

**Minutes of Meeting of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council**  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.00pm in the Moray Council Chambers**

**1. Sederunt:**

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| Members: | Alastair Kennedy (Chairman)  | Alex Macmillan (Secretary) |
|          | Bryan Watson (Vice Chair)    | Alan Bell                  |
|          | Anne Glover                  | George Littlejohn          |
|          | Kathleen Masson              | Wilma Milne                |
|          | Pat Paterson                 | Murray Ross                |
|          | Harry Torry                  | Mary Wall                  |
|          | Michael Gates (Youth Member) |                            |

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| In Attendance: | Cllr Divers                   | Cllr Leadbitter    |
|                | Cllr Russell                  | Cllr Sharp         |
|                | Inspector Mowat (Until 19.48) | Mary Dow (Minutes) |

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| Apologies: | Morna Abernethy (Treasurer) | Denise Gormley |
|            | Steven Milne                | Cllr Shand     |

The Chairman welcomed Wilma Milne, Pat Paterson and Mary Wall, three new members following the second round of elections; introductions followed.

| ITEM NO | ITEM DISCUSSED  | ACTION |
|---------|---|--------|
| 2.      | <p><b>Flood Alleviation</b></p> <p>Peter Haslam gave an update on the Flood Alleviation Scheme and advised that a new Website has been set-up at <a href="http://www.morayfloodalleviation.co.uk">www.morayfloodalleviation.co.uk</a> giving regular updates. See Attachment to Minutes.</p>  | AM     |
| 3.      | <p><b>Minutes of Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009</b></p> <p>The following corrections were proposed and agreed for previous minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009.</p> <p>Page 4 Para 3: – should read “The Moray Council Roads Maintenance Dept”.</p> <p>Page 4 Para 4: Should read “e-mailed”.</p> <p>Page 7 15i: Should read “by the City &amp; Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council Roads and Transportation Committee”.</p> <p>With these corrections recorded, the previous minutes were approved as accurate.</p> <p>Proposed: Murray Ross      Seconded: Harry Torry</p> |        |
| 4.      | <p><b>Matters Arising from 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009</b></p> <p>9. <u>Youth Membership</u>. No offers of membership from Cooper Troopers.</p>  |        |
| 9.a     | <p><u>Car Sales on Verges of A96 between Linkwood Way and Reiket Lane.</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised that he was awaiting a response from Mr R Burns.</p>   | AK     |

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| 13.c | <u>Shrubs on Laichmoray Roundabout.</u> Murray Ross advised that he had discussed this roundabout with the Senior Roads Traffic Engineer and after taking advice it was agreed that no further action be taken by the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council Roads and Transportation Committee.  | MR     |
| 5b   | <u>NHS Plans</u> The Chairman advised that a letter had been sent to Andrew Fowlie highlighting concerns raised at the previous meeting.   |        |
| 14.  | <u>Annual Grant.</u> The Secretary advised that the annual grant will now be paid every six months and the first payment of £441.45 has been received.   |        |
| 15b. | <u>Budget Consultation.</u> The Chairman thanked members for their input and advised that these were collated and e-mailed to the Support Workers who forwarded responses to Moray Councillors. The Chairman advised that the Moray Council budget would be set on 11 February 2010.   |        |
| 15c. | <p><u>Caravans on Lossie Green.</u> Alex Macmillan advised that he had received an update from Jake Mitchell of Moray Council advising that one of the caravans had been issued with a “7 - Day Removal Notice” on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and the occupants of the two remaining caravans were likely to be rehoused in the near future. He also said that he had highlighted to Mr Mitchell that when all the caravans were removed it would be an ideal opportunity to deny future travellers from camping on this site. Concerns were also raised with regard to the costs that may be incurred by Moray Council when the site is required for the Flood Alleviation Scheme should travellers continue to be allowed access to this area.</p> <p>A discussion took place and the following suggestions were discussed:</p> <p>Rocks at entrance, although this would then make it inaccessible to all.<br/>Lockable height bar put in place to allow access for cars, the Circus &amp; the Fairground. Concerns for this idea was that lorries occasionally park in this area and the Snack van has a license to trade from this site.</p> <p>It was proposed by George Littlejohn and Seconded by Murray Ross for Alex Macmillan to draft a letter to the Chief Executive of Moray Council highlighting the Community Council’s concerns. A draft letter was to be sent by e-mail to all members for approval.</p> | AM/ALL |
| 15.h | <u>Support Workers allocation.</u> The Chairman advised that the vacant position for a part-time Support Officer had been advertised and interviews will be taking place shortly. When this position is filled it would give voluntary organisations 44 hours of support cover per week. The vacant position of Support Worker has now been frozen and should this remain the case Ian Todd will look again at support throughout the area.  |        |
| 5.   | <p><b>Police Business &amp; Terrorism Update</b></p> <p>Inspector Mowat advised that a number of motorists had been issued with tickets for inappropriate parking on the Plainstones.</p>  |        |

