

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

Tuesday 11th June 2013 at 7pm held in the Moray Council Chambers

1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS:

Alastair Kennedy (Chair),
Steven Christie,
Pat Paterson,
Gordon Wells,

Bryan Watson (Vice Chair)
Anne Glover,
Cheryl Robb,
James Wiseman (Minutes).

Gordon Methven (Secretary),
George P Littlejohn,
Mary Wall,

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr John Divers,
Cllr Mike Shand,
Alistair Whitfield (Press & Journal).

Cllr Patsy Gowans,
Sgt Mic Irwin (Police Scotland),

Cllr Graham Leadbitter,
Hazel Lawson (Northern Scot),

APOLOGIES:

David Chapman,
Steven Milne (Treasurer),

Murray Ross,
Cllr James Allan,

Aidan Milne (Youth Member),
Cllr Barry Jarvis.

WELCOME

Alastair Kennedy took the Chair, opened the meeting, welcomed everyone. The meeting started a few minutes late as Alastair was expecting two young people as potential to attend with a view to forming a youth committee.

There was no guest speaker at this meeting.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES – 14th MAY 2013

Bryan Watson proposed, seconded by Pat Paterson, that the minutes of 14th May be accepted as a true record of that meeting. There were no objections.

3. MATTERS ARISING

KING STREET: James Wiseman said that he still had no explanation of the decision from the Planning Officer and would follow it up.

GLENMORAY: James Wiseman to arrange a meeting with the Manager of Glenmoray Distillery and involve SPICE regarding the floral display. Alastair commented that weeds were already showing in the area of the fountain and George Littlejohn commented that the fountain needed raised. There was a debate about the planting on roundabouts, what was required versus what was delivered.

ELGIN LOSSIE CYCLEPATH: George Littlejohn had taken up the matter of sand on the cycle path with Moray Council. Pat Paterson confirmed that the sand had been cleared.

CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS: Following a question from George Littlejohn, Gordon Methven said that the Co-option forms are still to be completed.

4. POLICE & COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE

POLICE – Sgt Mick Irwin

Dog Fouling was tackled during May and will be tackled again in June.

Speeding was targeted on Wards Road and from 13 hours of policing 23 drivers were educated, 1 ticket was issued and 5 cases were reported. Speed detection training is to be carried out for Elgin officers to augment the existing trunk road and local capability. Alastair Kennedy commented that this showed that local resources were not being depleted. Sgt Irwin gave some insight into the use of specialist teams in hubs delivering efficiency through rapid mobilisation leaving other officers to carry out their regular duties.

Sgt Irwin noted that the Street Pastors appeared to be integrating well with the community.

Gordon Methven said a few people had complained to him about people driving while using mobile phones and not being in full control of the vehicle. Sgt Irwin undertook to pass the information on.

Following an observation from Alastair Sgt Irwin reiterated that the 101 number is now live and available for use.

5. STAGECOACH UPDATE – No Report

Alastair Kennedy appealed for contact details for the new Stagecoach representatives.

George Littlejohn re-stated his question about the inadequate signage on the Inverness Airport bus.

Anne Glover reported that busses still stop in the wrong stance and drivers are not advising customers.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6a. PLANNING

Bryan Watson gave an update on some historical Planning matters.

KFC will open in the coming week and Bryan welcomed the new jobs it will bring.

Brantano Shoes will also open with a coffee shop in Edgar Road.

Allarburn Dairy shop and coffee shop are currently under construction.

Work has started at Sainsbury's site while the auction mart is still operating in a limited capacity. It was noted that the Mart building was to be re-used elsewhere. Cllr John Divers added that some roads orders were in place to enable safety measures to protect the workforce. The planning application is being discussed with SEPA and Scottish Water.

Alastair noted that James Wiseman would be attending the Wind Farm Training event planned for September and that no other nominations had been put forward. However, he advised that anyone wishing to go to the training should book as soon as possible.

6b. RECREATION & LEISURE

Alastair Kennedy congratulated Anne Glover on a Volunteer Of The Year award she received from tsiMoray at a ceremony in Elgin Library to celebrate Volunteer Week. Everyone agreed. She was a runner-up for volunteer of the year.

FLOWERBEDS: Anne Glover asked for Volunteers for work at the Ladyhill flowerbeds on Saturday 15th June 2013 particularly assisting with transport. She also reported that the dog mess issue had been resolved.

6c. ENVIRONMENT

Mary Wall reported that there was no Fair trade meeting this month.

