

Minutes of Meeting of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council
Tuesday 30th June 2009 at 6.45 pm in the Library Activities Room

1. Present

Members: Alex Macmillan (Chairman) Donald McIntosh (Treasurer arr 19.00)
Alastair Kennedy Murray Ross
George Littlejohn Anne Glover
Harry Torry

In Attendance: Cllr Shand Cllr Russell
Inspector Mowat (until 19.10)
Mary Dow (Minutes)

Apologies: Bryan Watson (Vice Chair) Lewis Watson (Youth Rep)
Morna Abernethy Cllr Divers
Cllr Sharp Cllr Leadbitter

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 19th May 2009

The following corrections were proposed and approved for previous minutes of 19th May 2009 for clarification purposes.

3. 9a – Should read “Car sales on verges of A96 between Linkwood Way and Reiket Lane”.

8 – para 5, second sentence should read “Murray Ross pointed out that an e:mail was received by Roads and Transportation Committee from Harry Torry claiming the Elgin North Forum have not been kept informed regarding the Elgin Beautification Scheme. Sentence four should read “Murray Ross pointed out that the last forum update from September 2008 states. “The group taking forward this scheme is still finding it challenging to find someone to take on the co-ordination role. Also some of the sites highlighted for possible flowerbeds may be part of the proposed Elgin by-pass. A meeting will be arranged soon once a co-ordinator is identified”.

8 – para 6 first sentence– Should read “Lady’s Walk, this was arranged through Lands and Parks and this was completed promptly”. Second sentence should read “from Mr James Smith, Moray Council Roads and Transportation Dept”.

11 a – page 5 should read “Mike McWatt”.

11 b – third sentence should read “the Old Sawmill off Linkwood Road”.

11 c – first sentence should read “ Moray Council Roads and Transportation Department are looking at temporarily closing Academy Street from Moray Street to Maida Place and restricting this to ‘Except for Access’ as a trial”.

Sentence 7 should read “ manhole cover on the exiting lane from the store”.

Sentence 8 – should read “Murray Ross advised that he had attended the North Forum Transport Focus Group meeting held in the New Elgin Primary School Annex where various issues within the City of Elgin were discussed”.

Sentence 19 should read "James Smith and Diane Anderson of the Moray Council Roads and Transportation Department".

Sentence 20 should read " anymore planters".

Sentence 21 should read "Murray Ross and George Littlejohn had met with Bob McLeod of Springfield Properties who would then pass along to Sandy Adam CEO of Springfield Properties about our visit, asking Springfield if they were still willing to construct two planters on the A941 coming into Elgin from Rothes, also one on the A96 coming in from Lhanbryde for the Community Councils Beautification Scheme".

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

Proposed: George Littlejohn Seconded: Anne Glover

3. Matters Arising from 19th May 2009

9a. Car Sales on verges of A96 between Linkwood Way and Reiket Lane. Alastair Kennedy advised that no progress had been made and asked for this item to be carried forward to next meeting.

9b. Deanshaugh Playing Fields. Alastair Kennedy advised there was nothing to report at present.

5. Traffic on Plainstones. Inspector Mowat advised that Traffic Wardens would not be able to issue tickets to unauthorised vehicles using the Plainstones outwith permitted times as it would require a change in legislation; however he stated that Traffic Wardens could possibly issue non-enforceable conditional offers to such drivers under their current powers, but he will confirm this at the next meeting. Anne Glover advised that she had seen Disabled Badge holders park on the Plainstones. The Chairman advised that providing they were not causing an obstruction then they were allowed to park virtually anywhere. Inspector Mowat advised that he was not aware of this being a problem but would look into the issue and update at the next meeting.

12i. Signage for the Tourist Information Centre. The Chairman advised that this was now known as a Visitor Information Centre and not Tourist Information Centre. Cllr Russell advised that he had spoken to Alistair Campbell, the Museums and Libraries Manager, regarding a finger signpost missing from the Plainstones and advised that Mr Campbell had agreed to look into this. Cllr Russell also stated that information was needed on the notice board on the Plainstones with the possibility of a map pointing the way to the Visitor Information Centre. Murray Ross asked if the map at the Railway Station had been updated. Cllr Russell advised that Moray Council were in discussions with the advertising agents regarding this. It was agreed that a review should be carried out with regard to all notice boards.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that George Littlejohn and Murray Ross would compile a list of recommendations required and pass to Anne Glover for action.

