

Minutes of Meeting of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council
Tuesday 10th November 2009 at 7.00pm in the Moray Council Chambers

1. Present

Members:	Alistair Kennedy (Chairman)	Alex Macmillan (Secretary)
	Bryan Watson (Vice Chair)	Morna Abernethy (Treasurer)
	Murray Ross	Anne Glover
	Harry Torry	Kathleen Masson
	Alan Bell	Steven Milne
In Attendance:	Cllr Russell	Cllr Jarvis
	Cllr Sharp	Denise Gormley
	Mary Dow (Minutes)	
Apologies:	George Littlejohn	Cllr Divers
	Cllr Leadbitter	Cllr Shand
	Inspector Mowat	

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council.

2. Cooper Troopers

Members of the Elgin Young Cooper Troopers gave a presentation regarding the rising problems in Cooper Park with regard to anti-social behaviour and what they are doing to try and find ways to solve these issues. They requested the support of the Community Council and after discussion it was agreed that the Community Council would offer support and encouragement. The Chairman agreed to arrange an initial meeting to find out what help is needed. Bryan Watson, Morna Abernethy, Harry Torry, Kathleen Masson and Ann Glover all agreed to attend if available. Cllr Sharp suggested inviting the Community Warden and possibly some young Police Officers.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 11th August 2009

Previous minutes were approved as accurate.

Proposed: Murray Ross Seconded: Harry Torry

4. Matters Arising from 22nd September 2009

Para 3. 9a. Car Sales on Verges of A96 between Linkwood Way and Reiket Lane. The Chairman advised that he believes the problem has now been resolved but will continue to monitor.

Para 3. 17g. Chewing Gum Disposal Unit. Cllr Russell advised that this idea has been passed to the Environment Services team and would not be forgotten.

Para 9. Treasurer's Final Report. The Secretary advised that two cheques made payable to Moravian Press had not been cashed and suggested that these cheques should be cancelled and a new cheque issued, although this may incur a charge. It was agreed for Alex Macmillan to discuss this with the newly appointed Treasurer, Morna Abernethy, and

resolve the issue. Alex Macmillan said that the books have been through audit and now require a statement from the Independent Auditor and will then be ready to hand over to Morna Abernethy.

5. Ratification of Decisions taken at Inaugural Meeting

The Chairman advised that decisions made at the Inaugural meeting now needed to be ratified as follows:-

Appointment of Officers

Chairman – Alastair Kennedy - Proposed George Littlejohn; Seconded Harry Torry.
Vice Chairman – Bryan Watson - Proposed Murray Ross; Seconded Alastair Kennedy.
Secretary – Alex Macmillan - Proposed George Littlejohn; Seconded Harry Torry.
Treasurer – Morna Abernethy – Proposed Alastair Kennedy; Seconded Anne Glover.

These appointments were agreed by all members present.

Retention of Committee System

It was agreed to retain the existing Committee system:

Planning – Bryan Watson and Alastair Kennedy.
Roads & Transportation – George Littlejohn and Murray Ross.
Recreation, Leisure and Environment – Anne Glover and Morna Abernethy.

Vote on Frequency of Meetings

Three options were put forward:

Every 6 weeks – In view of his absence, Murray Ross put forward George Littlejohn's original proposal. Proposed George Littlejohn; no Secunder.

Every 4 weeks – No Proposer.

Second Tuesday of every month – Proposed by Bryan Watson and Seconded by Morna Abernethy; carried unanimously.

Murray Ross Proposed continuing employing a Minutes Secretary and this was Seconded by Bryan Watson and unanimously carried.

Adoption of Constitution

The Secretary advised that a copy of the Constitution for the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council had been distributed to all members for comment. It was Proposed by Harry Torry and Seconded by Murray Ross to adopt the Constitution, as presented together with adoption of Standing Orders as amended (no ref to AGM) and the Code of Conduct as set out in the Member's Handbook. This was carried unanimously. Secretary was to obtain signatures from the Chairman, Vice Chair and Secretary and send to Moray Council for ratification.

