

Minutes of Meeting of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council
Tuesday 19th May 2009 at 6.45 pm in the Library Activities Room

1. Present

Members:	Alastair Kennedy Murray Ross Anne Glover Richard Oakley	Donald McIntosh (Treasurer arr 19.02) George Littlejohn Morna Abernethy (until 19.50)
In Attendance:	Cllr Shand Cllr Sharp Mary Dow (Minutes)	Cllr Jarvis Inspector Mowat (until 19.02)
Apologies:	Alex Macmillan (Chairman) Lewis Watson (Youth Rep) Glenis Oakley Cllr Russell	Bryan Watson (Vice Chair) Harry Torry Cllr Divers Cllr Leadbitter

In view of the absence of both Alex Macmillan and Bryan Watson, Alastair Kennedy offered to Chair the meeting – no objections were raised. Alastair Kennedy welcomed Mary Dow as the new Community Council Minutes Secretary.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 7th April 2009

The following corrections were proposed and approved for previous minutes of 7th April 2009.
9c - Should read “The Roads and Transportation Group are still concerned about the 30mph zones on the A96 East and West City extremities.

With these corrections recorded, the previous minutes were approved as accurate.

Proposed: Murray Ross Seconded: Anne Glover

3. Matters Arising from 7th April 2009

9a. Car Sales on verges of A96. George Littlejohn reported that the number of cars parked on the verges of the A96 was getting back to where it was previously. Alastair Kennedy agreed to speak again with Theresa Ruggeri regarding this matter.

9b. Deanshaugh Playing Fields. Alastair Kennedy advised that the Audit was still continuing and as such there was nothing at present to report.

9c. Speed bumps on South Street. Update at next meeting.

5. Traffic on Plainstones. Alastair Kennedy asked Inspector Mowat if Traffic Wardens now had the authority to issue tickets to unauthorised vehicles using the Plainstones outwith permitted times. Inspector Mowat advised that he believes they are still awaiting authority from the Local Authority which could take some time. He also advised that Traffic Wardens have been liaising with CCTV.

10 Correspondence No. 4 Alastair Kennedy believed that the letter received from Gordon Holland thanking the Road and Transportation committee for their work should

have been flagged up at the last meeting. It highlights how important their work is and Alastair said they are doing a wonderful job.

12i. Signage for the Tourist Information Centre. Following a discussion, it was felt that signage for the Tourist Information Centre was inadequate. Murray Ross advised that at a meeting held with Alistair Campbell and the Scottish Tourist Board it was agreed that signage would be in place for the move. He did not feel that the flags on lamp posts on the A96 were adequate, he felt they were too small and too high up. George Littlejohn advised that concerns were raised to both Alistair Campbell and the provisional Manager for the Tourist Authority regarding lack of parking on busy days, and he still has these concerns. He also felt that the sign at the back of the Library should to be far bigger and that multi signage from the Centre of the City was absolutely necessary to get people to the Tourist Information Centre. Alastair Kennedy agreed to progress these issues with the Chairman and Cllr Russell.

4. Police Business & Terrorism Update

Inspector Mowat had nothing to report. Alastair Kennedy asked if it was still appropriate for Community Councils to have Terrorism on their Agenda. Inspector Mowat advised that he did not have anything specific to say about Terrorism at this meeting, however, this should remain on the Agenda to keep it in the public domain.

5. Bypass Steering Group

Cllr Jarvis advised that Larry Easton took a motion to the STUC who voted unanimously in favour of having a Bypass and improvements of the A96.

6. Deanshaugh Playing Field

Covered in matters arising 3. 9b above.

7. Young Citizen Certificates

Morna Abernethy and Anne Glover were disappointed with the lack of interest shown and poor response received. They reported that there had only been 4 applications received of which they felt only two were eligible for the award. The press agreed to place another article regarding this and request for nominations to be sent by Friday 29th May 2009. Cllr Sharp agreed to chase nominations from Elgin High School at next Parent Council Meeting. Anne Glover advised that they were hoping to do presentation before the next meeting on 30th June 2009.

