

Buckie Community Council



Minutes of Meeting

Held on Tuesday 18th August, 2009 at 7.00pm

Present: James Smith (Chairman), Ian Moir (Vice Chairman), Allan Fraser (Secretary), James Newlands, John Grant and James Grieve.

In Attendance: Cllrs G McDonald, A McKay and J Mackay, Cons Breen representing the police and A Beresford (Banffshire Advertiser).

Apologies: Howard Cartwright.

Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all to the August meeting of the Buckie Community Council.

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Chairman asked for the suspension of Standing Orders so that the Community Council members could deal with questions to the police. This was agreed.

Questions to the Police

Mr Moir asked for an update to local crime statistics. Cons Breen replied that there had been no increase in crime in Buckie. Mr Fraser mentioned the broken windows in West Church Street and asked if there were any suspects. Cons Breen replied that all cases of vandalism were noted and checked against suspects. Mr Fraser then went on to enquire about larger incidents of vandalism, e.g. a series of broken windows. Cons. Breen said that this was a common problem and added that CCTV does help. Mr Moir asked for an update on underage drinking, and Cons. Breen replied that the Avon initiative will continue. Cons Breen concluded by saying that local officers had particular areas of responsibility within Buckie. Mr Smith thanked Cons Breen for her contribution, after which she left.

Minutes of the June Meeting

With the deletion of Item 9, '**Dentistry in Buckie**', on page 3, the minutes of the June meeting were adopted. This was proposed by Mr Fraser and seconded by Mr Smith.

Matters Arising

Town Clock. This had now been repaired.

Hamilton Path. The Moray Council has confirmed that the area up to the wall is owned by Lidl. It was noted that the area was still very untidy. Cllr J Mackay urged customers of Lidl to write to Lidl about the mess there.

St Andrews Flats. These were now being let. Mr Moir reported that there had been complaints about noisy parties. The Community Council hoped that these would only be of a housewarming nature.

Registrar Opening Times. The Moray Council said that they were happy to receive the submission from the Community Council. A paper will be going to the relevant committee in due course.

Coat of Arms Flags. Mr Moir reported that one of the flags was now flying on the flagpole. An eight foot bamboo cane is located inside the window, and it can be used to unfurl the flag when necessary. The current display cabinet in the Library is going to be refurbished. The refurbished cabinet will then display the new coat of arms and letters patent along with the earlier version. A decision would be required on an appropriate location for the large coat of arms flag.

New Cemetery Extension. Mr Smith reported that the matter of sunken graves was still awaiting attention. He also said that the situation was getting worse in some graves. The Moray Council had replied that they needed more details of the graves affected.

Data Protection. Mr Fraser reported that the Buckie Community Council was now registered with the Information Commissioner.

Gollachy. It was noted that the Moray Council had introduced some unfinished sleeping policemen to the road. The Community Council considered this *not* to be an improvement. The Moray Council had replied that the state of the road would be looked at and repaired as necessary.

Community Council Boundaries. Mr Moir asked if there had been any reply to the previous request. The secretary replied in the negative. Cllr McDonald said he thought that the Moray Council were minded to make no changes.

Correspondence

1. From Moray Council

(a) From Tracey Rae, Community Council Liaison Officer.

(i) **Acknowledgement.** This has been received regarding issues raised at the June meeting.

(ii) **Car Parking.** The Moray Council said that an investigation was being carried out within Buckie, It was also aware of the problems in Cluny Square. Mr Moir said that some data had been collected on the amount of all day parkers in the Square. The Community Council was offered the opportunity to arrange a meeting with the Roads Department.

(iii) **Subsidence in North High Street.** The matter is being looked into.

(iv) **Ponding Water in Midmar Street.** The situation is being watched.

(v) **Victoria Bridge.** The Ponding issues have been resolved. Mr Grant added that one drain was still blocked.

(vi) **Toilets off Cluny Place.** These will be repaired as necessary

(vii) **Joint Community Council.** Agenda for meeting on 13th August along with previous minutes had been received.

(b) **From Moira Patrick, Principal Committee Services Officer.** The Election Timetable has been received. The closing date for nominations is 22nd September.

2. Correspondence had also been received from the following

(a) **Les Morgan, Moray Area Representative ASCC.** Various items of information have been received, including an offer from BT to buy for £1 any redundant red telephone box in the community council area,

(b) **Northern Textiles.** The Community Council had received a cheque for material recently uplifted.

