

# Buckie Community Council



## Minutes of Meeting

Held on Tuesday 15th September, 2009 at 7.00pm

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr A McKay, Sgt Harry Gordon and Cons Connor Summersgill representing the police and A Beresford (Banffshire Advertiser).

**Apologies:** Zafar Ali and Cllrs G McDonald and J Mackay.

### Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all to the September 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

Sgt Gordon started by commenting that currently in Buckie everything was fairly quiet and that vandalism was low. Mr Cartwright raised the matter of the speed of some vehicles in the town and the irresponsible use of mobile phones while driving. He asked if there could be more smiley face speed checks installed in Buckie. Sgt Gordon said that each set of new drivers requires encouragement in sensible driving and enforcement of traffic law. He also said that if people observe anything of a criminal nature, they should report it to the police at the time. Mr Fraser said that in recent times there has been less damage in Merson Park. He also asked if the police had any input regarding the lack of a light on the old railway bridge from Buckie to Buckpool. He said that this path is well used by pedestrians all the year round. Sgt Gordon said that the police had no input in this matter

Mr Moir asked if the police had any problems with the change in licensing laws. Sgt Gordon replied that the police will monitor the situation as the laws work their way through. Mr Moir then asked about the current situation regarding drugs and underage drinking. Sgt Gordon replied that it was at a manageable level. The drugs problem was not causing underlying crime. Sgt Gordon went on to say that late opening hours means that there has to be more 'late duty' time for the police with a consequential cost to the taxpayers of Moray. He added that the people of Buckie had the right to object to late licences and if they were concerned then they should do so. Mr Newlands said that people were drinking more at home and less in pubs.

In conclusion Sgt Gordon said that he felt very positive about Buckie at the moment. The police were thanked for their input and they left the meeting.

## **Minutes of the August Meeting**

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Mr Grieve and seconded by Mr Newlands.

### **Matters Arising**

**Dentistry in Buckie.** Mr Fraser raised the problem of the lack of availability of NHS dental appointments in Buckie. Mr Fraser said that he had put down his name for the new dental facility some considerable time ago. When he phoned recently he was told that it would be 2010 before he would be considered. Cllr A McKay said that the facility was seeing children first to provide a check-up as a preventive measure. Mr Grieve said that a visit to the dentist was now a luxury for the old people of Buckie, and added that it was a disgrace that a town like Buckie did not have an NHS dentist. Mr Smith said that there was a difficulty in attracting dentists to the area.

**New Cemetery Extension.** Where there are problems with sunken graves people should contact Moray Council via the registrar in the Town House or by telephoning Elgin.

**Speyside Way at Main Street.** The Road Maintenance Dept. is aware of the water problem. Attempts have been made to remedy the problem without success. Mr Newlands said that the problem had been sorted earlier in the day. Mr Newlands asked if this back lane at Main Street has been adopted by the Moray Council. Mr Grieve suggested that the lane be closed as a through road with access available from both ends.

**Drainage Main Street.** Scottish Water has been notified. In reply they have said that they will check out the problem. Scottish Water added that they regularly carry out routine inspections and that they will accept information from people who contact them to report faults.

**Rabbits at Burnside Cemetery.** In reply Moray Council said that there were no means of controlling rabbit access from open ground. It would be up to the lair holders to decide on any action. Mr Moir proposed that the Buckie Community Council investigate paying for the wire frames previously discussed. Mr Newlands seconded this proposal and the secretary was asked to write.

**Promotion of Elections.** Mr Moir intimated that a leaflet had been circulated in the Banffshire Advertiser and that a stall had been manned at the Arts and Crafts Fair.