10. Mosaic on Plainstones. Anne Glover to update at next meeting.

11a. Alastair Kennedy advised that the wind turbine to be erected at Tesco's was discussed at previous meeting and it was felt that there was no valid comment to make. The Chairman confirmed that he had reservations with regard to the distraction that it may cause to traffic. Alastair Kennedy confirmed that it was back from the filling station.

12.1 Correspondence. Alastair Kennedy advised that he was in the process of arranging training with regard to e:Planning.

12.4 Correspondence. Anne Glover confirmed that she had made some comments on the BMA Scotland Consultation on General Practice, although this was more for medical staff than community issues.

14.a Common Good Seminar Murray Ross and Alastair Kennedy had both attended the Seminar and found it to be useful. Murray Ross advised that the proceeds from the sale of Common Good Land should be credited to the Common Good Fund.

4. Police Business & Terrorism Update

Harry Torry asked Inspector Mowat if the Police were planning to step up their anti-vandalism patrols during the summer holidays. Inspector Mowat advised that there has been no noticeable increase in vandalism across Elgin and figures are continuing to fall. Inspector Mowat advised that there would be increased vigilance during this time.

5. Bypass Steering Group

Cllr Russell reported that Gordon Holland and Richard Gerring, have met twice with Transport Scotland as a follow on from the Ministerial discussions. They will meet the Minister again in late August. Cllr Russell advised that he has received an e:mail from Gordon Holland confirming that Transport Scotland has enlisted the help of Jacobs Transport Consultants who are familiar with Elgin traffic issues and have attended each meeting. The e:mail also advised that David Anderson, Transport Scotland, has passed onto Jacobs the letter received from George Littlejohn last Dec/Jan regarding the Community Council's views on traffic improvements required in Elgin. The aim is to conclude the process by the end of the summer, as requested by the Minister.

6. Consultation Issues

- a) A discussion took place regarding the Consultation of a pilot scheme whereby Community Councils would each receive £500 to promote Community Council Elections. Alastair Kennedy advised that the Joint Community Council were in favour of taking part in the pilot and a suggestion was made that each Community Council pay £100 into a central fund which would be administered by the Joint Community Council to carry out a Moray wide awareness campaign.

Alastair Kennedy advised that he had spoken with John Curry from the Northern Scot regarding proposals and prices for advertising.

The Chairman suggested having an Open Evening to give people the opportunity to meet their Community Councillors and encourage people to stand for their local Community Council. Murray Ross offered to do posters/fliers and if any member has any ideas please pass these on to him.

It was unanimously agreed to apply for the £500 funding and for £100 to be passed to the Joint Community Council to run a Moray wide campaign. The Chairman to complete necessary paperwork by 17th July 2009.

- b) Boundary Consultation. The Chairman requested comments on this document which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Boundary changes were unanimously agreed. The Chairman to respond.
- c) Proposed review of opening hours on Births/Deaths and Marriages. The Chairman advised that there were no proposed changes to the Elgin office except that the office hours may be extended, which he felt would be beneficial. In view of this it was agreed for the Chairman to respond positively.
- d) Licensing Forum. The Chairman advised that a consultation was taking place with regard to standardising drink measures. The Community Council had no views to put forward.

7. Future funding of Community Councils

Harry Torry confirmed that he had looked at the figures in detail and found there to be several abnormalities in population and funding. Alastair Kennedy advised that a meeting has been arranged with representatives from Community groups and the Support group to discuss what expertise is available and what individual groups require. Harry Torry raised concerns over funding for potential Community Councillors with disabilities to carry out their role i.e. phone calls, taxis etc. and who should pay these expenses. Alastair Kennedy agreed to raise this issue at the meeting with the Support group. In view of the changes to be made to the document, the Chairman suggested this be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Deanshaugh Playing Fields

No update available. Cllr Russell agreed to pursue this issue.

9. Young Citizen Certificates

Anne Glover advised that three Certificates had been produced for X-Trail Action Group, Youth Café Delta Force Group and Jason Procter for Young Citizen Awards. A large shield has been ordered that can have up to 15 names engraved on it, and also a small shield for Jason Procter to keep, at a cost of approx £100 plus £45.77 for the production of the Certificates. In future years the cost would be considerably less and it was felt that the cost would be acceptable on an annual basis.

