

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

Tuesday 9th April 2013 at 7pm held in the Moray Council Chambers

1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS:

Alastair Kennedy (Chair), Gordon Methven (Secretary), Steven Christie,
Anne Glover, George P Littlejohn, Mary Wall,
Bryan Watson (Vice Chair) James Wiseman (Minutes).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr John Divers, Cllr Patsy Gowans, Cllr Barry Jarvis,
Cllr Graham Leadbitter, Hazel Lawson (Northern Scot), Alistair Whitfield (P&J),
Sgt Michael Irwin (Police Scotland)
Sgt Gordon Wells (Elgin Detachment 1st Highlanders Army Cadet Force)

APOLOGIES:

Kathy Grant (Community Warden) Murray Ross, Cllr James Allan,
Cllr Mike Shand, Cheryl Robb, Pat Paterson,
Graeme Leslie/Sandy Gallacher (Stagecoach)

WELCOME

Alastair Kennedy took the Chair, opened the meeting, noted the depleted number of members in attendance again and welcomed new faces Alistair Whitfield & Sgt Mic' Irwin. He then advised the meeting that the presentation by the Project Manager of the New Elgin High School (Martine Scott) had to be postponed to June due to an urgent project meeting which Martine Scott had to attend.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES – 12th MARCH 2013

George Littlejohn seconded by Steven Christie proposed that the minutes of 12th March 2013 be accepted as a true record of that meeting. There were no objections.

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

3. MATTERS ARISING

KING STREET: On-going with James Wiseman

FAIRTRADE: The cheque requested has been dispatched.

TAXI SIGNS: On-going, the meeting is still required. George Littlejohn offered to visit Ian Emslie personally to arrange the meeting.

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

FLOWERBEDS: See 6b.

PINEFIELD PATH: This item is with Andy Duff of Moray Council and George Littlejohn is to contact Andy Duff for a progress report.

SIGNS AT POST OFFICE: See 6d.

DR GRAY'S BUS SERVICE: George Littlejohn confirmed that the Nr11 now goes down Wittet Drive and Pluscarden Road as requested. It does this from 05:45 to 18:45.

4. POLICE & COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE

Sgt Michael Irwin reported that the transition to Police Scotland or Police Service Scotland was on-going with new paperwork and procedures being implemented but with effectively no change to the local offices in Elgin, Buckie and Forres. New multi-ward plans are now available and the plans for Elgin North and Elgin South are similar so all of Elgin is treated the same.

George Littlejohn asked about morale in the force through the transition. Sgt Irwin said that morale was about the same.

Alastair Kennedy asked if internal promotions were affected. Sgt Irwin said that the Grampian Model had been adopted for promotions Constable to Sergeant and Sergeant to Inspector. He felt that there was some increased freedom perhaps making promotion opportunities work better for staff and people were not being forced to move.

Anne Glover asked for any information about signs that she had noticed in Seafield Street attached to the lampposts about cold calling. No information was available and these are unlikely to be police notices. He added that canvassers require a licence from the Council.

Alastair Kennedy asked if any of the previous police operations in Elgin were affected? Sgt Irwin confirmed that operations such as Moravia, Avon & Safer Streets were all continuing.

Anne Glover asked about the 101 police number. Sgt Irwin advised that the new 101 number was a non emergency number and calls to it are directed locally and expected to be of a non emergency nature eg advising of a historical incident, vandalism etc whereas 999 was still correct for emergencies and ongoing serious incidents.

Alastair Kennedy thanked Sgt Irwin for attending and updating the Community Council.

5. STAGECOACH UPDATE – No Report

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6a. PLANNING

HAWCO EDGAR ROAD: James Wiseman reported that he had collated comments and submitted a response expressing concerns about traffic at the junction of the Wards and Edgar Road. George Littlejohn advised that the gate to the sales lot should be made wider to accommodate two way traffic. James Wiseman responded by saying that he had not had that information at the time and the time for comment was now closed.

- **Action: James Wiseman to circulate his collated response.**

There ensued a discussion highlighting concerns about motor retailers making specific uses of the public highway adjacent to their businesses. Steven Christie recounted discussions at the South Forum about the Arnold Clark transporters. Alastair Kennedy questioned the suitability of certain locations for this type of business and Cllr Graham Leadbitter responded by saying that these situations occur by historical development, usually staff park away from the site and whilst there are insurance rules about how far away a transporter may park delivering cars the businesses generally respond as much as they can to such complaints to avoid adverse publicity but infringements of traffic laws should be reported to the Police. It was also noted that customers parking inconsiderately was not the direct responsibility of a business.

EPLANNING: James Wiseman also advised the meeting of a problem with the eplanning website which does not take comments on the last day of the consultation period and the Council are aware of this.

BROWN MUIR: James Wiseman advised that a Supplementary Environmental Information Addendum to the Brown Muir application had been received and that he would review the update in relation to the Community Council's previous comments and circulate a response for comment before the due date of 3rd May 2013. He added that the addendum was based on the comments from Moray Council, SEPA, RSPB, Historic Scotland, Marine Scotland but not the Elgin Community Council.