## **Correspondence**

### **1. From Moray Council**

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

- (i) Acknowledgement.** This has been received regarding issues raised at the August meeting.
- (ii) Housing (Scotland) Act 2006.** Information received on the condition of houses in Scotland. Details of the scheme are on the website.
- (iii) Joint Community Council.** Notification received of next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November.
- (iv) Moray Draft Plan.** Invitation to a meeting on 'Better Communities'
- (v) Community Council Pilot.** Intimation received of the Scottish Government launch of the pilot on 5<sup>th</sup> November.
- (vi) CCB Training.** Training calendar received for 2009-10.
- (vii) 'Go Play'.** Information received on new funds available from the Scottish Government.

- (viii) **High Hedges.** Document received regarding Scottish Government consultation on high hedges.
- (ix) **National Planning Framework.** This has now been published.
- (x) **Money Advice in Moray.** Information has been received.

**(b) From Alison Johnston.**

- (i) **Community Council Boundaries.** A copy of the new Community Council map has been received along with the response to the Buckie Community Council's request for a change in the BCC boundary. The request has been turned down.
- (ii) **Nominations for Community Council Election.** Request received for the early return of nomination forms so that any corrections can be made on time.
- (c) **From Tracey Thorowgood.** Intimation received of applications to change licensing hours at Milton Drive shop, and to change licensing hours and also modify premises at the Thistle Bar.
- (d) **From Ian Douglas.** Copy received of Public Liability Insurance Policy for Moray Local Access Groups.
- (e) **Adrian Moar.** Public performance figures have been received for the last quarter for the Moray Council.
- (f) **Synthetic Turf Pitch, Buckie.** Invitation received to attend the official opening on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**2. Correspondence had also been received from the following**

- (a) **A Kennedy, Chairman, Joint Community Council.** Information received on Scottish Government funding and Leader funding.
- (b) **Scottish Executive.** Intimation received that the £500, for pilot scheme for raising profile of community council elections, had been transferred to the BCC account.
- (c) **Paths for All, per Hibbert and McInally, Development Officers.** This is a national charity. They are requesting knowledge of local activities in this area. They also wish help with a national conference. The secretary would complete and return the necessary information. Mr Cartwright said that the local ranger had said that money was available for improving paths.
- (d) **National Secretary of ASCC.** Notification received of the annual conference.

**Planning Applications**

There have been no planning applications since the last meeting.

**A.O.C.B.**

**1. Gollachy Recycling.** Mr Ali complained about the current difficulty in dealing with commercial rubbish. He had gone to the recycling centre with commercial rubbish and he was refused permission to deposit the rubbish because he did not have a commercial licence. He said that he did not have a licence because the licences will not be issued until November. The problem was noted.

**2. Car Parking in Buckie.** Mr Smith said that there was a parking restriction around the library in Elgin. There is 'No Parking' between 7am and 10am. He queried whether a similar like restriction could be used in Buckie, e.g. 'No Parking' between 8.30am and 9.30am. The secretary was asked to write.

**3. Wall at Seaview Place.** Mr Fraser reported that this wall is now displaying further deterioration. The damaged wall is a boundary to the Benreay site. The secretary would write.

**4. Curtains in Fishermen's Hall.** Mr Newlands asked for a progress report on the new curtains. Cllr McKay said that the matter was in hand.

**5. Congratulations and Commiserations.** Mr Newlands said that the Community Council should send a message of congratulations to Buckie Thistle on winning the Aberdeenshire Cup. He added that they should send a message of commiseration to Buckie Cricket Club on coming very close to winning the Macallan Cricket League, but missing out in the last match.

### **Close of Meeting**

The Chairman thanked all those who attended for their contributions. He also thanked all the members of the Community Council for their valued contributions over the past four years. The community appreciates all the work undertaken by this organisation. He thanked all those members who were retiring, and wished success to those members who were putting their names forward again. He concluded by saying that he hoped that more people would put their names forward and that the Buckie Community Council would go from strength to strength.

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

**The inaugural meeting of Buckie Community Council will be on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 at 7pm in Room 1, Buckie Town House which is adjacent to the Library. Previous minutes can be found on the Moray Council website at [http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_49776.html](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