

Minutes of Meeting of the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council,
Tuesday 12th February 2013 at 7pm held in the Moray Council Chambers

<u>1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES</u>	
<p><u>MEMBERS:</u> Alastair Kennedy (Chair), Gordon Methven (Secretary), Bryan Watson (Vice Chairman), Steven Christie, Anne Glover, George P Littlejohn, Pat Paterson, Cheryl Robb, Mary Wall, James Wiseman (Minutes).</p> <p><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u> Cllr John Divers, Community Warden Kathy Grant, Hazel Lawson (Northern Scot), Cllr Graham Leadbitter, PC Ewan Strachan, Donnie MacLean (Guest Speaker)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES:</u> Graeme Leslie (Stagecoach), Murray Ross, Steven Milne (Treasurer), Aidan Milne (Youth), Cllr James Allan, Cllr Mike Shand.</p>	
<u>WELCOME</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>Alastair Kennedy took the Chair, opened the meeting and introduced Mr Donnie MacLean of Moray Council who explained the new fortnightly kerbside recycling service.</p> <p><u>KERBSIDE RECYCLING (DONNIE MACLEAN)</u></p> <p>Recycling is necessary to reduce the cost of disposing of our rubbish. Examples of costs were given including Landfill Tax to the Scottish Government of £2m per year and making and sealing a landfill cell which costs £4m. A waste audit was carried out which showed that 30% of food waste was going to landfill which cost £500k. Clearly there is an opportunity to save cash by greater use of recycling.</p> <p>New Bins (Blue & Purple) will be issued in Elgin between 28th April & 3rd May 2013.</p> <p>What Goes Where</p> <p>Green Bin – Household Waste Blue Bin – Paper & Card Brown Bin – Garden Waste & Food Waste (via Grey pot) Purple Bin – Plastic & metal containers Orange Box - Glass</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy asked about recycling performance in Moray? We are 2nd or 3rd on the recycling league table for Scotland.</p> <p>Anne Glover asked about the space required for all these bins particularly in flats? Some places will have designated communal bin areas.</p> <p>Cllr John Divers asked about the problem of people leaving their bins out all week? The Council does not have a policy on this. The general rules are one bin per household and where necessary a bigger bin can be provided.</p> <p>Gordon Methven asked about visually impaired users given the colour coding? Bins are identifiable to visually impaired users by raised writing.</p> <p>George Littlejohn asked about communal bins in areas such as Darliston? These will be worked out along existing lines and adjusted if necessary.</p> <p>James Wiseman asked what happens if you miss bin night? Phone Moray Council and hopefully an arrangement can be made. James acknowledged that it was unlikely to happen very often but could happen.</p>	
<u>2. PREVIOUS MINUTES – 8th JANUARY 2013</u>	
<p>The January 2013 minutes were accepted as a true record with no amendments.</p> <p>Proposed by MARY WALL, Seconded by PAT PATERSON</p>	
<u>3. MATTERS ARISING</u>	
<p>King Street: On-going. James Wiseman still in touch with local residents.</p> <p>Fairtrade: See Report from Mary Wall.</p> <p>Taxi Signs: Alastair Kennedy to arrange meeting with Ian Emslie of the Taxi Drivers Association. Alastair Kennedy, George Littlejohn & Steven Christie (SPICE) to attend.</p> <p>WLR: Cllr John Divers had attended a meeting convened by the Designing Streets Action Group with Richard Heartland, Roddy Burns (CEO), Elgin South Ward Councillors and Richard Lochhead regarding the WLR where it had been said that the planning application was likely to be lodged Autumn 2013 therefore a pre-application consultation would likely take place at the end of the Summer. Cllr Graham Leadbitter advised that the Council might decouple the section of road to the new high school because it is needed</p>	
	AK

