

Minutes of Meeting of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council
Tuesday 11th August 2009 at 6.45 pm in the Library Activities Room

1. Present

Members:	Alex Macmillan (Chairman) Murray Ross Harry Torry	Alastair Kennedy Morna Abernethy (until 8.10) George Littlejohn (arr 6.50)
In Attendance:	Cllr Shand Cllr Jarvis Cllr Leadbitter Denise Gormley Dave Gowans and Bob Bryce for duration of Item 2	Cllr Russell Cllr Divers (until 7.25) Cllr Sharp (arr 6.50) Mary Dow (Minutes)
Apologies:	Bryan Watson (Vice Chair) Donald McIntosh (Treasurer)	Lewis Watson (Youth Member) Inspector Mowat

2. Flood Alleviation Update

Mr Dave Gowans advised that a Public Enquiry was due to commence on 23rd September 2009 lasting up to three weeks and all objections have to be put forward two weeks prior to the enquiry. Mr Gowans also stated that following the outcome of the enquiry, a further consultation will take place and if no new objections are put forward then the plans will be passed to Ministers for approval of the scheme. Mr Gowans advised that if the scheme was approved work could possibly commence in autumn 2010. The Chairman thanked Mr Gowans and Mr Bryce for their update.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 30th June 2009

Previous minutes were approved as accurate.

Proposed: Alastair Kennedy Seconded: Harry Torry

4. Matters Arising from 30th June 2009

9a. Car Sales on Verges of A96 between Linkwood Way and Reiket Lane. Alastair Kennedy advised that he had raised this issue with Theresa Ruggeri and she had requested details of the garages responsible. George Littlejohn advised that Alan Milne had BMWs parked close to the verge on the A96. Alastair Kennedy advised that he would continue to monitor the situation.

5. Traffic on Plainstones. Alastair Kennedy advised that he had spoken to a Security van driver who was parked on the Plainstones and was informed by him that they had special dispensation for the use of the Plainstones. Alastair Kennedy felt that there were far too many cars now using the Plainstones and he raised concerns with regard to the safety of pedestrians. Suggestions to stop this included the use of CCTV linked to Traffic Wardens and also for the area to be policed for a time informing drivers that they were committing an offence by driving onto a pedestrianised area outwith the permitted time. It was agreed to carry forward in view of Inspector Mowat's absence.

12i. Signage for the Visitor Information Centre. Alastair Kennedy gave details of the report compiled by George Littlejohn and Murray Ross with regard to what signage they

felt was needed to enable tourists to find their way to the new Visitor Information Centre. Alastair Kennedy agreed to submit the report to Alistair Campbell, the Museums and Libraries Manager for comment. Alastair Kennedy would also forward a copy to all Elgin Councillors. Cllr Russell agreed to forward to Moray Council for review. Harry Torry suggested that a sign should be erected advising people that the Car Park was not suitable for camper vans. George Littlejohn advised that concerns regarding parking had previously been raised. The Chairman suggested the possibility of camper vans using the road at the back of the library that is for Library vehicles only. Cllr Russell advised that following the previous Community Council meeting, a map is now in place on the information board on the Plainstones giving directions to the new Visitor Information Centre.

10. Mosaic on Plainstones. – Carried forward.

7. Future Funding of Community Councils

Alastair Kennedy advised that he had attended a meeting with the Vice Chair of the Joint Community Council and Chair and Vice Chair the Moray Forum and MVSO and it was agreed that unless details of what support was available to Community Groups they would be unable to make a decision on funding and it was agreed for this to be held in abeyance until further information was available regarding the Support Group. Alastair Kennedy advised that he has asked Community Councils who are members of the JCC to put forward their comments. It was unanimously agreed that this matter of funding should be held in abeyance until the full facts were available. Cllr Russell advised that this would be discussed at the Community Engagement meeting to be held on 13th August 2009 and he would support the Community Council regarding the issues raised. The Chairman agreed to write to John Ferguson, if required, highlighting the Elgin Community Council's concerns with regard to the Consultation.