- **Action: James Wiseman to circulate draft response to Brown Muir update.**

GLENMORAY DISTILLERY: Discussions are being progressed with Glenmoray Distillery regarding some planting. James Wiseman to arrange a meeting with all key players Glenmoray, SPICE and the Community Council.

6b. RECREATION & LEISURE

FLOWERBEDS: Anne Glover reported that the new flower pots were in place at Ladyhill and acknowledged the help of colleagues and Covebay Nursery. She also reported that there was a problem with dog fouling at the site and that she had contacted Kathy Grant the Community Warden to advise her of the problem.

Alastair Kennedy asked about the fountain at Dr Gray's hospital. James Wiseman reported that he had contacted Ralph Newlands of BEAR Scotland who had advised that the area was not owned by BEAR Scotland but was managed by them as part of the A96 trunk road and that there were on-going works due to be completed this week. James Wiseman undertook to convene a meeting of the relevant people to take the project forward. Alastair Kennedy suggested that if this worked it would be the way forward given the cuts currently being made.

James Wiseman offered to help with the weeding at the flowerbeds.

WETLAND: Bryan Watson pointed out that a burnt-out motor bike had been removed from the wetland area at Edgar Road and said that there was a litter problem there and the Litter pick could target that area. He added that a notice informing people of the litter pick could be put at both entrances to the wetland.

6c. ENVIRONMENT

FAIRTRADE: Mary Wall reported that during Fairtrade Fortnight the whole country was buzzing with activity on different fronts. Indeed Elgin High School who helped at one of the Council's coffee morning, went on to have a shoe fun day at school thus highlighting the fair-trade theme: Taking A Step For Fairtrade. This received good coverage in the Northern Scot. Publicity is one of the goals where we have to achieve more.

Since then there has only been one event and that was the stall at the farmers market on Saturday 16th March 2013. It was a bitterly cold day and it took a long time before there was a crowd getting themselves involved, asking questions, taking a turn at the raffle and sampling the chocolate and pineapple (all Fairtrade of course!) which Pat Paterson had diced. There was also free coffee from Starbucks in a flask and on such a cold day something hot was most welcome. For their kind contributions to the raffle, Starbucks, Bijou & Tesco were thanked. Mary Wall mentioned that the gift from David Robertson of Bijou was a scarf from their Fairtrade stand in their shop.

Mary Wall reported that the Elgin Fairtrade group are now working on community engagement on different fronts. She met with Laura Cruickshank operations manager of Elgin Chamber of Commerce and has been asked to contribute to the Chamber's e-newsletter and the Chamber of commerce is looking for further contacts. Alastair Kennedy enquired as to how the engagement might be done and with whom. Mary Wall said that this was being looked in to. Alastair Kennedy suggested Jacqui Taylor at the Moray College may be a useful contact.

- **Action: Mary Wall to report on the amount raised by the Fairtrade raffle at the Market Stall.**

6d. ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

George Littlejohn gave his R&T report as follows

EIGHT ACRES FLOWERBED: The Eight Acres flowerbed had been weeded by George Littlejohn and Mary Wall.

A96 ROUNDABOUTS: Murray Ross and George Littlejohn drove the entire length of the A96 in the city of Elgin to monitor progress of the refurbishment of the roundabouts in Elgin. Stone kerbs have been laid at the outer extremities of each roundabout, new plants bedded in and overgrowing bushes trimmed. BEAR Scotland will revisit this 6 monthly.

FOUNTAIN AT DR GRAY'S: George Littlejohn and Murray Ross inspected the fountain area and advised that the work was incomplete and have asked BEAR Scotland whether a layer of plastic would be preferable to prevent weeds regrowing.

JOCK INKSON'S BRAE: Following correspondence from Harry Torry, George Littlejohn spoke to Moray Council about the adequacy of signage at the junction of Jock Inkson's Brae and Old Mills Road. James Smith (Moray Council) is to visit the site and review the signage.

SUNK MANHOLES: George Littlejohn and Murray Ross noted that a number of Scottish Water manholes had sunk in the area of the Allan Milne car dealership Linkwood Place and they intend to produce a detailed report for Scottish Water's attention. James Wiseman offered to act as a contact if required and also mentioned the "report a fault option" on the Scottish Water Website. George Littlejohn noted this and advised that he had a local contact.

GLENMORAY DRIVE FOOTPATH: George Littlejohn reported that he had taken up the issue of lighting the path at Glen Moray Drive with Alison Kennedy of the Street Lighting Department. He had been told that there was no requirement to light the cycle path at night and in the current economic climate it could not be done.

6e. YOUTH - No report.

Alastair Kennedy reported that he had asked a youth development worker to look out for any young people interested in becoming involved in the Community Council perhaps to set up a youth committee.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING

7a. ELGIN NORTH AREA FORUM

Alastair Kennedy reminded the Community Council that the North Area Community Planning Forum is in abeyance.