earlier.	
4. POLICE & COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE	
<p>Crime figures are on track for excellent end of financial year result for example Antisocial behaviour incidents are down by 20 from last year with a 75% detection rate which is high against the average of 50-60%. Serious and Violent Crime is also down 10 from last year to 17 in total with a 90% detection rate. These excellent results are thought to be due to Pubwatch, Education and the reintroduction of Community Wardens.</p> <p>George P Littlejohn asked about traffic problems at Bishopmill School particularly inconsiderate parking? Ewen Strachan advised that the Police were aware of this and were going to target patrols in the area to educate drivers. He also noted that this problem is widespread at most primary schools in Elgin.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy sought confirmation that parking on the pavement was illegal and asked if photographic evidence could be used? Ewan Strachan confirmed that parking on the pavement was illegal where a car causes an obstruction at the particular time.</p> <p>A major incident was on-going at the Lecht so having completed his report Inspector Strachan left the meeting. Alastair Kennedy thanked him for his attendance particularly in these circumstances.</p>	
COMMUNITY WARDEN	
<p>Community Warden figures for January 2013 were reported by Kathy Grant noting 9 noise complaints, 4 harassment complaints, 1 light pollution incident, 5 neighbour disputes and 1 fly tipping incident.</p> <p>A Residents Association has been formed for one problem area. Kathy Grant initiated this through an acceptable behaviour contract and the forming of the residents association has brought people on to common ground and has resulted in improvements. Steven Christie advised that Council Tenants can get money to improve their area.</p> <p>Dog fouling was also tackled and Kathy Grant had signed up 14 green dog walkers and issued 1 fixed penalty notice in this regard.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy asked for a definition of Light Pollution? Kathy Grant explained that the incident she attended was a very bright light which lit up a wide area and was likely to disturb neighbours.</p>	
5. STAGECOACH UPDATE	
New Service to Bain & Macmillan Avenues is under consideration.	
6. COMMITTEE REPORTS	
6a. PLANNING	
<p>Glen Moray Distillery consulted the Community Council as part of their distillery expansion pre-application consultations. James Wiseman received the consultation pack from Alastair Kennedy at the January meeting, attended a public exhibition on 11th February 2013 and reported that the distillery was to be expanded to three times its' current production capacity by the addition of a second production unit, warehousing and a new effluent plant. Traffic was expected to be about the same volume as the existing. Noise levels were not expected to change and will remain 24/7 as existing. The effluent plant was to be an aerobic process and no odour problem was expected. James Wiseman had advised the applicant to cover these issues in their planning application.</p> <p>St Giles Centre Frontage is to be redeveloped and Bryan Watson reported that he had looked at the plans with recent changes and had commented on the proposals that the Community Council had no concerns.</p> <p>Starbucks applied for retrospective planning permission for the use of an area in the High Street outside their café.</p>	JW BW
6b. RECREATION & LEISURE	
<p>The Flower beds at Ladyhill were tidied up and some litter had been removed after the planters had been kicked over. Anne Glover expressed her disappointment that this had happened.</p> <p>Funding for flowerbeds is required. Anne Glover said that she was no longer able to do the Car Boot Sale to raise funds and reminded the Community Council that some funding for plants had been promised at the December meeting. Alastair Kennedy acknowledged this and also reminded Anne that reasonable expenses could be paid on production of receipts.</p>	
6c. ENVIRONMENT	
<p>The Elgin Fairtrade Group is progressing through their 5 goals. Goal 1, 2 & 5 have been achieved while Goals 3 & 4 are only partially achieved. Mary Wall circulated a helpful overview of Fairtrade, its' purpose and its' goals and a snapshot of the Elgin Groups activities.</p>	

<p><u>FAIRTRADE EVENTS</u></p> <p>27 FEB 2013 Fairtrade Evening (Registration required)</p> <p>27 FEB 2013 Coffee at the Council Offices (Young Persons Committee)</p> <p>05 MAR 2013 Event for the ED&I Committee</p> <p>15 MAR 2013 Farmers Market</p>	
<p><u>6d. ROADS & TRANSPORTATION</u></p> <p>George Littlejohn submitted a report covering the following matters which he was in discussion with the Moray Council about.</p> <p>Pinefield. An Extension of the path into the Pinefield estate has been requested.</p> <p>Dr Gray's Roundabout. George Littlejohn had requested consideration of a school crossing patrol or other pedestrian safety measure at the roundabout adjacent to Dr Gray's hospital.</p> <p>Old Signage. There is an incorrect sign at the Old Post Office parking bays referring to the 30 minute parking. A correction has been requested from Transport Scotland.</p> <p>Bus Routes for Dr Gray's Hospital under discussion hoping to be revised to accommodate intending passengers and to address the crossing of the busy A96 for E/B bus travel. Stagecoach is reviewing this.</p> <p>Murray Ross submitted his report via George Littlejohn as follows.</p> <p>Ladyhill car park keep left sign on the A96 has been replaced.</p> <p>Direction sign for Aberdeen to be replaced at Pansport roundabout.</p> <p>Replacing Roundabouts along A96 is proposed by Bear Scotland. Murray will take this up with them.</p> <p>Inconsiderate parking at Bishopmill Primary School. This is a Moray wide issue and was covered by George Littlejohn & Alastair Kennedy's questions in Item 4 above.</p> <p>The A96 Reiket Lane roundabout is nearing completion.</p> <p>Glen Moray Distillery improvements open day was attended by George Littlejohn who reported the new production plant being built is to stand next to the current plant. He was told that the noise level would remain at approximately 70dbA with the fans creating the most noise and he knows of no complaints from the present plant. The approximate rail tanker movement from the 'Distillery will be 3 tankers per week – Monday to Friday taking the route from the 'Distillery to Bruceland Road / Fleurs Drive / Pluscarden Road / South Street West / Hay Street South / Station Road / Maisondieu Road into the Elgin Goods Yard. The same route on return. Dr Grey's Hospital is the most significant complex that the trucks will pass on Pluscarden Road; however the occurrence of this traffic is of such a low frequency that it should have no effect on upward noise in this area.</p> <p>Duplication between the actions of the Community Planning Forums and the Community Council was raised by George Littlejohn. Alastair Kennedy suggested the Community Council was best placed to take forward any issue based on the Community Council's remit versus the Community Planning Forums. Alastair also commented on the differences in how the South and North Forums operate.</p>	GPL/MR
<p><u>6e. YOUTH - No report.</u></p> <p>Community Fair photographs to be uploaded</p>	AM
<p><u>7. COMMUNITY PLANNING</u></p>	
<p><u>7a. ELGIN NORTH AREA FORUM</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy reported that the North Area Forum discussed Glen Moray, Parking at the Academy, Roundabout at Dr Gray's, Duplication between the Forums, the Community Council and other groups.</p>	
<p><u>7b. ELGIN SOUTH AREA FORUM</u></p> <p>Steven Christie reported that the South Area Forum discussed the local Plan, The Council's response re' Sandy Road, Western Link Road, new high School, Lifting the Spirit (Hitrans to attend April meeting). The next meeting is 19 February 2013 which is given over to a follow up meeting with Richard Carey (NHS).</p>	
<p><u>7c. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITY OF ELGIN (SPICE)</u></p> <p>A Constitution is being drafted for SPICE following encouragement by Zero-Waste Scotland.</p> <p>A diary of events has been set up on Facebook.</p> <p>Chewing Gum. Steven Christie attended a demonstration of a chewing gum removal device and commented on the costs.</p> <p>Refurbishing the Fountain at Dr Gray's was discussed and a proposal is to be taken to Bear Scotland.</p>	