9. Young Citizens Awards

The Chairman congratulated Anne Glover, Morna Abernethy and Harry Torry for the organisation of the Young Citizens Awards. The Chairman hoped that any future City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council would maintain the scheme in the future. He also congratulated the recipients of the Awards.

16b Toposcope at top of Ladyhill. The Chairman advised that he had sent an e-mail to Ian Urquhart, Chairman of the Elgin Fund advising him of the outcome of discussion at the previous Community Council meeting. The Chairman advised that Mr Urquhart was presently on holiday and that members would be updated at the next meeting.

5. Police Business & Terrorism Update – Nothing to report.

6. Bypass Steering Group - Nothing to report.

7. Pilot Scheme for Community Council Elections

- a) The Chairman advised that City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council had been successful in their application for the £500 funding to promote Community Council Elections and this was paid into the account on 6th August 2009. Alastair Kennedy advised the £100 agreed at the previous meeting to be forwarded to the Joint Community Council should be kept back in view of some Community Councils not wishing to take part in a Moray wide campaign. The Chairman agreed to do this. A

discussion took place on how best to promote the elections and it was agreed that a sub-group be formed consisting of Alex Macmillan, Murray Ross, Harry Torry and Denise Gormley to take publicity forward. The Chairman agreed to arrange a meeting by end of week. Alastair Kennedy agreed to help if required. The Chairman asked all members to try to persuade people to stand for the Community Council. Harry Torry suggested that the public be made aware that they will not be out of pocket for being a Community Councillor. The Chairman stated that time and commitment is the only thing that Community Councillors should have to give.

8. Future funding of Community Councils

Covered in matters arising 6 above.

9. Deanshaugh Playing Fields

The Chairman advised that he had written to Mr Bob Stewart of Moray Council with regard to the loss of a playing field at Lesser Borough Briggs due to the damage caused by the Circus. He stated that he did not blame the Circus in anyway but felt it was due to Moray Council and their lack of progress in getting the Travellers either onto an official site or temporarily moving them. The Chairman advised that he sent a letter to Mr Stewart, Moray Council requesting details as to the cost of repair and when it would be possible to play football on the field again, a copy was also sent to Cllr Russell. The Chairman also requested details as to whether or not the Audit has been carried out on Deanshaugh playing field. The response from Mr Stewart stated that the field at Lesser Borough Briggs had not been booked for football matches for a number of years and is not currently impacting on the number of pitches available in Elgin. Mr Stewart also advised that work to reinstate the pitch would commence as soon as conditions allow and that they were in discussion with the Circus regarding assistance with the repairs. Mr Stewart stated that as far as Deanshaugh is concerned the Auditor has completed his work and will report to the Chief Executive before this is represented for Committee. Cllr Russell advised that the report has been finalised and will be on the Agenda for discussion at the Performance Review Committee on the 26th August 2009. It was agreed for this item to remain on the agenda.

Alastair Kennedy advised that there were now two playing fields available for use at Thornhill Road.

10. Young Citizen Certificates

Covered in matters arising 9 above.

11. Entraceways Beautification Scheme

The Chairman advised that £955 had been spent so far and £4227 remained in the Beautification account. The Chairman congratulated the Roads and Transportation Committee for the planter on the A96.

12. Community Planning – Local Area Forums

Murray Ross advised that the South Elgin Forum was in the process of finding out about planning for various parking areas within the allotment sites. George Littlejohn advised that the site that was presently being looked at for the allotments was running into difficulties due to a negative response from local residents. The Committee were disappointed with this

reaction as it smacked of “nimbyism”. Murray Ross advised that they were now looking at the possibility of the allotments being positioned on the field that Carillion had used whilst completing the bridge at Reiket Lane and a meeting was being held on 26 August 2009 to discuss this further.

