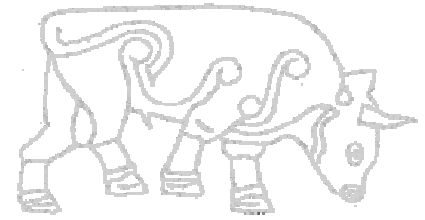


Burghead and Cummington **Community Council**



Minute of regular meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on Thursday, 2nd July 2009

Present: John Main (Chairman), Alastair Mackenzie, Les Taylor, Chris Tuke, Jennifer Walker, Ken Ward.

Apologies: Mollie Fraser, Johnny Gordon, Jim Patterson, Marie Slater, Moray Councillor David Stewart.

In Attendance: Moray Councillor Allan Wright, Jennifer Christison, Secretary Burghead Gala Committee.

The chairman suspended the meeting to allow Mrs. Christison to address the Community Council.

Mrs. Christison gave a short update on preparations being made for the revival of the Burghead Gala. After a late start, in May, good progress is being made. However, time is proving too short to overcome some of the bureaucratic hurdles. A street party was to be held on Sunday, 9th August on Granary Street with local bands playing live music. £250 would have been required for an entertainment licence and it would have cost £133 in fees to close off the street. Third party liability insurance will also be required. With only limited funding available, (each public house having donated £100), Jennifer made a request to the Community Council for a cash donation. The Community Council was of the opinion that better value for money would be obtained by holding the party on the Salmon Green or the grassed area near to the harbour and would be reluctant to donate money simply to see it given back over to The Moray Council to cover unnecessary and exorbitant fees.

The chairman told Mrs. Christison that the council would discuss the matter and inform her accordingly later that evening or the following day and all members wished her luck with her endeavour.

Although the program is still to be finalised,

The Burghead Gala will take place from Monday 3rd August until Sunday 9th August 2009

Mrs. Christison left and the chairman resumed the meeting.

Adoption of minute of previous meeting:

With the correction of the date of the previous meeting from 4th May to 4th June and an alteration of the item regarding visibility at the Roseisle Maltings crossroads so that the reference is to the junction at the Forest Park, Burghead, the minutes were adopted as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Proposed by: Ken Ward.

Seconded by: Alastair Mackenzie.

Matters Arising

Harbour Improvements.

After last month's meeting with Mr. Kenneth Ross of the Burghead Boat Club invitations were sent to Mr. Richard Lockhead MSP and Mr. Stewart Halkett, head of development services at The Moray Council. (cont.)

Mr. Lockhead was 'unavailable' and Mr. Halkett offered a meeting with Gordon Holland, transportation manager, and Keith Stratton, harbours, both from The Moray Council. Due to the long term nature of these negotiations and the summer recess, it was decided to defer any further action to the newly elected Community Council in October.

Fencing by Burghead Maltings.

Councillor Allan Wright said that he had spoken to Frank Knight, environmental services, The Moray Council. It was established that the land did not belong to the council but Mr. Knight would revisit the issue with the hope being that council staff will be able to, at least, remove the dangerous old wire fencing.

Back Street, Cummington.

No action had been taken regarding "Residential Access Only" signs. The secretary said that he would contact Jim Patterson to ask him to follow up the matter.

Public Toilets at Cummington.

Councillor Allan Wright informed the meeting that the self-closing mechanisms were now in place on the doors of the Cummington toilets.

The Community Council were impressed that a job had been completed successfully.

The Laich Forum.

Councillor Allan Wright told council that the Laich Forum was now defunct and that no further measures would be taken to prolong existence. However, the forum may be resurrected in the future if there is enough public demand.

31 Main Road, Cummington.

Councillor Allan Wright said that both SEPA and Scottish Water had been made aware of this planning application.

No response had been received from Scottish Water regarding drainage in this area and the secretary said that he would contact Jim Patterson to ask him to follow up this problem also.

Visibility at the Junction by Forest Park, Burghead.