7b. ELGIN SOUTH AREA FORUM

Steven Christie reported that the South Area Forum discussed the budget, toilets, libraries, Western Link Road, Sandy Road, Food bank, Glenmoray Drive cycle path, and cycle parking at Moray Council HQ. James Wiseman added that the South Forum had also had a most informative visit to Elgin Academy and met the Project Manager for the new New Elgin High School.

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

CONSTITUTION: Steven Christie reported that SPICE's draft constitution had been circulated again for final comment seeking approval by the end of June 2013.

THE HUB: Steven Christie reported that SPICE are preparing a business plan for a proposed town centre hub including public toilets and that he would be seeking to gauge public opinion on the idea ahead of preparing the Business Plan needed to raise the money required for such a venture. Alastair Kennedy asked for thoughts on the hub. Anne Glover suggested the Taxi drivers might use it too. Gordon Methven confirmed the need for public toilets saying that courts can't deal with persons urinating in public if there is no facilities to use. Cllr John Divers mentioned that the Licencing Act requires that licenced premises allow the use of their facilities by the public. James Wiseman asked which part of the licencing act that came from and suggested that it would be helpful if the public were made aware of that. Gordon Methven added that a similar system works well in other countries but doesn't work when the licenced premises are closed.

LITTER PICK: A litter pick is planned for 20th & 21st April 2013 Starting at BiDS. Anne Glover and Steven Christie intend to make a photo diary the weekend before to focus activities.

LADYHILL FLOWERBEDS: Steven Christie reported that the flowerbeds were looking really good but dog fouling is becoming a problem.

STREET PASTORS: The street pastors are starting Saturday 13th April 2013 based at St Giles church.

Next meeting of SPICE is on 2nd May 2013.

8. TREASURERS REPORT – No Report

9. DEANSHAUGH PLAYING FIELDS – No Update

10. CONSULTATIONS

REVIEW OF MORAY COUNCIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME: All are invited to login to Moray Council Website and respond before 24th May 2013. Alastair Kennedy asked for comments to the next meeting and he will collate a response.

GYPSY TRAVELLERS SITE: Alastair Kennedy delegated the response to the Planning Team and asked James Wiseman and Steven Christie to draft a response to the consultation on the Policy Interpretation Guidance for Gypsy Travellers Sites.

- **Action: James Wiseman & Steven Christie to respond to Gypsy Travellers site consultation between 15 April 2013 and 10 May 2013.**

11. GRANT LODGE

MORAY COUNCIL DECISION: A letter had been drafted regarding the ED&I committee decision but not yet sent.

12. PROMOTING THE CITY OF ELGIN – On-going

13. ELGIN HIGHSCHOOL – Presentation deferred till June

14. SOUTH LESMURDIE STATS – No report

15. OLD MILLS – No report

16. MORRISTON RUNNING TRACK

PROGRESS: Cllr John Divers reported that cold weather had prevented progress but work has now been rescheduled.

17. SCOTTISH 6 DAY ORIENTEERING EVENT 2013

The wording of the banners was discussed.

- **ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to purchase signs saying “The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council welcomes the Orienteers”**

18. CORRESPONDENCE

REVIEW OF MORAY COUNCIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME: All are invited to login to Moray Council Website and respond before 24th May 2013. Alastair Kennedy asked for comments to the next meeting and he will collate a response.

GYPSY TRAVELLERS SITE: Alastair Kennedy asked James Wiseman and Steven Christie to draft a response.

BROWN MUIR WINDFARM: Details of the revised environmental statement.

19. AOCB

MORAY PLAYHOUSE VISIT: Bryan Watson confirmed that the proposed visit to the Moray Playhouse is to be scheduled for the end of April 2013 and suggested it would be good to show appreciation of the investment in Elgin and to offer a publicity opportunity.

Bryan Watson intimated an apology that he expects to be late to the next meeting.

Mary Wall had received an email saying that the Cooperative were looking for a young members board and 16-25 year olds could apply on line at www.co-operative.coop/cymb

Graham Leadbitter mentioned that he was walking the Speyside Way at the end of May (Sun-Wed) for Moray Women’s Aid and he can be sponsored at www.virginmoneygiving.com/grahamleadbitter . Alastair Kennedy proposed that the Community Council sponsor Graham.

Gordon Wells advised that the Cadets were holding an open day and car boot sale on Saturday 13th April 2013, gates open at 09:00hrs and there will be displays, tea & coffee, face painting and much more.

George Littlejohn reminded Alastair Kennedy about the £75 to be paid to the JCC

- **Action: Alastair Kennedy to send the £75 to the JCC (Tracey Rae)**

Steven Christie reminded the meeting of the forthcoming Elgin Bids Fashion Show and the shortage of female models.

George Littlejohn asked if anyone had heard rumours of a lorry park at Pinefield or a Tesco Express coming to Elgin? No one said they were aware of these developments.

Cllr Patsy Gowans tendered her apologies to the next meeting.

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 8:44pm

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

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Chair: _____ Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date: _____