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|                            | <p>Murray Ross raised concerns again regarding motorists using their mobile phones whilst driving. Inspector Mowat advised that it is pursued as much as possible but would highlight the concerns to the Traffic Police and Divisional staff. Alex Macmillan asked if it was possible for members of the public to inform the Police should they witness a driver using their mobile whilst driving. Inspector Mowat advised that calls received by the public regarding this would be followed-up.</p>  |                     |
| <p><b>6.</b></p> <p>a.</p> | <p><b>Committee Reports</b></p> <p><b>Planning.</b> The Chairman advised that he had been in contact with some residents regarding the plans for the new Elgin Academy and issues they wish to raise regarding the location of the school. The Chairman was to arrange a meeting with these residents to take forward their concerns and would update members at the next meeting.</p> <p>Bryan Watson advised that he had received a copy of the Urban Design Guide for Moray regarding how new housing developments may be changed in the future. In view of a response being needed by 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010, it was agreed by members for Bryan Watson to draft a response from the Planning Committee and forward to Harry Torry and Alastair Kennedy for their input/agreement.</p>  | <p>AK</p> <p>BW</p> |
| <p>b.</p>                  | <p><b>Recreation, Leisure &amp; Environment.</b> Anne Glover advised that she had produced a report for the new members giving details of the work that was currently being undertaken by the Recreation, Leisure and Environment Committee.</p> <p>Anne Glover said that she had been in contact with Ian Bruce, Moray Council Head of Environment Services, regarding the Wetlands at the Wards. Mr Bruce suggested that any work carried out should be supervised by a professional, but he would encourage support from youth groups. Anne Glover to contact Ian Bruce mid February for an update.</p> <p>Bryan Watson advised that clearance of the Wetlands had been a bi-annual event for the Scouts and other groups for many years.</p> <p>Anne Glover advised that there was no update available regarding the Mosaic on the Plainstones.</p> | <p>AG</p>           |
| <p>c.</p>                  | <p><b>Roads &amp; Transportation.</b> Manhole covers - Murray Ross advised that he had been in contact with Mr David Anderson of Scottish Water regarding the manhole covers and was informed that work would commence week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010. However, in view of the weather Murray Ross agreed to speak with Mr Anderson when the roads were clear of snow.</p> <p>Murray Ross also stated that he would be contacting Mr Ralph Newlands of Bear Scotland, Keith Office with regard to the drain blockages on the A96 when the snow had cleared.</p> <p>Footpath by Cemetery - Murray Ross reported that he was still having difficulty in establishing what department within Moray Council was responsible for the footpath by the Cemetery. Cllr Divers advised that he</p>  | <p>MR</p> <p>MR</p> |