6. Police Business & Terrorism Update – The Chairman advised that correspondence had been received from Inspector Mowat advising that over 50 motorists had been warned over using the Plainstones; there have been no repeat offenders that he was aware of and the Police

will now be moving towards enforcement following this period of education. The Chairman thanked Inspector Mowat.

7. Future Funding of Community Councils

The Chairman advised that due to the budget consultation taking place there are no further details available but suggested this be discussed when required.

8. Second Round of Nominations for Community Councils

It was agreed for the Chairman to write to all groups on the MVSO's database and to the Northern Scot advising of the second round of elections. The Chairman also agreed to write to the Area Forums and asked the Northern Scot for some publicity regarding this.

9. Youth Membership

Murray Ross advised that a pupil from Elgin High School had shown an interest in becoming a Youth Member and would hopefully be available to attend the next meeting.

10. Community Champions

Alex Macmillan advised that he had attended a meeting to discuss Community Champions. He stated that the original idea of Community Champions was a way in which the Police could obtain information from the community anonymously and pass the information on to the appropriate agency. He said that this idea had never been fully taken up and that he felt that it was something that Community Councillors and Area Forum Members could take forward as a way of community engagement. At the Induction Meeting a suggestion was put forward regarding holding regular surgeries of the Community Council whereby members of the public could air their concerns and these concerns could then be passed to the relevant agencies or be dealt with by the Community Council and then fed back to the community as appropriate. It was agreed that Alex would take the idea forward and discuss with Chief Inspector MacKenzie and Area Forums. It was also suggested that the Community Council have their own webpage and e:mail address for the community to e:mail their concerns anonymously, this was agreed in principle. Denise Gormley agreed to support and to develop the proposal. Alex Macmillan advised that help from all Community Councillors would be needed.

11. Deanshaugh Playing Fields

The Chairman advised that he felt the Moray Council should now be looking for a solution as to how the problem can be fixed. It was agreed for this item to remain on the Agenda.

12. Community Planning – Local Area Forums

The Chairman advised that the Elgin North Area Forum is due to take place on 1 December 2009 and Murray Ross advised that the Elgin South Area Forum's AGM was being held tonight.

Murray Ross gave the Elgin South Area Forum update as follows:

Elgin South Forum members had recently undertaken a consultation with local residents to ascertain their interest in an outreach library service. The vast majority of residents would like a local library service and the forum are working with the library service to review options.

The Allotment group are still looking for land in Elgin to develop allotments and have three specific sites of interest.

Young Dookiteers – Youth Club set up by parents in New Elgin and now has 56 regular children attending. They undertake planned, structured activities each week with older children supporting the younger ones.

Beechfield Playpark – Following a consultation of local residents, a new play park will be installed later this month.

Elgin South Forum is working closely with Elgin North Forum and the Community Council to consult with local residents on the proposed budget cuts.

A copy of the full report can be obtained under correspondence.

The Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting last week with Murray Ross, Alex Macmillan, Denise Gormley, Susan Leonard and two members of the Elgin North Area Forum to discuss how the Community Council and Area Forums can work closer together and future meetings will be held.

13. Committee Reports

- a) Planning. The Chairman advised that he had received a request from Harry Torry to sit on the Planning Committee. This was unanimously agreed.

Bryan Watson advised that an application had been received from Kentucky Fried Chicken to build on land adjacent to the Reiket Lane roundabout on the A96 next to Alan Milne and he was happy with the plans, although the window had now closed for any comment. Bryan Watson asked if it would be possible to make left hand turns only from Linkwood Way when the new lane from the roundabout is opened, and using this as the main exit. Alex Macmillan suggested that Moray Council could impose a planning gain on such an application to open up that access to the roundabout and make Linkwood Way a through road. Murray Ross advised that he and George Littlejohn had discussed this with Bear Scotland and Gordon Holland recently with regard to making Linkwood Way left turn only and using the roundabout at Reiket Lane. Murray Ross agreed to take forward the suggestion.

- b) Recreation, Leisure & Environment. Anne Glover advised that a meeting has been arranged for Monday night at her home should any new member wish to attend.

