when they would be most likely to apprehend the culprits. A helicopter was also used to assist in effecting these arrests.

A general concern was the lack of feedback to the public as to how incidents have been dealt with. The call centre explained that they did not have the resources to cope with this. It was agreed to ask the police representative, at his next visit, if details of local crimes and their results could be arranged on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Harbour Shelter.

The ceiling is now in place in the harbour shelter and the walls have been painted. The users of the shelter are very pleased with the work that has been done. Once again, thanks go to 'Jake' Mackenzie for his efforts.

Community Council Funding.

A cheque for £331.50 has been received from The Moray Council for the administration of the Community Council. This is less than last year because the year-end has been moved to October to align the grant period with that of the term of office of the Community Council.

Community Council elections are due this October and it is expected that a full year's administration grant will be made to the newly elected council.

Fence by Burghead Maltings.

John Main has been in contact with Frank Knight at The Moray Council reference the fence along the old railway line behind the maltings. Ownership of the fence and land in question is being investigated and Mr. Knight is to liaise with Diageo. John Main is also expecting to meet with the interested parties, on site, in an attempt to effect the removal of the fence which is now becoming quite a danger.

Traffic on Back Street, Cummington.

Jim Patterson raised the issue of the speed of traffic along Back Street, Cummington and requested that the Community Council asked The Moray Council to establish a 20mph zone. It was discussed that the road and lanes leading onto it are narrow and bounded by high walls making visibility difficult. Children also have to cross the street to get to the play area. After discussion of this idea and the installation of speed bumps, it was decided that the secretary would write to The Moray Council to request the installation of "Residential Access Only" signs.

Other Road Matters.

The post from the derelict dog bin by the old station yard had been removed and new reflective direction signs were now in place at the Red Craig Junction leading down Fraser Road.

Dead Ground Around Public Housing.

The secretary had written to Moray Housing Partnership and The Moray Council to ascertain the reason as to why these areas of dead ground were left around public housing. The Community Council's concerns were that these areas were likely to attract the dumping of waste, provided areas for illicit activity and gave easy access to the rear of properties for burglars. Moray Housing Partnerships response was that they would maintain the grass areas and that no incidents of trouble had been reported. A reply was still awaited from The Moray Council.

Public Toilets at Cummington.

The new toilets were now in place and operational. Mollie Fraser requested that self-closing mechanisms were installed Councillor Allan Wright agreed to look into the matter.

Parking on the Pavements in Cummington.

Several 'polite' parking notices had been delivered to vehicle owners asking that they left the pavements clear to allow passage of pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs. The Community Council understood that drivers were trying to help with the traffic flow but further dangers were being caused by footpath users being forced onto the road.

The situation is now much improved.

Bridge at Roseisle Maltings.

Councillor Allan Wright informed the meeting that there might have been an expectation that Diageo would fund the removal of the bridge as part of the planning consent. However, the council's transport department and the planning department were satisfied that there would be no extra traffic generated by the development and, therefore, there was no need for the removal of the bridge on those grounds. He went on to say that no community or planning gain had been sought from Diageo in relation to the construction of the new distillery. The Moray Council was now awaiting a report to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee which would allow it to make a decision.

Gypsy / Travellers Awareness session.

Ken Ward attended the awareness session on the 27th April and described it as "a waste of time". The police, who were intended to be in attendance, did not arrive and the whole session focused on how the general public's perception of travellers was all wrong. No discussion of illegal sites or concerns regarding public health and litter was allowed.

Thanks from Councillor McGillivray.

The secretary passed on thanks from Councillor Eric McGillivray for the card of sympathy which he had received from the Community Council on the recent death of his mother.

Area Forums.

Chris Tuke reported that he had seen the minutes of the latest Laich Area Forum AGM. Unfortunately, none of the positions of Chairperson, vice-chair, secretary or treasure was filled. The forum operated throughout its previous period of office without a vice-chair. Interest appeared to be very low and Chris Tuke said that he had proposed a resolution for the reconvened AGM that the forum should fold and any monies on account be distributed to local organisations. Councillor Allan Wright said that this was unlikely because the forum's constitution said that on dissolution any funds would return to The Moray Council.

