

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

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7pm held in the Moray Council Chambers

## 1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

### MEMBERS:

Alastair Kennedy (Chair),  
Steven Milne (Treasurer)  
George P Littlejohn,  
James Wiseman (Minutes).

Bryan Watson (Vice Chair)  
Steven Christie,  
Pat Paterson,

Gordon Methven (Secretary),  
Anne Glover,  
Cheryl Robb,

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr John Divers,  
Cllr Mike Shand,  
Steven George(Stagecoach)  
Hazel Lawson (Northern Scot),  
Sgt Gordon Wells (Elgin Detachment 1<sup>st</sup> Highlanders Army Cadet Force)

Cllr Barry Jarvis,  
David Chapman,  
Nic Goodchild (Moray Council)  
Insp Ewan Strachan (Police Scotland)

Cllr Graham Leadbitter,  
Sandy Gallacher(Stagecoach)  
Kathy Grant (Community Warden),

### APOLOGIES:

Cllr James Allan,  
Murray Ross,

Cllr Patsy Gowans,  
Mary Wall,

Aidan Milne (Youth Member)

### WELCOME

Alastair Kennedy took the Chair, opened the meeting, welcomed everyone in particular David Chapman, Sandy Gallacher & George Steven and then introduced the first of two speakers.

### NEW ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL (Nic Goodchild)

The Elgin High School project team are currently making a formal pre-application notification to Moray Council Planning Department prior to carrying out pre-application consultations. Nick Goodchild explained that the New Elgin High School was prioritised for funding because of the need for a better learning environment which is why a new build is proposed rather than a refurbishment option. The funding of £18m is made up of £12m from the Scottish Futures trust and £6m from the Moray Council and is governed by two key metrics ie floor area per pupil and cost per square metre. The design pupil role is 720. The Planning consultation will cover three areas: building the new school, demolishing the old school and the access from Edgar Road.

Alastair Kennedy asked what would happen to the money if the project underspent? Nick Goodchild replied that whilst under spending on a project of this type is unlikely any underspend would be taken by the Scottish Futures Trust.

Alastair also asked if there was a community representative on the steering group? Nick outlined the membership of the group and identified the Parent Council representative as the community representative.

James Wiseman highlighted the potential impact on residents of Edgar Road and asked how the project team intended to manage the expectations and issues of residents in Edgar Road. Nick said that he was aware of issues along Edgar Road and hoped that in the long run the environment there could be improved. James offered to set up a group which would be a useful conduit for issues and information and was advised to contact Martine Scott about it.

George Littlejohn asked if there would be some sports facility as part of the works? Nic said that a regional sports facility is not included but there will be good sports facilities and allotments too. George then asked if there was room for a regional sports facility should the need arise. Nick said his personal view was that there was enough room but building on that area would be challenging.

Action: Nick Goodchild to circulate information currently available about the School including the accommodation schedule and an indicative road layout.

In conclusion Nick Goodchild left contact details for the project team.

### ARMY CADETS (Sgt Gordon Wells - Elgin Detachment 1<sup>st</sup> Highlanders Army Cadet Force)

Sargent Wells outlined the history, purpose and practice of the Army Cadet Force which he has been part of for many years.

The Army Cadet Force is a youth organisation sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. It is 150 years old and is open to anyone from the age of 12 to the age of 18 years and 9 months for Cadets and 18 years to 55 years for adult volunteers. The Army Cadets aims to produce self reliant young people with an array of skills and awareness of their responsibilities as a citizen.

The skills are taught from the Army Proficiency Syllabus and include Map & Compass, Field Craft, First Aid, Expedition Training, Drill and Military knowledge.

There are currently 70 - 90 people in the company of which 35 – 45 are in Elgin where they meet every Wednesday at 6:45pm and undertake an annual camp.

Alastair Kennedy asked if the Cadets were likely to go fighting and Sgt Wells confirmed that they were not.

Alastair Kennedy thanked both speakers.

## 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES – 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013

Bryan Watson seconded by Steven Christie proposed that the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013 be accepted as a true record of that meeting. There were no objections.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

KING STREET: James Wiseman said that the planning application had been granted and that he had asked for an explanation from the Planning Officer to which there had as yet been no reply.