Bryan Watson raised concerns with regard to vandalism and under age drinking taking place in the wildlife reserve at the Wards and suggested that the Police make regular visits to this area, and urge people to report any incidents. Harry Torry suggested the Community Council contact the Justice Department to look into the possibility of those carrying out Community Service to clean this area. Denise Gormley offered to approach New Elgin Youth workers to request help to clean the area. Anne Glover agreed to take forward.

Murray Ross advised that there was a distinct lack of litter bins at the new Springfield Retail Development and no bin in South Street. Cllr Russell agreed to take forward the

bin situation on South Street. Anne Glover advised that she is in the process of dealing with the lack of bins within the Retail Park and will give an update at the next meeting.

- c) Roads & Transportation. Murray Ross reported that the Roads and Transportation Committee have been very busy since the Inauguration of this Community Council.

In view of time constraints, Murray Ross gave a brief outline of their work and meetings held as follows; the full report is at Attachment 1 to the Minutes:-

Meeting held with Andy Duff, Moray Council Roads Department to discuss the R&T paper and future road works to be carried out in Elgin.

On site meeting (A941) with Jane Innes, Springfield Properties, Andy Duff and James Smith, Moray Council Roads Department and Ralph Newlands, Roads Manager of Bear Scotland. Springfield Properties has kindly offered to construct two flower planters on the A941 for the Community Council Beautification Scheme. Murray Ross advised that the R&T Committee offered to assist Jane Innes with the beautification of roundabouts if required.

Murray Ross also advised that the R&T Committee discussed with Mr Newlands when any work will be starting on Alexandra Road and were informed that hopefully work will commence in the near future and will be carried out during the night. This will be monitored.

R&T Committee attended a presentation on 3rd November 2009 by Bear Scotland on the Wittet Drive to Oakwood A96 alignment. Murray Ross highlighted the works and a full list can be found on the attached report.

Murray Ross advised that he has been in contact with Scottish Water with regard to the manhole covers needing attention and was in the process of obtaining reference numbers of the relevant covers from Moray Council. The Chairman congratulated the R&T Committee for all their hard work in resolving this issue.

Murray Ross advised that the R&T Committee were offered the opportunity of free plants and bulbs for the Planter on the A96 by Lands and Parks, although labour costs would be incurred. Murray Ross and George Littlejohn accepted this offer and advised that an invoice for labour would be sent to the Treasurer in the near future.

Murray Ross advised that he had received correspondence with regard to proposed improvements to rail links between Aberdeen and Inverness; the changes to include train frequency and station stops. Murray Ross advised that he and George Littlejohn would discuss the document and take any relevant issues forward. Murray Ross to forward a copy of this document to Alex Macmillan for the Joint Community Council.

Murray Ross advised that he had been asked to look into the possibility of drainage on the footpath by the Cemetery as it was very boggy. Murray Ross stated that he had arranged for Grant Wilson of Lands and Parks to look at the area mentioned. Mr Wilson agreed to clean the path from litter, leaves etc and was hopeful that they will be able to put in place a temporary repair until such time as the cycle path is complete.

Murray Ross agreed to arrange for the shrubs on the roundabout at Laichmoray to be cut back.

14. Correspondence

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

1. £6.75 received from Northern Textiles.
2. Receipt for £400 from Elgin Town Centre Benevolent Trust.
3. Gambling Act Statement of Policy.
4. Evaluation of Moray Pilot Scheme to promote Community Councils.
5. Patient and Public Involvement News.
6. NHS Grampian Health Plan Consultation – meeting arranged on 17th November 2009 in the Town Hall between 7.00 – 9.00pm. Murray Ross will be attending, anyone else interested must phone and book a place.
7. Association for Protection of Rural Scotland and Rural Planning.
8. Moray Firth Partnership Newsletter.
9. Consultation on Education (Additional Support for Learning).
10. PPP Project Update.
11. Achieving Community Empowerment.
12. Elgin North Area Forum Minutes of meeting held on 29 September 2009.
13. Changes in Scottish Planning System.
14. Letter from Allotment Association.
15. Letter from Transport Scotland – dealt with.
16. The Chairman to email Murray Ross details of a meeting to be held on Friday 13th November to discuss transport to and from the Hospital or new Medical Centre in Thornhill Road. Murray Ross agreed to speak to Stagecoach with regard to this.