The Chairman advised that he had spoken with Mr David Mackay, Chair of Grampian Neighbourhood Watch Association, and advised that they are prepared to give £100 in vouchers to the recipients of the Awards, £50 to individual and £25 to each group winners. It was unanimously agreed to accept this offer. The presentation and photo shoot to take place at Andersons and it was agreed to invite Mr David Mackay, Chair of Grampian Neighbourhood Watch Association. Anne Glover will enquire when the shield will be available and inform the Chairman who will then arrange a suitable date and time with the Press and Mr Mackay. Anne Glover to inform recipients and Andersons. The Chairman to let members know when details have been finalised.

10. Entranceways Beautification Scheme

Harry Torry explained that the e:mail sent to the Roads and Transportation Committee was not intended as a criticism of the Eight Acres project. He advised that the Elgin North Area Forum wanted to be involved with the planting. The Chairman stated that it was important for the Community Council and Area Forums to communicate on a regular basis and ensure that the Forums are on board for any future schemes.

The Chairman advised that the beautification scheme is progressing and gave thanks to members of the Community Council, Moray Council and Sandy Adam of Springfield Properties. The Chairman agreed to write to the Forums and thank them for their support and advise that the Community Council will continue with the completion of the planters.

It was agreed for the Chairman to send a copy of the minutes to the North Area Forum, Eilidh McLean and Kieran Green.

Harry Torry raised concerns regarding the budget restraints Moray Council may have and whether they would continue with the planters. The Chairman advised that community involvement would play a part should this happen. The Chairman stated that the Community Council would involve the Forums and the community with the supplying of plants and the planting of the planters.

11. Community Planning – Local Area Forums

Harry Torry advised that the meeting scheduled for July would now take place in August 2009.

Cllr Russell advised that a small number of residents from the Barrhill Road area attended the last Elgin North Area Forum to raise concerns regarding the cul-de-sac now being open to through traffic for the construction site of the houses being built at Waulkmill. Cllr Russell advised that as a result of this himself and other Council Officers have been engaged with the residents and Springfield Properties to arrange better signage for the construction traffic and “slow down” signs.

Cllr Russell asked the press if they would like to contact Denise Gormley, Community Learning and Development, for details of a series of morning events being arranged to give residents of the Barrhill Road, Waulkmill and Thornhill Road a chance to meet their neighbours.

Murray Ross pointed out the Elgin South Area Forum has an issue with parking at the proposed allotment site and that this was currently being investigated.

12. Mosaic on Plainstones

Carried forward to next meeting.

13. Committee Reports

- a) Planning. Alastair Kennedy had nothing to report other than that mentioned in item 3.12.1 above.
- b) Recreation, Leisure & Environment. Anne Glover had nothing to report.

- c) Roads & Transportation. George Littlejohn advised that he was pleased to hear from Cllr Russell that his letter regarding traffic improvements in Elgin had been passed on from Transport Scotland to the Consultants as per item 5 above.

George Littlejohn reported that the Roads and Transportation Committee were pleased to have received a draft of the build out for unloading bays in South Street. George Littlejohn advised that he would discuss the document fully with Murray Ross although he stated that the Roads and Transportation Committee would probably support the changes proposed as he felt they were similar to those previously stated. George Littlejohn to clarify disabled parking proposed in South Street.

Donald McIntyre asked why Moray Council had decided to close the Sheriffmill Bridge to traffic. George Littlejohn advised that the bridge was closed due to the proposed Garden Centre. Donald McIntyre felt the junction with Morrision Road and the A96 was dangerous. George Littlejohn stated that modifications to this junction are listed in the Roads and Transportation Committee's paper to Moray Council and Transport Scotland.

Murray Ross reported that on 22nd May 2009 the Roads and Transportation Committee met with Gordon Holland, Senior Transportation Manager and Richard Gerring of the Transportation Department of the Moray Councils Roads Department to discuss the 2008 Development Plan for Elgin. Murray Ross advised that the Community Council had been sent a copy of this document in the past and he would endeavour to locate it. Murray Ross and George Littlejohn will discuss the document further.

Murray Ross advised that on the 9th June 2009 he telephoned Mr Bill Ross, Moray Councils Roads Maintenance Manager regarding the progress being made on the manhole covers on major routes within Elgin following the Road and Transportation Committee's report. Murray Ross reported that he is still awaiting a response. His main concern was the state of the manhole covers on Station Road and he asked if the Moray Councillors would be prepared to help get the manhole covers repaired. Murray Ross to pass relevant correspondence to Cllr Russell who agreed to take these concerns forward. Cllr Russell asked the Roads and Transportation Committee to send him copies of all future correspondence.