GLENMORAY: James Wiseman reported that he had yet to set up a meeting with the Manager of Glenmoray Distillery regarding the floral display.

### 4. POLICE & COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE

#### POLICE – Inspector Ewan Strachan

Inspector Ewan Strachan said that his reports in future would focus on the main headings of the Multimember Ward Plans which are Antisocial Behaviour, Dogs, Speeding, Parking and drugs and alcohol.

Inspector Strachan reported that a number of endeavours had recently benefited from the Police Scheme whereby desk based officers undertake other patrol work. The Campaign against violence, late night premises checks and bail checks all benefited from this.

Two officers have been trained on speeding and targeted streets advised by the Community Council. These officers will supplement the 24/7 coverage of the trunk roads.

During May there was also a focus on school areas for litter, parking and dog fouling resulting in the issuing of a number of fixed penalty notices.

Street pastors are in their second month of operation.

Pat Paterson reported a car had been egged on 12<sup>th</sup> April but not reported because the recipient thought it was too small a crime to report. Inspector Strachan advised us to encourage reporting of anything of concern because they cannot act if they do not hear of the problems and often minor problems have an impact on quality of life.

In response to a question from Alastair Kennedy, Inspector Strachan reminded us that Crimestoppers is still in operation and is independent of the Police but added that it is not a 24 hour service.

Gordon Methven asked if Duffus Road had been targeted for speeding patrols and Inspector Strachan said that it had.

George Littlejohn said that it had been noticed that Batchen Street was being used as a through road.

#### COMMUNITY WARDEN – Kathy Grant

Kathy Grant reported that the Community Wardens had a busy month including issuing 6 Fixed Penalty Notices two of which are going to court. Schools were targeted for litter, smoking and these patrols are to be continued. In trying to encourage a neighbourhood watch scheme in Pinefield 230 households were contacted and only 3 responded. Kathy Grant had followed up Anne Glover's complaint of dog fouling at Ladyhill but has not found any positive leads.

### 5. STAGECOACH UPDATE – Sandy Gallacher & Steven George

Steven George advised that Stagecoach are awaiting a decision from Moray council on funding of tendered services which would likely impact on communities but Stagecoach intend to trial some routes on a commercial basis to ease the impact. The 5 and 10 services are being worked on for punctuality.

Alastair Kennedy commented positively on the loos and wifi now present on many services but then asked about the real time information boards which do not seem to work. Sandy Gallacher advised that the real time message boards were operated by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party and Stagecoach did not have any control of that. However, Sandy clarified that there is one message board at the bus station which is operated by them and was up to date.

Anne Glover noted that occasionally buses were in the wrong bay and suggested that this was dangerous if some one missed the last bus home. Sandy Gallacher responded saying that Stagecoach Policy is that any driver who is in the wrong bay must get out of the bus and announce to all waiting passengers which bus he is driving and which stance he is in before driving off.

Alastair Kennedy raised a point brought up by a member of the public about waiting room opening times for megabus journeys. Sandy Gallacher said that he did not control the inverness bus station and could only pass the query on. There was also a useful discussion on the use of Megabus from intermediate stops where it is acceptable to book a megabus say from Aberdeen to Inverness but to get on at Elgin and off at the Airport but if you do you are not guaranteed a seat!

George Littlejohn asked if staff numbers were up or down and George Steven confirmed that they were the same.

### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 6a. PLANNING

See Matters Arising. No new consultations responded to.

Gypsy Travellers consultation was not responded to.

#### 6b. RECREATION & LEISURE

FLOWERBEDS: Anne Glover reported that the Ladyhill flowerbeds were OK.

Pat Paterson asked for the £5 contribution to the Allotments Society.

#### 6c. ENVIRONMENT

A report from Mary Wall had been circulated prior to the meeting.

#### 6d. ROADS & TRANSPORTATION – George Littlejohn

George Littlejohn gave his R&T report as follows

**EIGHT ACRES FLOWERBED:** The Eight Acres flowerbed continues to be maintained by George Littlejohn and Mary Wall and an Oyster Catcher is currently nesting on the site.

**A96 ROUNDABOUTS:** Murray Ross is not well enough to report on this matter and George said that it may be some time before he is fit enough to return to Community Council business.