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|                  | <p>had spoken to Mr Eddie Calder of the Housing Department and confirmed that it is a Housing issue. Murray Ross to pursue.</p> <p>George Littlejohn reported that between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 there was no train service between the City of Elgin and Inverurie. George Littlejohn advised that on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 he e-mailed the local MSP Richard Lochhead and pointed out this lack of service. An immediate response was received from Richard Lochhead stating that he did not know, and would pursue the point.</p> <p>George Littlejohn advised that on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 he spoke with the Minister, Stewart Stevenson, to find out what the problem had been. Mr Stevenson advised that owing to snow drifts and the ice/snow/ice/snow layers that had developed an ordinary rail snow plough could not break through and a snow blower had to be trucked in from the south. George Littlejohn was advised that the line would be fully open for first timetabled service train on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and he believes that the line is again fully operational between Aberdeen/Elgin/&amp; Inverness.</p> <p>George Littlejohn reported that on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010, he had spoken with Diane Anderson, Moray Council Roads Planning Department with regard to the Moray Council Transportation Requirements for Small Developments. George Littlejohn advised that the consultation applies to our rural areas only, mainly concentrating on the exiting and egress from/to the main road of a 60mph designation. The New Development in Urban Areas document, such as the City of Elgin is a separate document and will be updated some point in the future.</p> <p>George Littlejohn advised that he would be meeting with Murray Ross to discuss the Elgin Road Hierarchy – Primary and District Distributor Roads Consultation document, and will give their views on the ‘Response Form’ prior to the deadline of Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010.</p> <p>Murray Ross advised that he was disappointed at the comments made in the letter page of the Northern Scot criticising Moray Council regarding the gritting of pavements and roads. Murray Ross felt that more people should take responsibility for clearing their own areas and that of elderly neighbours.</p> <p>Bryan Watson asked the Roads and Transportation Committee if they would pursue the reasons why traffic lights cannot be installed at the Wittet Drive junction. George Littlejohn advised that he believes the decision was made by Transport Scotland, but the Roads and Transportation Committee would investigate further.</p> | <p>MR</p> <p>GL/MR</p> <p>GL/MR</p> |
| <p><b>7.</b></p> | <p><b>Youth Membership</b></p> <p>Alex Macmillan felt that an additional Youth Member should be sought.</p>   |                                     |
| <p><b>8.</b></p> | <p><b>Cooper Troopers</b></p> <p>Anne Glover and Harry Torry advised that they were disappointed with the lack of direction and ideas put forward for the project. They felt that more help was required from the Youth Workers, Amy Cheer and Wendy Toner.</p>   |                                     |

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|     | <p>The Chairman advised that he had received some information with regard to the work that was required to bring the lodge up to standard and would pass this information to Anne Glover and Harry Torry. George Littlejohn expressed concerns regarding the involvement of the Community Council on a project that may not work due to there being no Business Plan in place. Harry Torry agreed to e-mail the Youth Workers with regard to producing a Business Plan and carrying out a feasibility study. Michael Gates advised that he would be happy to help with this project if time allowed.</p>  | HT    |
| 9.  | <p><b>Deanshaugh Playing Fields</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>   |       |
| 10. | <p><b>Future Funding of Community Councils</b></p> <p>The Chairman advised that Ian Todd is currently looking into this and a new set of sums will be issued in the near future.</p>  |       |
| 11. | <p><b>Community Planning – Local Area Forums</b></p> <p>Nothing to report. Elgin South Area Forums next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010.</p> <p>The Chairman asked members for their views on working closer together with Area Forums. George Littlejohn advised that he believes that when the Forums were first set-up there were views expressed from certain members of the Community Council against this additional layer of bureaucracy however, the majority of members felt they could deal with this.</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss again at next meeting.</p>   | AM    |
| 12. | <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>The following correspondence was presented and members were invited to read the following submitted documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Registration of City &amp; Royal Borough of Elgin Community Council for Data Protection Act.</li> <li>2. Community Planning Partnership – E-Bulletin.</li> <li>3. Elgin Road Hierarchy.</li> <li>4. Complaint re. Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC) – The Secretary advised that an e-mail had been received from a Community Councillor in Edinburgh regarding the ASCC’s reluctance to listen to their members. The Secretary felt that the ASCC have been helpful and useful over the years. This complaint was to be discussed at the next Joint Community Council’s of Moray (JCC) meeting and an update would be given at our next meeting.</li> <li>5. Keep Scotland Tidy.</li> <li>6. UNLtd Sport Relief Funding.</li> </ol> | AK/AM |