8. Community Planning – Local Area Forums

Alastair Kennedy advised that the Elgin North Area Forum feel that they have not been properly consulted on the planter erected at Morrision Road. Anne Glover had received a letter from Harry Torry on behalf of the Forum stating that they feel the planter at Morrision Road does not comply with the guidelines that the Community Council asked the Forum to adhere to. It was also felt that the idea behind the Forum helping with the project was to involve the community and that they had kept the Community Council up to date with the reason why there had been a delay in getting the project moving, this was due mostly to lack of time due to staff shortages and the Forum support staff being under tremendous pressure for more than a year and they were concerned that with the changes coming the Forum might lose this support.

The Forum also felt that if the Community Council do not wish to continue with the original planter design and theme they would withdraw from the project.

Alastair Kennedy advised that he had spoken to Harry Torry recently and had himself or any other member attended the last Forum meeting they could have explained the situation. He also pointed out that the planter at Morrision Road was the original idea for that particular area.

George Littlejohn stated that Harry Torry had been present at the Community Council meetings in January, February and April 2009 when it was explained that we had the opportunity to go ahead and start one of the planters and so we took this opportunity. The design was accepted by Lands and Parks and as explained at previous meetings that was the design we felt should possibly be adopted for all other entrance ways due to the cost, ease of build and ease of movement.

Murray Ross advised that he had attended the Elgin South Area Forum on the 21st April 2009 and updated them on the progress of the Beautification Scheme and they were delighted with the situation. Murray Ross also advised that he was disappointed with an e:mail the Committee had received from Harry Torry advising that the Elgin North Forum do not receive the minutes of the Community Council meetings. Murray Ross stated that he had requested a copy of the North Forum's minutes and has yet to receive these, and if members do not receive details of the Forum's meeting dates they cannot attend. The e:mail also stated that a meeting will be arranged as soon as a co-ordinator was identified. Murray Ross felt that Harry Torry could have represented the Community Council at the Forum by putting forward their case. Murray Ross thanked the press for their coverage of the Beautification Scheme.

George Littlejohn mentioned that following a request from Harry Torry for the Committee to look at Lady's walk, this was arranged through Lands and Parks and this was completed within a week. Harry Torry also asked the Committee to look at the parking arrangements around the Old Bishop Mill, which was carried out immediately, and when the report was received from Mr James Smith, the information was passed onto Harry Torry. In view of this George Littlejohn also felt that the e:mail received from Harry Torry was totally wrong.

Alastair Kennedy agreed to write to the Chair of the Elgin North Area Forum to make quite clear the case presented. This motion was agreed by all.

Donald McIntosh thought that once the planter was in bloom it would like very nice. He was however concerned about the grey metal cabinets and wondered if a shrub could be placed in front of these. It was advised that these were control boxes for an Information Board that was to be installed by Bear Scotland. George Littlejohn felt that the planter would be an asset to the area and Murray Ross advised that this was taken into consideration at the time.

9. Community Engagement Fund - Consultation

Alastair Kennedy advised that a proposal had been received for engagement regarding resourcing and funding of the Community Councils and Forums. Alastair Kennedy to ensure that all members are sent details and he urged all members to give their thoughts to these changes as he felt it would have a fair impact on the Community Council.

A discussion took place with regard to funding and resourcing and George Littlejohn stated that he would not like to see the Community Councils role diminished in any way as it has a definite place in our society within the City of Elgin.

Murray Ross felt that the North and South Forums in Elgin seem to have to go through a Support Worker to get work done and he felt that they should be doing things themselves. Alastair Kennedy advised that Councillors attend the Community Council meetings and if issues are raised they kindly take them forward on their behalf.

A further discussion took place regarding the difference between Community Councils and Forums and whether there was an overlap. Alastair Kennedy advised that Forums were introduced to look at strategic issues whereas the Community Council look at and deal with parochial, day-to-day issues.