Harry Torry advised that the North Elgin Forum meeting was due to take place w/c 17th August 2009.

13. Mosaic on Plainstones

Carried forward to next meeting.

14. Committee Reports

- a) Planning. Alastair Kennedy advised that he had requested a copy of the proposal for the houses being built at the East side of Elgin.

Alastair Kennedy advised that ePlanning has now come into effect and he has been in conversation with Theresa Ruggeri regarding concerns he had that having everything done electronically may not suit everybody and could cause problems. He also advised that he had attended a Seminar regarding ePlanning but felt that further training was needed. Alastair Kennedy gave a brief outline of what the new planning system entails and will give a further update at next meeting. Alastair Kennedy felt that the new system would speed up the application process.

- b) Recreation, Leisure & Environment. Morna Abernethy had nothing to report.

- c) Roads & Transportation. Murray Ross advised that following the Roads and Transportation Committees report regarding raised manhole covers and the assistance offered by Cllr Russell at the previous meeting, they had now received an e-mail from Cllr Russell with a report that the Local Authority had produced prioritising the faulty locations. The Local Authority advised that Scottish Water have six months to deal with installations belonging to them. Murray Ross advised that the Roads and Transportation Committee would also be writing to Scottish Water requesting action. The Chairman asked that should any vehicle sustain damage due to one of the manhole covers mentioned, the fact that this has been highlighted to the Local Authority and the Utilities Company, could be the basis of any insurance claim. Murray Ross did felt that both public bodies could be liable.

Murray Ross advised that he and George Littlejohn had met with Jane Innes of Springfield Properties on the 14th July 2009 to discuss the three flower planters offered by Sandy Adam of Springfield Properties at the onset of the Beautification Scheme. Ms Innes advised them that Sandy Adam was no longer a Director and that John Main had now taken his position within the Company. Murray Ross advised that Ms Innes had asked if the Roads and Transportation Committee would be interested in being involved with beautifying the roundabouts. Murray Ross and George Littlejohn declined this offer as they wish to keep their sights on the Beautification Scheme and focus on the planters.

Murray Ross advised that he met again with Ms Innes of Springfield Properties on 31st July 2009 to discuss the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council flower planters. Ms Innes agreed to take the planter offer to John Main, Director of

Springfield Properties. Murray Ross and George Littlejohn would meet with Ms Innes again to discuss the location of the planters. They would like two on the A941 and one on the A96. Murray Ross agreed to keep the Elgin South Area Forum up to date regarding the planters and Harry Torry agreed to do the same for Elgin North Area Forum. The Chairman advised that the Elgin South and Elgin North Area Forums are on the distribution list to receive the Community Council's Minutes.

Murray Ross advised that on the 15th July 2009 he introduced himself to the new ASDA Store Manager, Mr Alistair Lindsay, and discussed the manhole covers on exiting the ASDA Car Park, which had been reported to the previous Manager Mr David Byars, but no response had yet been received. Murray Ross said that Mr Lindsay confirmed that the manhole covers should be repaired within 28 days. Murray Ross to monitor.

Murray Ross advised that he had also brought to Mr Lindsay's attention the electric buggies for the disabled and infirm were being kept outside the store and that it clearly states on the carts that they are not for outdoor use. Murray Ross also stated that he has witnessed them being misused outside the store. Mr Lindsay advised that when the new shelter was in place the carts would be back under cover. Murray Ross felt that they should be put under cover now. Murray Ross would be monitoring the situation.

15. Correspondence

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

1. £17 received from Northern Textiles – cheque to Treasurer.
2. Minutes of Elgin Town Centre Benevolent Trust – 30th June 2009.
3. Minutes of Elgin Allotment Association – 24th June 2009.
4. Elgin BIDS - Business Plan – The Chairman advised that following the associated submission from Moray Council with regard to the Town Regeneration Fund nowhere in Moray had received a share. Cllr Russell advised that submissions for the second phase had to be returned by 28th August 2009 and it was hoped that Elgin would receive a share of this.
5. ASCC Newsletter.
6. Community Council Elections Timetable.
7. The Tenants' Voice.

