

Minutes of Meeting of the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council,

Tuesday 12th March 2013 at 7pm held in the Moray Council Chambers

1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS:

Alastair Kennedy (Chair),
Anne Glover,
James Wiseman (Minutes).

Gordon Methven (Secretary),
George P Littlejohn,

Steven Christie,
Pat Paterson,

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr John Divers,
Cllr Graham Leadbitter,
Nancy Robson (Step by Step),

Cllr Patsy Gowans,
Hazel Lawson (Northern Scot),
Sgt Gordon Wells (Elgin Detachment 1st Highlanders Army Cadet Force)

Cllr Barry Jarvis,
David Chapman (Visitor from Southampton),

APOLOGIES:

Graeme Leslie (Stagecoach),
Bryan Watson (Vice Chairman),
PC Ewan Strachan,

Murray Ross,
Cheryl Robb,

Cllr Mike Shand.
Mary Wall,

WELCOME

Alastair Kennedy took the Chair, opened the meeting, noted the depleted number of members in attendance then introduced Gordon Methven to speak on the proposed Community Awards Scheme.

COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME (GORDON METHVEN)

With a view to promoting the city of Elgin, Gordon Methven delivered a presentation on the benefits of a community awards scheme using Celebrate Maidstone as an example. He proposed that a Committee be formed to develop a Community Awards Scheme and outlined the potential benefits of such a scheme to the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin.

Alastair Kennedy & Anne Glover recalled previous schemes. David Chapman said it was good to showcase the community. Various members commented on the geographical area and it was suggested that Elgin should be the limit to start with. George Littlejohn and Steven Christie noted that wide area groups would be a problem for an Elgin Scheme. Nancy Robson added that the awards should be for volunteers not people doing employed work.

- Agreed: To adopt the proposal by Gordon Methven to progress a Community Awards Scheme as a Community Council initiative for the purpose of promoting the city of Elgin and to boost morale in the city.
- **ACTION: Gordon Methven to form a committee at his discretion to develop a Community Awards Scheme and report on progress.**

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES – 12th FEBRUARY 2013

The Minutes of 12th February 2013 with the following correction was proposed by Steven Christie and seconded by Anne Glover.

Correction(s): Page 3 Item 6d: Reference was to tidying up roundabouts not replacing them with signalised junctions.

- Agreed: The Minutes of 12th February 2013 were accepted as a true record with above correction.

3. MATTERS ARISING

KING STREET: On-going.

FAIRTRADE: See 6c.

TAXI SIGNS: Alastair Kennedy is having difficulty contacting Ian Emslie of the Taxi Drivers Association to meet with himself, George Littlejohn & Steven Christie (SPICE).

- **ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to arrange meeting with Ian Emslie of the Taxi Driver's Association.**

FLOWERBEDS: See 6b.

PINEFIELD PATH: No update

SIGNS AT POST OFFICE: Has been passed to Andy Duff. Gordon Methven asked if the problem was the engineering or the traffic order and George Littlejohn confirmed it was the Engineering.

DR GRAY'S CROSSING: No11 no goes behind Dr Gray's and down Wittet Drive.

DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICE PLAN: Alastair Kennedy commended and thanked Gordon Methven for work in responding to the draft strategic police plan on behalf of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council.

4. POLICE & COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE – No Report

5. STAGECOACH UPDATE – No Report

Graeme Leslie of Stagecoach is moving within the company and will brief his replacement.

Alastair Kennedy thanked Graeme Leslie in absentia for his service to the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6a. PLANNING

GLENMORAY DISTILLERY: A response to the pre-application consultation for the expansion of Glenmoray Distillery was submitted to the Distillery Manager by James Wiseman and the Secretary has a copy of the correspondence.

ST GILES FRONTAGE: Alastair Kennedy reported that details of the new St Giles Centre Frontage were progressing satisfactorily.

FLOWERS: James Wiseman had approached Glenmoray Distillery to ask if they would be willing to take on a flowerbed or the like somewhere in Elgin and reported that the Manager was keen to get involved.