15. Treasurer Report

Alex Macmillan agreed to go through the accounts with Morna Abernethy. It was agreed to have Morna Abernethy, Bryan Watson and Alex Macmillan as signatories on the account

16. AOCB

- a. The Chairman advised that members will be receiving a letter in the near future with regard to the Budget Consultation and meetings will be taking place throughout Moray. The Chairman asked members to inform as many people as possible regarding the proposed savings and ask them to email their views. The Chairman also advised that a meeting is to take place at the Town Hall on 24th November 2009 between 7.00 - 9.00pm and asked for as many members as possible to attend. Cllr Russell advised that a hard copy of the consultation document is available in libraries and Denise Gormley advised that the document could be downloaded from the Moray Council Webpage. Alex Macmillan urged members to look beyond the consultation pack and if they have any different ideas not mentioned then to put these views forward.
- a. Alex Macmillan advised that he had replied to the ASSC on the National Ballot response.
- b. Alex Macmillan advised that he is awaiting a response from Anne Glover, the Chairman and Chair of Planning. Once these are received he will be in a position to put together an Induction Pack.

- c. Alex Macmillan advised that the BIDS vote is due on 30 November 2009 and urged anybody with a business to use vote.
- d. Alex Macmillan advised that the Community Council's Data Protection Registration is due for renewal; a cheque for £35.00 would be required.
- e. Alex Macmillan reminded members to send any comments to him as soon as possible regarding the proposed Local Licensing Forum action on 'Bring your Own Booze' events.
- f. Anne Glover advised that she would be in a position to give an up-date on the Flood Relief Fund at the next meeting.
- g. Harry Torry advised that the Athletics Association at Morriston Park are applying for a £50,000 grant from Peoples Millions to update the running track and urged Community Councillors to vote in support of the facility on the 29th November 2009 between 9.00am and midnight via the webpage www.peoplesmillions.org.uk or by telephone. He also asked the Northern Scot for publicity.
- h. Cllr Russell advised that Moray Council is now able to accept household batteries at recycling points.
- i. Cllr Russell asked the Press if they could keep up the visibility of Elgin BIDS and the necessity for Elgin Businesses to register their vote. Cllr Russell advised that a provisional date has been set for 2nd December 2009 at 12.00pm on Elgin Plainstones for the announcement of the results.
- j. Alex Macmillan thanked members for their attendance at the Remembrance Day Celebrations and the Memorial Service held at New Elgin.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 8th December 2009 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08pm.

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These Minutes were Agreed for Accuracy by:

Proposer:.....

Seconder:.....

Chairman:.....
Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date:.....

Attachment 1
To Minutes
Dated 10th November 2009

Roads & Transportation (R&T) Report for the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council (C&RBoECC) Meeting 10th November 2009.

- Wednesday 14/10/09 George & Murray of the R&T Committee met with Mr. Andy Duff senior engineer traffic Moray Councils roads dept Academy Street office. We discussed our paper with Mr Duff along with future road works being carried out within our City. We were made welcome.
- Thursday 29/10/09 George & Murray of the R&T Committee met with Jane Innes of Springfield Properties on site on the A941, this meeting was also attended by, Mr. Andy Duff senior engineer traffic Moray Council roads dept. We also had in attendance Mr. James Smith engineer traffic of the same dept within Moray Council, Mr Smith was only present for a short while covering for Mr. Duff due to car problem, we also had in attendance Mr. Ralph Newlands roads manager Bear Scotland (Keith office) Our meeting was put in place to discuss the C&RBoECC Beautification scheme, Springfield Properties has kindly offered to construct 2 flower planters on the A941 for this Community Councils scheme, we were being advised as to the siting of the Planters by Mr Duff and Mr Smith from the road side for safety reasons, we also had present Springfield Properties head gardener who will be carrying out the construction and planting. These 2 planters will be planted all year round, summer flowers followed by winter Plants. The R&T Committee were present when Jane Innes Springfield Properties discussed the planting up of the Glassgreen roundabout with Mr Andy Duff, the C&RBoECC are carrying on with the Entranceway Beautification scheme and not getting heavily involved on roundabouts, we did offer any assistance possible to Jane Innes for this. Mr. Duff & Mr Smith left our meeting to allow Jane Innes to discuss planting the A96 Reiket Lane roundabout with Mr Ralph Newlands of Bear Scotland, R&T Committee was in attendance at the A96 roundabout and again will assist if required.
- On the same day George & Murray of the R&T Committee took the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Newlands when any work will be starting on Alexandra Road to help relieve traffic, Mr Newlands is hopeful work will be starting soon on this route through Elgin. We will keep monitoring this issue.
- On the 03/11/09 George & Murray of the R&T Committee attended the presentation by Bear Scotland on the Wittet Drive to Oakwood A96 alignment held in the Eight Acres Hotel. Ron Wilson Design manager from Bear Scotland headed the presentation, Mr Wilson introduced all the contractors involved on this work, Leith's (Forres being the main)

