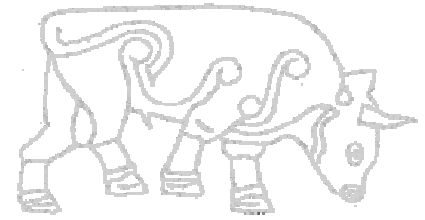


# **Burghead and Cummington** **Community Council**



## **Minute of regular meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

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

**Apologies:** Les Taylor

**In Attendance:** Moray Councillor Allan Wright, Moray Councillor David Stewart, Kenneth Ross (Burghead Boat Club).

The chairman suspended the meeting to allow Kenneth Ross from the Burghead Boat Club to address the meeting.

Mr. Ross stated that he had been in contact with The Moray Council and was less than impressed with their response to his requests. Mr. Ross said that the boat club now had 22 members and that their pressure on the local authority had led to improved signage and upgraded steps to be installed. However, he stated that there was still much to do to give the harbour a general face-lift, improve the electrics and to improve its viability as a working port. He was also disappointed to see that the vast majority of harbour spending was going to Buckie with little left over for the smaller harbours.

Mr. Ross had reacted to requests from harbour users to install a fuel bowser by investigating its viability. He had approached suppliers, oil companies and other local authorities who were all helpful. However, on making contact with Moray Enterprise to gain funding he said that he had been stone-walled and was told that they were "not interested".

Mr. Ross had also been in contact with Diageo who stated that they would consider using any ship of 1,100 tonnes or greater in any harbour.

It was decided to invite Richard Lockhead MSP and Stewart Halkett, head of development services at The Moray Council to the meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

Mr. Ross left and the chairman resumed the meeting.

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

**Proposed by:** Mollie Fraser.

**Seconded by:** Ken Ward.

### **Matters Arising**

#### Harbour Shelter.

Johnny Gordon informed the meeting that no payment had been made for painting and the installation of the ceiling. No request for payment had been received however, it was decided that a sum of £150 should be given and those involved in doing the work could then decide how the money was allocated.

#### Fencing by Burghead Maltings.

Still no response had been forthcoming from The Moray Council regarding this issue. Councillor Allan Wright agreed to follow the matter up with Mr. Frank Knight.

A general discussion followed on the slow or total lack of response to communications addressed to council employees. The Community Council agreed that there were some very efficient and helpful officers at the local authority but in general the service provided appeared to fall far below expectations.

### Back Street, Cummingston.

James Smith from The Moray Council had placed a traffic sensor on Back Street, Cummingston to monitor traffic movement. The average traffic flow was 7 vehicles eastbound and 10 westbound with an average speed of 15.65mph. Jim Patterson had been in contact with Mr. Smith and acknowledged that in any normal street this would be acceptable. However, Back Street presents danger by its narrowness and particularly from the high-walled lanes on the south side entering directly onto the road without any pavements. Residents living on Back Street are aware of the problems but visitors are not. Jim had done a "risk assessment" at work which showed a moderate to high risk and argued that The Moray Council was responsible to improve safety. It was agreed that Jim Patterson would continue to encourage the roads department to erect "Residential Access Only" signs and further sign posts directing traffic along Seaview Road to the beach, cliffs and play area.

### Public Toilets at Cummingston.

Councillor Allan Wright was surprised to hear that the self-closing mechanisms had not yet been installed on the toilet doors. He would chase the matter up.

### The Laich Forum.

Chris Tuke reported that the attendance at the Laich Forum was still disappointing. The forum support worker had made a presentation to the Hopeman Association and sent out around 150 invitations to local groups and individuals who had previously attended. 13 people were at the meeting, 4 were directly employed by the council, 4 were regular attendees attached to local committees, 2 representatives from Burghead Community Hall and there were 3 individual residents. The turnout was higher than normal due to the presentation about funding and the offer of refreshments afterwards. The forum has been running for approximately 5 years with the 1 to 2 private citizens attending on average. It has long been this Community Council's opinion that the forum was not wanted or needed and would just become another talking shop for self-interested groups and consume tax-payers money for no benefit. This appears to have been what has happened.

The last meeting was chaired by a 'forum support worker' employed by The Moray Council. The views of Burghead and Cummingston Community Council were made known and were supported by the Hopeman Association. However, without a vote, it was decided that a further attempt be made to resurrect the flagging group. Quite how this will be achieved, if 150 invites and the offer of money and tea and pieces failed, we wait to see.

No date was set for the next meeting.

### Burghead Floral Committee.

The Burghead Floral Committee were pleased to receive offers of assistance from 2 gentlemen. Work can now continue planting this year's display and the

Kipper Barbeque will go ahead on 26<sup>th</sup> July at the Harbour.