- **ACTION: James Wiseman to follow up the Glenmoray Offer**

6b. RECREATION & LEISURE

FLOWERBEDS: Anne Glover reported that she had a plan to replace the damaged flower pots at Ladyhill and acknowledged the assistance of Covebay Nursery, Asda & B&Q for their assistance in replacing the plants. She also reported that the Urn needs some attention but is not sure exactly what is required. Donations received by Anne Glover at her recent birthday celebration are to be banked ASAP.

6c. ENVIRONMENT

FAIRTRADE: Pat Paterson reported progress on Goal 3: Engage With The Community, was helped by two meetings at the Council Headquarters. A request was issued for donations to the Fairtrade stall at the farmers market on Saturday 16th March 2013. The Elgin application for Fairtrade status will be reassessed in June 2013.

George Littlejohn proposed a donation of £50 in support of the Fairtrade activity.

- **ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to arrange Community Council donation of £50 to the Fairtrade activity.**

6d. ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

ROUNDBABOUTS: George Littlejohn reported for Murray Ross that planting of roundabouts will start once the weather gets better.

COOPER PARK PARKING: George Littlejohn had investigated complaints that the marked bays in the Cooper park were too small. He reported that the bays were in order and not the smallest in town.

James Wiseman asked if there could be confusion over the concept of "parking outwith the marked bays"? Gordon Methven commented that all the parking bays in Elgin are too small for most cars but didn't think it was a problem. Alastair Kennedy urged that common sense should be applied in the use of marked parking bays.

6e. YOUTH - No report.

Alastair Kennedy noted that he wished to speak to Aiden Milne about the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council becoming carbon neutral.

- **ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to speak with Aiden Milne about ECC becoming carbon neutral.**

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING

7a. ELGIN NORTH AREA FORUM

Councillor Patsy Gowans reported that the whole committee had resigned and the North Area Community Planning Forum is in the hands of the Moray Council.

7b. ELGIN SOUTH AREA FORUM

Steven Christie reported that the South Area Forum met with Richard Carey of the NHS and discussed, inter alia, Pain Clinics, Performance, staff morale and prescriptions.

George Littlejohn expressed concern over staff complaints procedure at Dr Gray's. He asked if we knew if there was a route for whistle blowing and stated that suppression of complaints is damaging to staff and that complaints need to be heard in an atmosphere of trust and cooperation.

George Littlejohn also discussed the parking congestion at Dr Gray's and recalled that a multi-storey car park for staff had been a long standing Community Council idea. Patient transport was also discussed and various members recounted examples where patients had to endure long journeys suggesting that some joined up thinking was required around patient transport.

7c. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITY OF ELGIN (SPICE)

Steven Christie reported that SPICE now has a draft constitution and will formally launch it in May 2013.

CHEWING GUM: A demonstration of a chewing gum removal device had been attended and the device is to be discussed further.

DISCLOSURE: is being address.

BIN STRATEGY: A bin strategy is being addressed.

BUSINESS: SPICE is to engage with businesses in Elgin to progress the partnership aspect of SPICE.

8. TREASURERS REPORT – No Report

9. DEANSHAUGH PLAYING FIELDS

Alastair Kennedy commented at the amount of work going on. Cllr Graeme Leadbitter gave the meeting an appreciation of the quantity of ground being dealt with by highlighting an otherwise trivial point that each of the small white bags, of which there are many, weighs a tonne.

10. CONSULTATIONS

Gordon Methven referred to the Scottish Government website for the latest list of consultations <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current> and highlighted the following.

HEALTHIER SCOTLAND: setting up a body to regulated food related public health issues in Scotland.

POLICE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION: Gordon Methven advised members that he had submitted our report to the Scottish Police Authority regarding the consultation. He explained that the Scottish Police Authority was being set up to replace the local police boards and was a different organisation from the Scottish Police Service itself. Cllr John Divers and Cllr Graeme Leadbitter then explained their involvement in the old police and fire boards and that they were to be involved as Moray Council's representatives in the new set up which was hopefully going to be covered more by the press.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Gordon Methven asked if there had been any developments on this matter? Cllr Divers reported that it had not been reported to the ED&I Committee as yet.