A96/Morrison Road Junction

- There will be no access to the A96 from Morrison Road for the duration of the works, temporary diversion will be in place using Lossiemouth Road, traffic lights will be erected at Lossiemouth Road/Morrison Road junction in order to maintain traffic flow from Morrison Road.
- Access to Morrison Road from A96 will be permitted during the works with the exception of 5 nightshifts dates to be confirmed. Traffic Lights will be in operation on the A96/ Morrison Road junction during the works, except during peak times 0600 till 0930 and 1530 till 1930.
- Diversionary signs will be in place along Morrison Road.
- There will be a new pedestrian refuge put in place on the A96 West of Morrison Road
- Footpaths upgraded either side on A96
- Wide load pull off and phone will be:- East Bound, Alves; West Bound, Sheriffston Lay-By.
- Andrew Macleod of Alba Traffic Management will be the traffic liaison officer for the scheme.
- Andrew will be contactable 24/7 on the following number 07894 395 306.
- On the 29/10/09 Murray made contact with Scottish Water regarding the Manhole cover repairs within Elgin as this has gone on well past 6 months since we drew attention to Moray Council

roads maintenance (11th March 2009). Mr Liam Harkness was my first contact at Scottish Water, Mr Harkness asked for a copy of our findings to be forwarded to him, I also sent a copy to his line manager Mr David Anderson. On Wed. 05/11/09 I received e mail from Mr Anderson asking for LA/Ref and RA/Ref as he has arranged for an inspection on these covers, Mr Anderson also mentions that there will be work carried out on Manhole covers within Moray Nov/December and is trying to avoid duplication for repairs. On Thurs. 06/11/09 I contacted Mr Bill Ross roads maintenance manager Moray Council about these Ref numbers as we have no Ref numbers to go by, I asked Mr Ross if he would pass on all Ref numbers, including the Station Road cover Refs to Mr Anderson. I asked Mr Ross if we could work together in getting these covers repaired, he was agreeable on this. I forwarded the mail I received from Mr. Anderson to Mr Ross along with all contact details for forwarding these Ref numbers to Scottish Water, on Monday 09/11/09 I made contact with Mr. Ross asking if he had received my mail as I had not heard anything back from him, Mr Ross said that he has now got my mail in front of him, (He had noticed it earlier but never opened it) His words were that he would pass it on to be dealt with right away. I have the e mails attached to this report letting you see how this issue is being handled for reference (*not with these Minutes*).

I have mailed Mr David Anderson back letting him know I have passed it on to Moray Council Road Maintenance for sending the LA/Refs to him.

- Murray received phone call from Lands & Parks asking if we would like Primroses and Bulbs in the A96 Planter. I and George had to act fast on this offer, we gave to go ahead for this planting out, and all we will have to pay for this is for the labour as plants have been donated by a nursery that was throwing the plants out. The secretary/treasurer will be receiving the bill for this and we thanked Lands & Parks for this offer.

This ends the R&T Committee report for this meeting on 10/11/09

I present to you our work to date since our Inauguration for this Community Council on 08/10/2009

Murray Ross.