Murray Ross reported that on 10th June 2009 the Roads and Transportation Committee met with Mr Troy Patterson of Bear Scotland, Perth Office, at Ladyhill Car Park to discuss the Roads and Transportation Committee paper on the A96/Alexandra Road layout. The Roads and Transportation Committee highlighted the congestion on this major route through Elgin. Murray Ross advised that Mr Patterson took photographs and a video of the Tesco's roundabout and Ladyhill car park entrance. The Roads and Transportation Committee also took Mr Patterson on a tour from Barmuckity to the Morrision Road junction to highlight what was in their paper and action they feel needs to be carried out. Murray Ross advised that the Roads and Transportation Committee are awaiting a response from Mr Patterson.

Murray Ross reported that on the 16th June 2009 the Roads and Transportation Committee and Mr Alastair Kennedy, Chair of the Community Council Planning Committee visited the Beautification Scheme planter at Morrision Road/A96 junction to witness the planting and were pleased with the outcome.

Murray Ross to pass the Roads and Transportation Committee Report to Mary Dow for inclusion in Correspondence.

14. Correspondence

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

1. Letter from Peter Peacock, MSP re. Relocation of Civil Service Jobs. The Chairman advised that he is seeking a supporting letter to John Swinney, Finance Minister. It was agreed that the Chairman would continue to progress this issue.
2. Letter from John Swinney re. Community Council Model Scheme and Code of Conduct.
3. Procedure for issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Fouling.
4. Forestry Commission – Boundary Changes.
5. Marine News from Crown Estate.
6. Promotional literature for “Enquire”, advice and information service for additional support for learning.
7. The “Community Councillor” Newsletter.
8. Letter from the Roads and Transportation Committee to Springfield Properties thanking them for their help with the planters.
9. Roads and Transportation Committee Report – 30th June 2009.

15. Treasurer Report

Donald McIntosh distributed copies of the financial statement. The statement of account at 16th June 2009: Number 1 account = £3619.62 and on 19th June 2009 number 2 account = £5182.57. Donald McIntosh advised that £2,000 was to be deducted from number 1 account as this was to be transferred to the Elgin Fund. The Chairman advised that he had received a receipt from the Allotment Association.

16. AOCB

- a. The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting with the Elgin Town Centre Benevolent Trust with regard to a funding shortage for the Christmas lights. He advised that the Trust have previously received interest from the Common Good Fund but due to the recession and low interest rates this will effect the amount received this year and in future years. The Chairman also stated that the grant the Trust receives has been cut from £22,000 to £11,000.

The Chairman confirmed that he informed the Chairman of the Elgin Town Centre Benevolent Trust that the contribution made by the Community Council is not guaranteed to continue as this would be up to the new Community Council to approve and it would also depend on the outcome of the Community Council Funding consultation.

- b. The Chairman advised that he had received correspondence from the Elgin Fund regarding the proposed toposcope at the top of Ladyhill. Following a detailed discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the £2,000 received from Grampian Police should be used for this purpose on the understanding that the toposcope would be phase one and phase two would look at the possibility of wheelchair access. Alastair Kennedy suggested that Bryan Watson hands over the cheque to Ian Urquhart, Chairman of the Elgin Fund and a photo call

arranged to raise the profile of the project. The Chairman agreed to inform Ian Urquhart of the outcome of the discussion and obtain payment details in order to inform the Treasurer.

- c. It was agreed to include the Flood Alleviation Scheme on the agenda on an ongoing basis until completion.
- d. Murray Ross advised that on 23rd June 2009 he had attended an NHS meeting held at the Annexe of New Elgin Primary School to discuss awareness of illnesses and how best to inform people. A Consultation paper will be issued in October 2009.
- e. Murray Ross reported that on the 24th June 2009 he attended the Disability Forum meeting at Moray College and advised that he had volunteered to support the group and hoped that the Community Council would also offer their support
- f. Alastair Kennedy advised that the Community Council had not discussed the Code of Conduct of the Community Council Scheme that is out for consultation. The Chairman advised that the document had been circulated to all members for comments. George Littlejohn advised that members who replied were in favour of what was being proposed. Alastair Kennedy advised that it states Community Councils should hold AGM's although he felt there was no need to hold an AGM.
- g. Harry Torry advised that because of the Travellers at Lossie Wynd the Fairground has had to move.

17. 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 11th August 2009 at 1845 in Elgin Library Activities Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.