FUEL POVERTY FORUM: Alastair Kennedy had received information on a fuel poverty policy which he will respond to.

- **ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to respond on behalf of the Community Council to the Fuel Poverty Policy**

HOMELESSNESS POLICY: Steven Christie noted that he had responded to the Moray Council consultation on a new homelessness policy.

11. GRANT LODGE – No Report

George Littlejohn discussed relocation of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC). Alastair Kennedy recalled that this was part of a conservation area regeneration plan in the economic strategy and expressed concern that the Economic Strategy may not be followed thereby wasting all the work that went in to getting it agreed.

- **ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to write to the Chief Executive of Moray Council expressing our concern that the Economic Strategy was not being followed despite there being firm agreement that nothing would be allowed to interfere with the strategy.**
- **ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to write to the Chief Executive of Moray Council expressing our preference to have the TIC located centrally, ie in the High Street where it would work better rather than being hidden away at Grant Lodge as is being suggested.**

12. PROMOTING THE CITY OF ELGIN – See (1) above

13. ELGIN HIGHSCHOOL - on-going

14. SOUTH LESMURDIE STATS – No report

15. OLD MILLS – No report

16. MORRISTON RUNNING TRACK

Cllr John Divers reported good progress and work will be complete by 5th April 2013 and be open in June 2013.

17. SCOTTISH 6 DAY ORIENTEERING EVENT 2013

Planning requirements for signs for this event have been clarified by the Moray Council and certain land owners (Regency Car Sales, Eight Acres Hotel and Springfield Properties have agreed to allow signs to be erected on their land. Gordon Methven asked Alastair Kennedy to arrange for signs to be purchased.

- **ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to purchase signs**

18. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence of note.

19. AOCB

RAISING THE PROFILE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS: Alastair Kennedy advised that the JCC had resolved to raise the profile of Community Councils prior to the elections later this year and to fund the exercise had agreed to contribute £300 itself and ask that each Community Council contribute £75.

A motion that the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council contributes £75 to raise the profile of the Community Councils prior to the election subject to some form of scrutiny was proposed by George Littlejohn and seconded by Steven Christie. There were no objections.

- Agreed: to contribute £75 to JCC for raising the profile of Community Councils

- **ACTION: George Littlejohn to arrange contribution £75 to JCC .**

INSURANCE: Gordon Methven confirmed that the Community Council public liability insurance had been renewed and he was in possession of the policy documents.

LIGHTING OF SPRINGFIELD ROAD TO EDGAR ROAD: Aileen Marshall had asked the Community Council to address this. Alastair Kennedy asked George Littlejohn to look in to it.

- **ACTION: George Littlejohn to take forward concerns about lighting at the footpath off Glen Moray Drive.**

MORAY PLAYHOUSE VISIT: Gordon Methven asked for an indication of numbers for attending a behind the scenes visit to Moray Playhouse following its' recent refurbishment. All seven members present indicated an interest in attending but dependant on the dates.

LIGHTS ON MORRISTON ROAD: Cllr Barry Jarvis explained the changes being made to optimise the operation of the traffic lights on Morriston Road notably triggering sensors further from the lights are to be used and pedestrian barriers are to be removed. Cllr Jarvis reassured the meeting that although removal of the barriers is counterintuitive it is safer according current codes of practice.

ELGIN BIDS SHOWCASE: Steven Christie called for volunteers for the Elgin BID Showcase 23 & 24 May 2013.

PATIENT REFERENCE GROUP: Anne Glover advised that this group had started and that she will report on it in due course.

WESTERN LINK ROAD: James Wiseman related recent events in relation to the Western Link Road and particularly noted Aileen Marshall's (South Area Forum) meeting with Richard Hartland regarding Community Engagement which he said was very worthwhile because Aileen Marshall had highlighted key documents that could help and Richard Hartland was open to improving Moray Council Community Engagement.

20. CLOSE

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 9th April 2013 - 7pm at Moray Council Chambers

CLOSE: There being no further business to discuss the Chair thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 9:08pm

CITATION: These Minutes were adopted as a True Record of Proceedings:

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Chair: _____ Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date: _____