- (c) **Buckie Area Forum.** Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June have been received, along with agenda for the meeting on 19th August.
- (d) **Scottish and Southern Electricity.** Information received regarding the DC connection between Shetland and Keith.
- (e) **Victims Commission for Scotland.** Request received. The Community council decided to take no further action regarding this item.

Planning Applications

There have been applications of a domestic nature. There have also been applications for retail units and a nursery in the Barhill Road development and for 32 houses at the Hielan Yard. Mr Moir questioned why there had been no discussion with regard to access to the garages off the Hielan Yard

There has been an application to the licensing court for a 1030 liquor license on a Sunday for Milton Drive premises.

A.O.C.B.

1. Victoria Bridge. Mr Grant reported that there was unwanted vegetation growing through the spaces on the bridge, especially on the West Church Street side.

2. Speyside Way. Mr Grieve reported that there was a large puddle at the back of Main Street beside the old harbour in the area of the notice board. Mr Newlands said that the soakaways in the Main Street areas are no longer functioning efficiently. Mr Newlands said that he thought that the soakaways were clogged with sand.

3. Drainage Main Street. Mr Grieve also reported that there was domestic waste water escaping on to the road. This was occurring between numbers 17 and 19.

4. Rabbits at Burnside Cemetery. Mr Fraser said that rabbits were causing considerable damage to flowers left in the cemetery. He said that there was a need for the Moray Council to provide a metal frame which could be placed over recent graves to protect the wreaths. It was agreed that the secretary write to Moray Council.

5. Community Council Funding. Mr Moir said that there were various proposals for future funding. One of the simplest proposals was to allocate £500 to administration and £500 to particular local projects. Mr Moir enquired whether there was a need to employ a minute secretary. Mr Smith said that the Community Council will be ready for action if necessary.

6. Purpose of Community Councils. Mr Newlands asked about the purpose of the community councils in relation to the area forums. Mr Moir explained that the area forums had different functions and added that there should be a minimal overlap. Cllr J Mackay said that the community councils were more important than area forums. Mr Smith said that Buckie Community Council and Buckie Area Forum have worked well together.

7. Community Council Elections.

(a) Nomination Forms. The secretary has a supply of nomination forms for the forthcoming election. Mr Moir circulated an article that he was going to submit to the Banffshire Advertiser. The intention of the article was to encourage new people to put their names forward for the election. It explained some of the work of the community council and the advantages of being a member of it.

(b) Promotion of Elections. Mr Moir proposed that fliers be produced for insertion in the Banffshire Advertiser. Mr Newlands proposed that the Community Council set up a gazebo in Cluny Square. Cllr McDonald proposed that the Community Council take a stall at the forthcoming Arts and Crafts Festival. After discussion it was decided to go ahead with the fliers and the stall at the Festival. Mr Moir and Mr Smith would

meet to finalise the content of the flier. This would be funded from the additional £500 which Buckie Community Council was to receive for this purpose. £100 would be allocated to a central fund for JCC advertising in the Northern Scot.

8. Financial Year. It was agreed that the financial year will run to the end of September as usual. The accounts would then be audited and presented to the new Community Council.

9. Signs. Mr Moir asked if new signs incorporating the coat of arms could be provided for the new Buckie boundaries. He also asked about the Tynet sign for Banffshire. Cllr McDonald said that officials had decided that such a sign in the middle of the Moray Council area would cause confusion.

10. Clash in Cluny Square. Mr Newlands enquired about the situation regarding the Clash premises. He said that the premises appear to be closed down. No more information was available.

11. Fenced Off Building. Mr Newlands asked why a building in Cathcart Street was fenced off. Cllr McDonald said that the building was in good shape.

12. Travelling People. Mr Newlands asked about the costs in materials and time needed to maintain the site between Buckpool and Portgordon. He added that the area was still a mess.

Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those who attended for their contributions. The meeting was closed at 9.05pm.

The next meetings of Buckie Community Council will be on Tuesday, 15th September, 2009. The September one will be the last meeting before the new community council is elected. The first meeting of the new council should be on Tuesday, 20th October, 2009.

Previous minutes can be found on the Moray Council website at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_49776.html.

Meetings of the Buckie Community Council are held in Room 1 of Buckie Town House at 7.00pm on the third Tuesday of each month, except July. All members of the public are welcome to attend. If any members of the community wish to raise any community matter, they should in the first instance contact the Secretary or any other member of the Community Council.

Signed as a correct minute Chairman

Proposed by

Seconded by

Minute Secretary: Mr Ian Moir