16. Treasurer Report

The Chairman advised that there had been no change to the number one account since the previous statement and £4227 remained in the Beautification account.

17. AOCB

- a. Alastair Kennedy agreed to make any appropriate comments on the Scottish Ambulance Service Consultation.
- b. Harry Torry agreed to attend the Community Champions meeting on Thursday 3rd September 2009.

- c. The Chairman advised that the Community Council Scheme review had now been completed and the final scheme was due to be published on 13th August 2009 and would be in force for the new Community Council in October 2009.
- d. The Chairman advised that he had received correspondence regarding whether the Community Council wished to continue with their entry in the Coach Drivers Year Book for the forthcoming year. It was unanimously agreed to continue with the entry and the Chairman agreed to respond positively and also advise of the change of name and address of the Visitors Information Centre.
- e. Denise Gormley advised that the Community Support Unit came into effect on 1st August 2009. She advised that she and Susan Leonard together with the Support Officers were available to support the needs of the community.
- f. Murray Ross agreed to try to locate the Community Council's copy of the Development Plan for 2008.
- g. Murray Ross suggested that a chewing gum disposal unit be placed on the new recycle bin in the City Centre. Cllr Russell agreed to take this matter forward. Murray Ross also asked if there had been any change to the recycling of plastics beyond grade 1 and 2. Cllr Russell advised that there was no change due to lack of demand from converters but hoped that manufacturers would gradually start to use plastics within the 1 and 2 grade in order for it to be recycled. Harry Torry suggested asking Moray College if they could find a use for the plastics that were not able to be recycled.
- h. Harry Torry advised that whilst he was walking his dog at Morryston Park, two cyclists asked if he knew where the National Cycle Track was located. He showed them to the track and was disappointed to find that it was almost completely overgrown. Harry Torry felt that from a tourist perspective and for local cyclists the cycle paths should be kept cleared. He had written to Chris Thompson, Moray Council, and as yet nothing had been done. Harry Torry circulated a photo that he had taken at the time and the Chairman agreed to circulate a copy to all Councillors and also to the Press, together with a copy of Mr Torry's letter to Chris Thompson.
- i. Alastair Kennedy advised that a member public had raised concerns regarding dog fouling at Cooper Park. George Littlejohn suggested the Community Council write to Moray Council making Cooper Park a 'no go' area for recreational dog training and that all dogs should be kept on leads and walked on the paths. The Chairman did not support this idea as he felt it would penalise responsible dog owners, but he did feel that owners who did not clear up after their dogs should be prosecuted. George Littlejohn felt that dogs should not be able to run free in the park and that a restricted area should be made available for dog-running. Murray Ross felt that if more dog owners were prosecuted for not clearing up after their dog it may be less of a problem and that they should be named and shamed. It was agreed for the Press to take further and find out how many fixed penalties have been issued.
- j. Alastair Kennedy asked the Roads and Transportation Committee if they would look into cars parking along side the right hand access lane into the Silvercrest estate on Lesmurdie Road as it was causing problems. The Chairman advised that there was also problems with cars parking by the side of the island further down Lesmurdie Road towards the Buccaneer garage and buses having to go onto the wrong side of the island to get through. The

Chairman suggested that should anybody notice cars causing an obstruction to contact the Police.

- k. George Littlejohn requested figures on the foot fall count of the new Visitors Information Centre as opposed to last year in the old building. Cllr Russell agreed to obtain the figures from Visit Scotland. The Chairman to e-mail the request to Cllr Russell.

18. 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 22nd September 2009 at 7.00pm in the Moray Council Chambers.

The Chairman urged all members to seek out new potential Community Council members in support of the new Community Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.