**FOUNTAIN AT DR GRAY'S:** George reported that the work was complete and looked good but the fountain looked somewhat lost in that location. James Wiseman confirmed that the Glenmoray proposal was sufficiently substantial to look at moving it.

**JOCK INKSON'S BRAE:** Following correspondence from Harry Torry, George 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) visited the site and the signage has been updated.

**ELGIN - LOSSIEMOUTH CYCLE PATH:** George reported that the Moray Council had trimmed the bushes encroaching on the cyclepath and replaced the reflectors as requested. Pat Paterson said that there was now a lot of sand on the cycle path to Lossie and it was dangerous because two cyclists can't pass due to the narrowing of the way and the sand itself is a hazard.

#### 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 - No report.

##### 7b. ELGIN SOUTH AREA FORUM

Steven Christie reported that the South Area Forum discussed the budget response, toilets, libraries, Western Link Road, Sandy Road.

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

Steven Christie reported that SPICE held its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 and the Minutes were circulated.

The Litter Pick was held on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013 and 13 volunteers picked 80 bags of litter from targeted locations. They are targeting Black Friar's Road next.

#### 8. TREASURERS REPORT – Steven Milne

The main account is standing at £3,068.38 with 7 cheques to be written and the next grant instalment of £1k having been received.

The number 2 Account is standing at £3,173.68 as before including "zero" interest.

#### 9. DEANSHAUGH PLAYING FIELDS – No Update

#### 10. CONSULTATIONS

**REVIEW OF MORAY COUNCIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME:** Alastair commented that he had not received any responses to collate but would respond anyway. Alastair specifically asked for any comments about the suitability of the Community Council Handbook.

**GYPSY TRAVELLERS SITE:** This consultation is closed.

#### 11. GRANT LODGE

Alastair Kennedy had written to the Moray Council regarding the decision regarding funding for Grant Lodge and read out the Convenors response in which he noted Alastair's concerns but due to financial pressure could not review the decision. George Littlejohn asked if the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) had been mentioned in the letter and it had not so George was to follow that up.

- **George Littlejohn to follow up the letter from the Convenor regarding Grant Lodge and the question of the TIC.**

#### 12. PROMOTING THE CITY OF ELGIN – On-going

#### 13. ELGIN HIGHSCHOOL – See Above

#### 14. SOUTH LESMURDIE STATS – No report

15. OLD MILLS – No report

16. MORRISTON RUNNING TRACK

Cllr John Divers reported that the athletics clubs were pleased with the result but there is still some kerbing to go in and the Justice Secretary will be in Elgin to do an official opening in due course.

17. SCOTTISH 6 DAY ORIENTEERING EVENT 2013

The banners are being progressed.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

NHS: WALK TO WORK WEEK – Literature available at the side.

MORAY COUNCIL: COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANT CHEQUE - was received from Moray Council.

RPS: BROWN MUIR WINDFARM - update which has been responded to by James Wiseman.

MORAY COUNCIL: GRANT LODGE – covered above.

19. AOCB

Alastair Kennedy

- Reminded everyone about TellMeScotland.gov.uk for a list of public notices.
- Asked for views on joining the National Network and it was agreed to join.
- Highlighted the JCC Facebook page that is now available.
- Alastair asked for any comments about the suitability of the Community Council Handbook.
- Alastair Advised the meeting of the intention to co-opt David Chapman and Sgt Gordon Wells.

Bryan Watson

- Announced that the Playhouse visit would take place in the next 3 weeks
- Bryan also announced that he is competing in the Marafun on 2 June 2013

Graham Leadbitter

- Mentioned the forthcoming Dualling of the A96
- Graham announced that Elgin Fair Trade now had a Facebook Page

Graham Leadbitter mentioned that his Speyside Way walk was nearing and thanked his sponsors for Moray Womens Aid. Various people complimented Graham on the massive effort he had made to improve his fitness and do the walk and that this should be recognised as a good example to the Community and it was agreed to sponsor him £65 ie £1 per mile.

Anyone else wishing to sponsor Graham should go to [www.virginmoneygiving.com/grahamleadbitter](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/grahamleadbitter)

20. CLOSE

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 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 9:10pm

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

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date: \_\_\_\_\_