Alastair Kennedy advised that he will be attending a meeting shortly with the Vice Chair of the Joint Community Council and the Moray Forum Chair and Vice Chair to discuss the consultation document and he will keep members updated.

10. Mosaic on Plainstones

Anne Glover reported on behalf of Harry Torry that concerns were raised at the Elgin North Area Forum regarding the damage on the mosaic on the plainstones and were asking if this could be moved to prevent further damage and to preserve the mosaic. Members discussed the possibility of putting this on a wall, but it was agreed that this was not designed to go on a wall and should remain in place. Anne Glover agreed to take forward and discuss options with Moray Council.

11. Committee Reports

- a) **Planning.** Alastair Kennedy reported that he is now in possession of the plans for the erection of a wind turbine at Tesco's. He advised that it was like a vertical turbine rather than a windmill and looks very innovative. He also advised that the Chairman may have concerns regarding this but he felt that Tesco could not have sited this anywhere else and that they would need to be careful in their response due to their call for innovative renewable energy. The electricity produced would not cover the amount of usage but it will still keep the carbon footprint down. Donald McIntosh had received a comment regarding the wind turbine being a distraction for traffic on the roundabout being so close to the filling station. Alastair Kennedy said he would take that comment on board. Alastair Kennedy also confirmed that information had been received regarding e:planning.
- b) **Recreation, Leisure & Environment.** Anne Glover advised that herself and Morna Abernethy attended a meeting in the Town Hall regarding Gypsy Travellers. Although they enjoyed the meeting they did not feel it was as useful as they were hoping. George Littlejohn mentioned that Travellers have now moved in between the Railway and the Old Saw Mill which he did not believe was an official site. Anne Glover reported that there was not an official site for Travellers in Elgin and that there was nothing that could be done to move them. Anne Glover advised that comments had been made regarding the rubbish in the pond at Cooper Park. She confirmed that this is cleared out every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Anne Glover also mentioned that there were broken glass and beer bottles around the skate park. Cllr Jarvis advised that at a recent anti social behaviour meeting the skate park was discussed and that the Police have been into the area to crack down on the youths who are causing issues. He also advised that attendees of the meeting were trying to find ways to help manage the youths from within the Elgin area and that CLD are there on Friday and Saturday nights to ensure the youths are behaving themselves and they are currently looking at ways of

improving the lighting in the area through the Health or Community Safety fund. Alastair Kennedy advised that Mark Watt is at the skate park whenever he can to pick up rubbish and hopefully there will be some help available to him. The Community Council will keep an eye on things. Anne Glover mentioned a letter that was published in the Press & Journal from a foreign holiday maker stating they could not believe that people were allowed to sit on the steps of the Church drinking and smoking. She advised that since the youths have been moved on this area is a lot cleaner.

