

Burghead and Cummington Community Council

Minutes of regular meeting held at Burghead harbour office – 4th March 2010

Present:- John Gordon (Chair); Jim Patterson; John Main; Jennifer Walker; Alistair Mackenzie; Bill Davidson; Mollie Fraser; Jim McCourt

In attendance:- Moray councillors Eric McGillivray and David Stewart; PC Kevin Anderson

Apologies:- Chris Tuke, Councillor Alan Wright

John Gordon opened the meeting at 7.30PM, and welcomed those attending. Jim McCourt took the minutes.

Adoption of minutes of previous meeting.

Acceptance proposed by Alistair Mackenzie **Seconded** by John Main

Police report

The local police force are aiming to be more visible, and pro-active, devoting more time to foot-patrols.

PC Angie Savage now has Burghead as her “micro” beat, and is the officer to contact about any queries.

The local force has a new inspector (Insp. Taylor) and a new sergeant (Sgt. Malloy). Mr Dave Haytack remains the community warden.

The CC meeting expressed their appreciation of more officers being on the beat.

There has been an incident of vandalism at Cummington.

Matters arising from previous meeting

The Clavie

The Clavie crew are in favour, in principle, of seeking insurance policies for the Clavie. The crew asked if the CC might know of any sources of funding for the premiums – various names were mentioned e.g. Scottish Heritage.

The meeting suggested they would help in raising funds for insurance premiums.

Cnclr McGillivray suggested that a CC and Clavie crew “sub-committee” get together, discuss the issues involved and then go on to a bigger meeting - facilitated by Cnclr McGillivray - involving all other interested parties e.g. the police.

There was a general discussion of risk assessments, and setting up an admin or organising committee working alongside the Clavie Crew.

The meeting accepted the Cnclr McGillivray’s proposal.

Coat of Arms

The meeting agreed to retain the original Coat of Arms, at a cost of £1350.

Conservation Area

This has been approved and accepted by the Moray Council, to cover the area around the Headland Centre and the harbour, including the North and South quays.

The conservation status may help in obtaining funding through grants.

There was discussion about the views of the CC not being correctly presented in the local press.

Licensing Laws

Alistair Mackenzie reported from the joint CC meeting that there may be again attempts to require small-scale and informal events to obtain a licence if they are selling or distributing alcohol in any form. A key point is that this is at the “discretion of the local council”. BYOB events and the like should not need a licence.

Relocation of library

The meeting regretted that the library move would result in the loss of two classrooms at the school.

However, on the positive side, the library and its computers will be available for school use when not open to the public (opening hours are intended to co-ordinate with the school timetable). There will be more computers for the school to use.

There was brief discussion of the possible impact on Burghead school of changes in staffing at RAF Kinloss, and at Alves school.

Potholes

The meeting raised concerns over the state of roads in Burghead – however the Council inspected these last week.

Cnclr McGillivray offered to ask Mr Bill Ross from the Council to attend and explain the Council’s approach and actions. The meeting felt this was unnecessary.

The Council may have to find an extra £1M for rock-salt and roads repairs after this winter.

Environment health

a/ Alistair Mackenzie read a letter from a concerned resident, about the degree of dog faeces in Burghead – especially along the back shore and around the harbour. There was generally considered to be an increase in dog-fouling in the area.

Dave Haytack, community warden has responsibility for managing this problem, and can enforce on-the-spot fines. He takes a very pro-active approach.

b/ Rats have been seen in the vicinity of the “Morning, Noon and Night” shop. The environmental health dept., have been involved. Because of their action, the CC agreed to monitor the situation for now and return to it if need be.

Members Items

Mollie Fraser raised the question of a wind-turbine planning request not being included on the Moray Council weekly list of planning applications.

Similarly, plans for a block of flats in Burghead have not been included.

The meeting expressed great concern about this, agreeing that such omissions were a serious matter. John Gordon will write to the planning dept (Angus Burnie), and will copy the letter to Bob Stewart.

There was general concern expressed about the lack of publication, and the excessive use of IT in the planning process. The process is unfair to people who have no access to IT facilities.

The meeting considered that the proposed wind-turbine at Clarkley Hill is a commercial enterprise which will have an undesirable impact on the locality. Plans for it have not yet been approved.

Cnclr David Stewart informed the meeting that boat rates for Burghead harbour will not be going up this year.

John Main:-

a/ John has discussed road signs for Burghead with John Stewart. Signs for Burghead will be on the left side of the road at the Masons Haugh turn (approaching from Cummingston). The sign will include the Coat of Arms. Burghead is top of the list to get the sign in place.

b/ Heavy wire at the side of the cycle track heading out of Burghead remains a hazard. The Council have assessed it three times and had mistakenly thought it had been repaired. They have promised to fix it.

c/ The old quarry near Clarkley hill is being used as a tip. John has been in touch with SEPA about this.

d/ John expressed concern at the overload of requests for CC members to attend various meetings. He was supported in this, although Cnclr McGillivray made the point that many of these were not Moray Council initiatives, and some were an attempt to keep CCs informed.

e/ Amenities Association. At a recent meeting it was learned that the Sub-aqua Club's proposed use of land for a club-house is proceeding. The coast-guards have apparently expressed interest in sharing the building/facilities. The sources of funding are unclear but fund-raising initiatives have been suggested.

The CC meeting remain sceptical about the proposals and expressed concern about the direction that the proposed development was taking. Ownership of the land remains unknown – it may still belong to Diageo. The meeting considered writing to Diageo (perhaps to ask that they clean up the land) but decided against this.

Alistair Mackenzie confirmed that a cheque for £20 had been paid to Alistair Kennedy in relation to the joint CC meeting and he had the receipt.

There being no further business, the meeting was brought to a conclusion by John Gordon at 21.20.

Next meeting 7.30PM, Thursday 1st April