<p><u>8. TREASURERS REPORT</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy reported on behalf of Steven Milne that the balances on the bank accounts were as last month which was Account 1 at £3,755.66 and Account 2 at £3,173.68.</p>	
<p><u>9. DEANSHAUGH PLAYING FIELDS – No Report/On-going</u></p>	
<p><u>10. CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>Moray Council revised draft Homelessness Policy.</p> <p>Scottish Government Consultation on affordable rented housing.</p> <p>Steven Christie commented that the policy was well presented.</p> <p>South Forum meeting with Richard Carey NHS Grampian 19/2/2013 7:00pm NEON.</p> <p>Steven Christie to advise Aileen Marshall 4 to attend from the Community Council.</p> <p>Consultation on Draft Strategic Police Plan from the Scottish Police Authority</p> <p>George Littlejohn advised that he had written to the Justice Secretary to prevent a central belt monopoly.</p> <p>Other Current Consultations can be found at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current</p>	GM
<p><u>11. GRANT LODGE – No Report</u></p>	
<p><u>12. PROMOTING THE CITY OF ELGIN</u></p> <p>Community Council Awards are to be discussed at our next meeting led by Gordon Methven and Steven Christie who will invite some people to discuss the subject.</p> <p>Community Fair debrief has not happened and will now not happen.</p> <p>Gordon Methven had circulated his thoughts on what community councils could be involved in due to the forthcoming elections, consultations and comments in the press and had asked for member's thoughts. There followed a brief discussion when Alastair said the JCC would look into this matter further.</p> <p>James Wiseman commented that its main objective was to present the community's opinion.</p> <p>Cllr Graham Leadbitter described the difference between an elected member and a co-opted member and highlighted what can happen when someone moves house.</p> <p>Bryan Watson expressed a desire to recognise the success of the Playhouse refurbishment and its benefit to Elgin.</p>	GM/SC AK
<p><u>13. ELGIN HIGHSCHOOL</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy advised the meeting that a steering group had been set up for this.</p>	
<p><u>14. SOUTH LESMURDIE STATS</u></p> <p>A Facebook Page set up for residents of South Lesmurdie has attracted 318 past and present residents of South Lesmurdie who have signed up to share memories of bygone days and to discuss wider community issues.</p> <p>A Residents Association is being formed by a core group of residents and is being supported by the Community Support unit.</p> <p>Paths around the landfill site are to be improved and extended. Discussions between residents and the Flood Alleviation team are on-going.</p>	
<p><u>15. OLD MILLS</u></p> <p>The reporter is to visit the site on 23rd February 2013 and the Community Council has been advised that a silent protest will be on-going at that time.</p>	
<p><u>16. MORRISTON RUNNING TRACK</u></p> <p>Cllr John Divers advised that contractors are being put in place.</p>	
<p><u>17. SCOTTISH 6 DAY ORIENTEERING EVENT 2013</u></p> <p>Planning requirements for signs for this event have been clarified by the Moray Council and certain land owners have agreed to allow signs to be erected in their fields. Gordon Methven asked Alastair Kennedy to arrange for signs to be purchased.</p>	AK
<p><u>18. CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>Our Registration from the Information Commissioner was recieved</p> <p>The Coach Driver's Yearbook subscription has been received.</p>	

<p><u>19. AOCB</u></p> <p>George P Littlejohn asked about proposals to grass over flowerbeds. Cllr John Divers advised the Community Council to make any representations if they feel strongly.</p> <p>Mary Wall seconded Bryan Watson's suggestion to acknowledge the Playhouse refurbishment.</p> <p>Anne Glover advised that railway works would be on-going 11pm – 5am in the yard at the old railway station.</p>	
<p><u>20. NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Tuesday 12MAR2012 - 7pm at Moray Council Chambers</p>	

There being no further business to discuss the Chair thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 9:20pm

These Minutes were adopted as a True Record of Proceedings:

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Chair: _____ Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date: _____