The meeting is due to be held on Monday 1st June at 7pm in The Memorial Hall, Hopeman.

AOCB

Back Shore, Burghead.

John Main said that he had been approached by a number of residents asking that the track behind the seaward houses on Forteach Street be improved. As it is anticipated that the extension to the cycle path and/or long-distance footpath will be along the back shore, it is hoped that this should provide the required solution to the problem.

Other requests have been made for better access to the sandy beach and rock pools at the Back Shore. The secretary was instructed to write to Ian Douglas at The Moray Council to investigate the possibility of steps and/or a ramp being installed at the northern corner of the maltings. It was suggested that the community justice department could help with this project but building engineering expertise would be needed to cope with the forces of the sea.

Flower Committee Request for Volunteers.

John Main brought a request from his wife for volunteers to assist the Burghead Flower Committee. It was agreed that the committee do an excellent job but their numbers are few and aging. Also this year they have been unable to enter the Best Kept Village Competition because of lack of helpers. Help is particularly needed during the planting season. Again community service 'clients' were suggested and a request would be put to the Headmistress at Burghead Primary school to ask any pupils if they would be willing to assist.

It would be a shame if the town was to lose its floral display because of lack of manpower.

Anyone willing to offer any form of assistance should contact Elizabeth Main, Brooklyn, St. Aethan's Road on 835811 or at brooklynmain@aol.com.

31 Main Road, Cummington.

Jim Patterson raised concerns over a planning application to subdivide the plot at 31 Main Road, Cummington to allow 2 new houses to be built. Jim stated that rainwater from the roof was to be drained into soak-aways and that this would only exacerbate the subsidence problems suffered by residents on Back Street. Mollie Fraser noted that a similar proposal had been refused permission in 2005. Local residents had placed objections against the proposal and Jim Patterson wanted the Community Council to back up these representations. Chris Tuke said that he felt that this was a dispute between neighbours and not a concern of the Community Council but after further discussion particularly on the problems of subsidence over a wider area it was decided that the Community Council would register its interest as a statutory consultee. Due to the timescale of planning applications it would be necessary to convene an extraordinary meeting, once the plans had been received, to discuss this matter at greater length. The secretary said that he would be unavailable from Wednesday but would ensure that his wife passed on the plans to the chairman when they arrived.

Old Safeway Building, Elgin.

Councillor Allan Wright mentioned that it was to be announced the next day that The Moray Council had purchased the former Safeway supermarket at the Muckle Cross, Elgin. The intention, subject to 'change of use' planning consent, was to convert the building to office space. The advantages being that council staff would be more centralised and accessible and that other office building around the town could be sold off to defer costs. Councillor Wright, optimistically, hoped that the whole of the outlay would be offset by the sale of other properties.

Land Opposite Cemetery.

Chris Tuke informed the meeting that a resident had approached him regarding the land opposite the cemetery at the entrance to the Clarkly Hill. This subject has been discussed by this and previous Community Councils over many years. However, between them they found reasonably good references to this land in previous minutes. Chris Tuke had also found receipts from solicitors R. & R. Urquhart of Forres relating to legal fees and the registration of this land.

In the past Community Councils were not allowed to own property or land. It is believed that title to the land is held in trust by The Moray Council on behalf of what then was the Burghead, Cummington & Roseisle Community Council although, in the past it has denied any knowledge of this.

Now that the Community Council is allowed to hold title to land, it was thought best that investigations be made with a view to obtaining rightful possession. Although the land is of no major use or importance at present, in future it may be useful to help to straighten the dangerous bend in the road or, much further in the future, may become valuable to a property developer in which case the funds raised from its sale could be used for the benefit of the town.

The secretary was instructed to pursue further investigations with R. & R. Urquhart and with The Moray Council.

Being no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting Thursday 4th June 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.