- c) Roads & Transportation. George Littlejohn reported that the Transportation Service are looking at temporarily closing Academy Street from Moray Street to Maida Place and restricting this to 'Except for Access'. He advised that the Roads and Transportation Committee were happy with this. He also advised that they have been asked to consider putting in a proposed 7.5 tonne maximum gross weight restriction on the ancient bridge off Morrision Road coming down onto Old Mills Road. He advised that they are in agreement with this proposal. Murray Ross reported that the Committee had met with the Manager, Martin Reynolds and Martin Cole of Tesco's to discuss the ongoing problems of entering and exiting the store car park onto the roundabout. Since that meeting George Littlejohn has spoken with Mr Reynolds who confirmed that this has been passed to their Head Office. Murray Ross advised that if they do not receive a response from Mr Cole they would take this up directly with Head Office. They had also met with Marnie Ritchie and Craig Smith of Asda regarding raising the manhole cover on the existing store car park and were assured that this would be done, a letter was also sent to the Manager, copy for correspondence. Murray Ross advised that he had attended the Transport Focus Group meeting and various transport issues within the City of Elgin were discussed. He will update the Community Council when the minutes have been received. The Roads and Transportation Committee had also met with Grant Speed of Moray Council Lands and Parks Department. They discussed the construction of the planter on the A96 and the Bear sign being erected. Murray Ross advised that the planter would be colourful in winter and summer which would take the look away from the Bear Sign. He also advised that they can now go ahead and get other planters constructed through Lands and Parks at the same cost as the one erected on the A96. They will be approaching local shops in the area for the donation of plants and help to plant them from local Forums, schools etc. Murray Ross reported that the Roads and Transportation Committee had met with Elaine Penny, Moray Council Roads Engineer to discuss the proposed pedestrian refuge and removal of 3 parking bays outside the Co-op store at Pansport. He advised that they strongly object to the refuge as they feel there are adequate crossings. They also feel that removing 3 parking bays would take customers away from the store. George Littlejohn advised that this will be raised at the meeting arranged with the Transportation office on Friday 22nd May 2009 and the outcome will be fed back to the Community Council at the next meeting. Murray Ross also stated that the Roads and Transportation Committee met with James Smith and Diane Anderson of the Transportation office and discussed the planters. They asked if it was possible for us to consult with them before constructing any more and we agreed that we would ask Lands and Parks to consult with Roads before construction in order to get the planters up and running as soon as possible. Murray Ross and George Littlejohn had met with Bob Mcleod of Springfield Properties who confirmed that they would construct two planters on the A941 coming into Elgin from Rothes and also one on the A96 coming in from Lhanbryde. George Littlejohn advised that the meeting arranged for Friday 22nd May 2009 with Gordon Holland and Richard Gerring would cover a wide range of transportation matters and a full report of the outcome of this meeting will be given to the Community Council at the next meeting.

Alastair Kennedy suggested that the Roads and Transportation Committee speak to Cllr Russell regarding the planters on a Tourism theme and obtain his support. George Littlejohn advised that the committee were looking at asking support from the Common Good Fund as this project was going to benefit the entire City of Elgin and the Tourist industry.

12. Correspondence

The following correspondence was presented and members were invited to read the following submitted documents:

1. e Planning & e Consultation System – Alastair Kennedy to take forward
2. Minutes of Elgin Town Centre Benevolent Trust – 23rd April 2009
3. Northern Textiles Info – nothing collected this time
4. BMA Scotland Consultation on General Practice – Comments by 12th June 2009.
5. Letter from Roads and Transportation Committee to Mr Byars, Asda

13. Treasurer Report

Donald McIntosh distributed copies of the financial statement. Donald McIntosh advised that £2,000 had been received from Grampian Police. Alastair Kennedy advised that this was for the beautification of Lady Hill and the money is to be transferred to the Elgin Fund. The statement of account at 16th April 2009 number 1 account = £1175.12. Donald McIntosh advised that since the statement was received a grant of £515.00 had been received from Moray Council. On 20th April 2009 number 2 account = £5181.48. Murray Ross advised that invoices for the Beautification Scheme would be arriving shortly. Donald McIntosh to forward an Expense form to Anne Glover.

14. AOCB

- a. Murray Ross advised that he will be attending the Environmental Law Centre Scotland Common Good Seminar in Lhanbrde on 13th June 2009 and will claim back costs at a future date. Alastair Kennedy advised that he would also like to attend this Seminar and agreed to forward details of this to all elected members as he felt it would be of interest to them.
- b. Murray Ross reported that following previous concerns regarding litter at M&S, he has been in touch with the Manager who has since been in discussion with Grant Wilson of Moray Council. Leaflets regarding cost of bins have been sent to M&S and it was suggested that a bin be placed at the back door and also at the lamp post on entering the car park. Murray Ross confirmed that Grant Wilson was also looking into moving the litter bins situated at Ladyhill car park.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting of City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council will be held on Tuesday 30th June 2009 at 1845 in Elgin Library Activities Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.