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| <p><b>13.</b></p>   | <p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>In the absence of the Treasurer, no financial update was available.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>14.</b></p> <p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>d.</p> <p>e.</p> <p>f.</p> | <p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>Murray Ross asked the Moray Councillors the reasons why the Regional Sports Facilities at Elgin High School may not be going ahead.</p> <p>Cllr Divers advised that until the Moray Council's budget is presented they do not know if these facilities will be included or not.</p> <p>Murray Ross raised concerns that the project was held off last year due to European funding and this funding may be lost if these facilities do not go ahead as planned and that it would be a sad loss to the South of Elgin and community spirit. Cllr Leadbitter advised that it is not clear at present why there may be a delay, it may be due to further funding.</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss further when the budget is released.</p> <p>George Littlejohn expressed his disappointment at the lack of acknowledgement given to our Roads and Transportation Committee in the recently published Jacobs Consulting document. George Littlejohn advised that the Roads and Transportation Committee worked closely with Bear Scotland, Moray Council officials and Transport Scotland on the issues addressed in the report. George Littlejohn also mentioned that the article published in the Northern Scot regarding this document suggested it had come from Moray Council and gave no mention of the City &amp; Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council and its major contribution.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that the Transport Minister and local MSP were well aware of the work carried out by our Roads and Transportation Committee towards this document.</p> <p>Alex Macmillan felt it was important that the Community Council received credit and felt that our Roads and Transportation Committee had done a superb job in providing the basis for a Transport Scotland blueprint for Elgin and congratulated them.</p> <p>Anne Glover advised that a Flood Relief Fund meeting was due to take place on Friday and she would update the Committee at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Secretary was to update members contact details and e-mail to all members as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Secretary advised that the next JCC meeting is to be held in the Council Chambers on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The Secretary stated that a Mr Allan Sim had applied to become a member of the Community Council but his application for the second round of elections had arrived too late. It was suggested that Mr Sim join the Community Council as a Co-opted Member. Members agreed to try and co-opt as many people as possible within the prescribed limits and the Chairman and the Secretary agreed to contact Mr Sim with regard to co-option.</p> | <p>ALL</p> <p>AG</p> <p>AM</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>AK/AM</p> |

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| g. | Alex Macmillan said that he was pleased to see the new “Welcome to the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin, Historic Cathedral City” signs put up by Bear Scotland on the A96 – yet another Community Council initiative. |    |
| h. | The Secretary advised that he would be attending a meeting regarding Community Champions (Elgin Ear) on Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2010 and would update members at the next meeting.                        | AM |

**Date and Time of Next Meeting.**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.00pm.**

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

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**These Minutes were Adopted as a True Record of Proceedings:**

**Proposer:.....**

**Seconder:.....**

**Chairman:.....**  
**Mr Alastair Kennedy**

**Date:.....**

**Moray Flood Alleviation 12 January 2010 – Report to Elgin Community Council**  
**Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme**

**1. Web Site**

A new project web site can be found at: <http://www.morayfloodalleviation.co.uk/>

**2. Public Local Inquiry**

The Scottish Government appointed a Reporter to work for the Scottish Ministers. He was appointed because there were objections to the Scheme that the Council and Objectors could not resolve. The Reporter's remit was to consider the evidence presented to him by the Council and the Objectors and make recommendations to the Ministers.

Most of the Reporter's attention has been focussed on the effects of the Scheme on the areas downstream of Elgin. This reflects the content and nature of the objections to the Scheme.

The Council were hoping to hear the Reporter's recommendations to the Scottish Ministers in the New Year (i.e., now). However, at the beginning of December the Reporter asked the Council to provide further evidence. The further evidence requires additional studies to be undertaken.

The Council have agreed to do the studies, but are keen to ensure that they do not waste time and money undertaking studies that they have either misunderstood or that will not give the Reporter what he is looking for. The Council have (last week) provided a written statement setting out a methodology for the studies. This will be discussed at a meeting on 29 January, attended by the Reporter, the Council and the Objectors. This will probably be a public meeting. The venue is to be confirmed.

If there is agreement or an instruction from the Reporter on 29 January, the studies will be undertaken. It is anticipated that this will take around twelve weeks. The outcomes from the studies will be circulated to the relevant parties, who will be given two weeks to respond. Depending on the contents of the studies and the responses, the Reporter may choose to reconvene the Inquiry.

On the basis of the above, the Council now do not expect to hear the Reporter's recommendations to the Scottish Ministers until the summer. This has implications for the start of construction – the Council were hoping to start construction in September 2010 (subject to agreeing a target price with Morrison and having sufficient comfort about funding).

**3. Programme**

The latest approved Programme will be delayed by 4 to 6 months to resolve the current issues with the Reporter.

It is anticipated that work will start on site in the spring of 2011. The works will take an estimated 3.5 years to complete. It may be possible to mitigate some of the time to completion by carrying out works such as utilities diversions ahead of the start of the main Contract.

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