### Back Shore, Burghead.

Chris Tuke had received an e-mail response from Ian Douglas at The Moray Council. The council claim that it has no "control or ownership" over the area in question. The area of ground is probably owned by the Young Trust and although a dead-end has been reached, the matter will be revisited in the future.

### 31 Main Road, Cummingston.

At a special meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May it was agreed that the Community Council would not raise objections to this application on planning ground. However, there were still serious concerns regarding the drainage in this area. It was agreed that Jim Patterson would contact Scottish Water to investigate whether improvements could be made to the drainage for the whole of the north side of the village.

Councillor Allan Wright also informed the meeting that he would ensure that Scottish Water and SEPA were consulted over this application.

### Resumption of Burghead Gala.

Gordon 'Gogs' Moir has been speaking for some time about resurrecting the town gala in Burghead. Gogs, who had done a good bit of background work and gather a fair amount of support, had been invited to the meeting of the Burghead Amenities Association on 14<sup>th</sup> May where there was overwhelming support for the idea. There was discussion on forming a central committing and pooling and dividing fund etc. Gog's idea is to co-ordinate the timings and allow individuals, groups, businesses and organisations to control and run their own events. At a meeting in the Community Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> May a draft timetable was arranged with several events, including a street party, proposed. The timings are, as yet, uncertain but it is intended that the gala will cover at least **Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August.**

A further meeting has been arranged in the Community Hall at 8pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

### Sport Hall at Forest Park.

The secretary had received an update from Burghead Thistle regarding the proposed sports facility. The club is attempting to steer its way through the nightmare of the funding system in order to obtain some cash for the project. Unfortunately, at present, no funds have been forthcoming but it is early days and there are still several other avenues to explore.

A meeting was held in mid-May to raise awareness and gain support although only 2 people turned up. On a more positive note, plans are being arranged and drawn up by Tulloch of Cummingston at no charge, planning permission is being investigated some trees have already been felled.

### Dog Fouling – an Official Policy.

It appears that The Moray Council now has an official dog fouling policy a copy of which is displayed in the library. The document explicitly states that;

1. Warnings will no longer be given,
2. Only **one** witness will be needed to secure a conviction,
3. Anyone taking 2 clear steps away after the incident will be deemed to have shown "clear intention not to remove the faeces" and could therefore be charged by a police officer, community warden or animal services officer,
4. Not being in possession of 'poop-bags' after the event would similarly show "clear intent",
5. A fixed penalty fine of £40 will apply,
6. Fine will increase to £60 in not paid within 28 days,
7. After a further 7 days the matter will be referred to the procurator fiscal for prosecution.
8. Guide dogs are exempt.

Hopefully this stronger enforcement will help alleviate the problem of dog fouling. However, we will still need to see some of the authorised officers in the town to carry out the policy.

### Slow Internet Broadband Speeds.

John Main had received several complaints from residents regarding the speed of the broadband connections. Chris Tuke explained that he was under the impression that this was due to the physical distance from the Hopeman telephone exchange and no matter what download speeds customers were signed up to, they were unlikely to receive data much above 4Mbps (megs).

### Litter Bins at the Playing Fields, Burghead.

At last, after almost 2 years, the litter bins have been replaced at the playing fields. 3 large bins are now attached to lamp posts and the Community Council hope that they will be well used.

### Visibility at Junction at Forest Park, Burghead.

It had been noted that, although the verges had been cut, visibility was still impaired by shrubbery at the junction at Forest Park.

John Main would investigate with The Moray Council if further cutting could be carried out to improve road safety.

Planning Application at 1 Davidson Place, Burghead.

An application for change of use of adjacent ground at 1 Davidson Place from amenity ground to residential garden was discussed. It was thought that the ground in question is currently a car park. Although the car park is little used, there were concerns over the loss of this facility. Councillor Allan Wright stated that these concerns would be raised with both estates and planning.

Death of Ann Ross.

Moray Councillor David Stewart said that he was away for the funeral of the late Ann Ross and stated that she would be sadly missed by many residents and fund-raising groups. He wished his condolences sent to all friends and family. The Community Council echoed these thoughts.

Parking on Pavements in Burghead.

Marie Slater informed the meeting that she had received complaints from relatives of wheelchair-bound residents who were finding it difficult to navigate around the town due to vehicles parked on the pavements. The Community Council understand that car owners are trying to help the free movement of road traffic by parking on the pavements but it does make it very difficult for wheelchair user and people with push-chairs. A similar problem had been apparent in Cummington recently and the secretary would e-mail some copies of the 'polite parking tickets' which had been used there relatively successfully.

**AOCB**

Being no further business the meeting was closed.

**Date of next meeting Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7.30pm.**

**There is to be no meeting in August.**

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.