This problem was erroneously reported in last month's minutes as being at the Roseisle Maltings crossroads. A correction has been made to the previous minutes.

John Main had been in contact with the parks department who informed him that the verge cutting had been conducted to legal requirements and that they could see no problem. Mr. Main had revisited the site and agreed with their assessment. However, the chairman drives a car with an elevated seating position and other members of the Community Council considered the visibility at the junction to be considerably impaired when driving a vehicle of standard height.

The chairman said that he would re-raise the matter with the parks department.

1 Davidson Place, Burghead.

Councillor Allan Wright stated that The Moray Council had given approval for the resident at 1 Davidson Place to acquire the adjacent strip of land. There had initially been concern that the whole of the car park area was to be sold but that is not the case.

Alastair Mackenzie also suggested that the fence to the front of this car park would be better removed to allow easier access.

AOCB

Disturbed Bird in Woods Behind Forest Place, Burghead.

A resident had expressed concern to the chairman regarding children disturbing birds' nests and killing the chicks in the woods behind Forest Place. Mr. Main had reported the incident to the animal welfare officer at Grampian Police. The officer agreed with Mr. Main's suggestion that he visit the primary school to educate the pupils on wildlife and its care.

It is unclear as to whether or not criminal investigations are taking place.

Development at Headland Rise and Cromarty View.

A resident who has been in long-term communications with the planning department at The Moray Council had copied a letter to the chairman indicating that he will take his complaint all the way to the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman.

The grievance relates to planning alterations allegedly being mishandled and neighbourhood notification letters not being sent.

Scottish Executive Community Council Pilot Scheme.

Moray has been selected to operate a pilot project on behalf of the Scottish Executive whereby each Community Council area will be allocated the sum of £500 to promote recruitment and elections for Community Councils. Most Community Councils are expected to participate in the scheme.

Chris Tuke said that this was just the sort of money-wasting exercise against which we are constantly fighting. He said that he would hate to see the money spent just for the sake of it and that some method of benefitting the local community should be investigated. He suggested sponsoring the gala to the tune of £500 but Councillor Allan Wright intimated that this would not be acceptable. John Main suggested that the Community Council could design flyers for delivery to each household in the area and suggested that the Boys' Brigade could be employed, on similar terms to their Christmas card service, to deliver them. This proposition was accepted by all members present.

Donation to Burghead Gala.

After much discussion it was unanimously agreed to provide the Burghead Gala with £250 from Community Council funds to assist with expenses in their inaugural year. This money would need to be used to start a central fund which could be used to finance pre-event outlay and costs in future years. A majority of members present decided that it was prudent to make it a condition that this donation is used only for setup costs and not for paying fees to The Moray Council. The secretary was therefore instructed to prepare a letter to be sent to the Gala Committee with the money advising that, for this year, the suggested street party is held on one of the grassed areas to minimise costs.

Caravans and Awnings at Clarkly Hill Field, Burghead.

Alastair Mackenzie stated that he had had several complaints regarding an increase in the number of caravans and awnings at the field opposite the Forest Park. The area in question is deemed to be outwith our jurisdiction but, after further investigation, the secretary would write to planning with a copy going to Heldon Community Council.

Sea Wall at West Shore, Burghead.

Les Taylor re-raised a point that he had made the previous year regarding weed growth on top of the sea wall at the west shore. The secretary was instructed to contact the community service task supervisor to arrange for the foliage to be removed.

Community Council Elections.

The Moray Council will shortly be placing public notices in the press inviting nominations for candidates for Community Councils. A detailed timetable is on display in the Burghead Library. Anyone wishing to stand for election must be resident in the Community Council area and on the electoral roll. Nomination forms will be available from The Moray Council and must be returned by 4pm on Tuesday, 22nd September 2009.

If not enough candidates are nominated there will be no requirement for an election. If there are more applicants than seats available then a postal-only election will be held.

Being no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting Thursday, 3rd September 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.