Anne Glover commented on litter in the lane at the rear of Seafield Street

6d. ROADS & TRANSPORTATION – George Littlejohn

George Littlejohn read out his report on the Sustainable Transport Conference he attended in Edinburgh. It highlighted green travel, intelligent transport systems, active travel and alternative fuels. George mentioned that he had test driven an electric vehicle and was reasonably impressed.

The Eight Acres Flowerbed is ready to be dug over and George Littlejohn reported that arrangements had been made to have this done.

George reported that the Scotrail operators franchise is coming up for renewal. He also reported that a new pedestrian bridge is to be built across the railway at Elgin Station.

6e. YOUTH - No report.

Alastair Kennedy reported that he had invited two young people to attend with a view to setting up a Youth Sub-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 Allotments, the wetlands paths, Glen Moray Drive Path, Welfare budget reforms and capacity and zoning of schools.

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

Steven Christie reported that SPICE is now formally constituted. It is also registered with the "Your Neighbourhood" project which is part of the Beautiful Scotland campaign.

Steven Christie has written to BEAR Scotland, TESCO, Gordon & McPhail and Moray Council regarding clearing of shrubs at Black Friars road.

8. TREASURERS REPORT – No Report

9. DEANSHAUGH PLAYING FIELDS – No Update

10. CONSULTATIONS

Gordon Methven advised that there were no consultations of note this month.

Alastair Kennedy reported that the Community Council Scheme review was ongoing and that he has responded.

11. GRANT LODGE – Remove from the agenda

12. PROMOTING THE CITY OF ELGIN

Gordon Methven reported that he was now looking to integrate the community awards idea with other similar schemes such as the tsiMORAY awards. There was a general discussion on previous awards schemes and how they worked.

13. ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL

Alastair Kennedy mentioned the circulated information about the forthcoming workshops.

James Wiseman advised that he had approached his neighbours with a view to setting up an Edgar Road residents group, an idea welcomed by the High School Project Team.

Cllr Patsy Gowans said there was value in having a community representative as a single point of contact. In the case of the Academy this was Sheila Hollis.

Alastair Kennedy asked Mary wall and Cheryl Robb to ask if a member of the Parent Council to attend the Community Council with an update.

14. SOUTH LESMURDIE STATS – Remove from the agenda

15. OLD MILLS

It was noted that work was ongoing on the site.

16. MORRISTON RUNNING TRACK

Cllr John Divers reported that the Justice Secretary will be in Elgin for an official opening next week. He added that two athletics groups have joined together in using the track.

Cllr Graeme Leadbitter advised that Morriston is not Council run and the Trust would have to lead with the application for further funding.

Various members of the Community Council thanked the Councillors for getting this done.

17. SCOTTISH 6 DAY ORIENTEERING EVENT 2013

The banners are ready and Alastair will collect them. Locations for deploying them are still to be thought out.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

Enquiry for the Coach Drivers Yearbook 2014 listing at a cost of £149 + VAT. George Littlejohn proposed continuing the listing and there was no objection.

All other correspondence was circulated by Gordon Methven.

19. AOCB

Gordon Methven relayed a complaint from a shopkeeper about parking charges. Cllr John Divers said that the review of parking charges had been deferred for a year but prior to that charges were reduced. George Littlejohn asserted that parking downtown is a paying scenario all over and added that inverness and Aberdeen are somewhat more expensive. Cllr Graeme Leadbitter explained that whilst carparking charges raised £500k per year the carparks attract rates of £120k a year and private carparks are free at point of use but not free as there is always a cost, rates and maintenance if nothing else. A wide ranging debate ensued about the history and the pro's and cons of the High Street pedestrianisation.

George Littlejohn reported that one oyster catcher chick had survived at the Eight Acres flower bed.

Mary Wall had visited the museum of Scotland and had been surprised at how far back in history Elgin went. Circa 1100AD.

Anne Glover asked if a tool shed could be made available at Ladyhill in the vicinity of the flower beds to allow storage of tools etc. Cllr John Divers advised Anne to speak to housing.

James Wiseman advised that the Elgin Designing Streets Action Group are holding an open day at the TA hall on Saturday 15th June 2013 from 10:00 to 16:00 entitled Elgin Western Link Road versus Libraries, Loos Classroom Assistants.

James Wiseman tendered his apologies to the August meeting and Alastair Kennedy asked for a minute taker for that meeting.

20. CLOSE

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 9th July 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 9:04pm

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

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Chair: _____ Mr Alastair Kennedy

Date: _____