

Minutes of Meeting of the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council,  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7pm held in the Moray Council Chambers



1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

MEMBERS:

Alastair Kennedy (Chair),	David Chapman,	Steven Christie,
Anne Glover,	George P Littlejohn,	Steven Milne (Treasurer),
Pat Paterson,	Cheryl Robb,	Mary Wall,
Gordon Wells.	James Wiseman (Minutes).	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr Barry Jarvis,	Kayleigh Hysert,	Michael McGovan,
Sandy Gallacher(Stagecoach),	Wayne Malcolm(Stagecoach)	Jo Millican (Northern Scot),
Alistair Whitfield (P & J),	Sgt Stephen Carmichael (Police Scotland).	

APOLOGIES:

Murray Ross,	Cllr Barry Jarvis,	Cllr Mike Shand,
Cllr John Divers,	Cllr Patsy Gowans,	Cllr Graham Leadbitter,
Bryan Watson (Vice Chair)	Gordon Methven (Secretary),	Aidan Milne (Youth Member),

WELCOME

Alastair Kennedy took the Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to this last meeting of the current membership of the City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council pending the forthcoming elections. Alastair reminded members wishing to stand for re-election to apply.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES – 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2013

Steven Christie proposed, seconded by Gordon Wells, that the minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013 be accepted as a true record of that meeting. There were no objections.

3. MATTERS ARISING

**GLENMORAY:** Alastair Kennedy reported that the fountain could not be moved because it was located in it's current place by the Elgin Fund and due to the cost of moving it to there he believed it would be inappropriate to suggest moving it. James Wiseman to take this forward in new Community Council if it is formed and he is elected.

**ORIENTEERING EVENT:** Banners were erected for the event and Alastair Kennedy took the opportunity to weed the flowerbed at the eight acres which George Littlejohn reported he was unable to do.

**WINDFARM TRAINING** Event has been cancelled.

4. AGENCY UPDATES

4a. POLICE – Sargeant Stephen Carmichael

Sargeant Carmichael presented a summary of the month past in line with the multimember ward plans.

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR:** Hi visibility patrols had been undertaken in the town centre. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued for urinating in a public place, drinking alcohol in a public place (outside), litter coincident with schools, and dog fouling.

**SPEEDING:** Local officers are carrying out speed detection patrols and FPNs were issued for speeding, use of mobile phones while driving, and failing to wear seatbelts. Two drink driving offences were reported.

**DRUGS:** Various incidents were investigated and a “dealer quantity” of diazepam was discovered in New Elgin

**THEFT:** Sgt Carmichael advised that there had been a number of sneak-in thefts in Elgin and advised householders to keep doors locked and be vigilant for suspicious behaviour such as stranger ringing doorbell or door being tried without a knock. A male had been jailed for a break in at New Elgin Primary School.

The assistance of the Community Council in identifying areas of concern was noted. Various locations were suggested for speed checks: South Street (West), Hay Street, and Covesea Road.

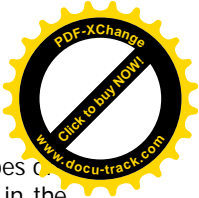
Alastair Kennedy thanked Sgt Carmichael for his update and further thanked the Police for their attendance at City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council meetings.

4b. STAGECOACH UPDATE – Sandy Gallacher & Wayne Malcom

**SIGNAGE:** George Littlejohn had met with Stagecoach again and discussed the signage on the Inverness Airport bus.

**SERVICES:** Local services are to change on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 watch for details. GPL to circulate a copy of the proposed cuts. The Bishopmill bus will now be going via Larch Court and Spynie Street. Cheryl Robb asked why the Bishopmill bus goes to Burghead and was told this was to do with economic routing of the busses and meant more services in Bishopmill rather than less.

**BUSSES:** The busses are being upgraded, they will be the kneeling type and will not have wifi because it is inappropriate for local bus journey times. Mary Wall asked if hybrid busses were to be used in Elgin as they are in Perth but was told this was unlikely because the economics of the hybrid busses requires high patronage.



STANCES: The problem of busses stopping in the wrong stance at the bus station and people missing busses still goes on. Alastair Kennedy was aware of this happening in Inverness too. Sandy Gallacher reiterated that when busses are in the wrong stance Drivers must get out and advise waiting customers. Sandy said he would remind all his drivers of this requirement

4c. COMMUNITY WARDEN – No Report

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5a. PLANNING

BROWN MUIR WIND FARM: James Wiseman updated the members that the Brown Muir Wind Farm Application had been removed and the developer had stated in the press that they intended to scale back the proposed development and reapply.

GLENMORAY: Following a previous question, Alastair Kennedy reported that he had had contact with the Elgin Fund and the reason for the fountain being moved to its current location from the island in the pond in Cooper Park by the Elgin Fund was because this was as close as possible to its original site. He believed it would be inappropriate to suggest moving it. James Wiseman to take this forward in new Community Council if it is formed and he is elected.

5b. RECREATION & LEISURE – Anne Glover

FLOWERBEDS: Anne Glover had approached Jim Royan with a view to discussing some help with Ladyhill.

COMMUNITY WORK: Asda staff had expressed an interest in doing some community work.

LITTER: Anne Glover noted litter problems in the lane at the back of Seafield Street which she has reported to the Community Warden Kathy Grant. Anne also noted a lot of overhanging bushes seemed to be a problem in her area.

RAILWAY: Anne noted that the freight area of the railway yard had been cleared.

5c. ENVIRONMENT – Mary Wall

FAIR TRADE: Mary Wall and Pat Patterson thanked the Community Council for the opportunity to attend the Fair Trade Festival celebrating Scotland becoming a Fair Trade Nation. They described the atmosphere at the festival as buzzing. En route to Perth they found fair trade products available in the train station and on the train. At the festival, a market section showed examples of products and businesses set up to sell fair trade. Putting people before profits was the subject of the trade craft stall. Garlogie Primary School Carnoustie showed how they run a fair trade operation to support a school in Malawi but it teaches them Social, geographical and political lessons.

5d. ROADS & TRANSPORTATION – George Littlejohn

BUS ROUTE 11 TO INVERNESS AIRPORT AND CITY OF INVERNESS: This matter was resolved as far as possible as European legislation forces the signage to be as it is.

A96: Murray Ross reported that the gridboxes on the A96 had been repainted.

WHISKY BULK TRANSPORT: George Littlejohn stated that this was good to go. Anne Glover asked if the bulk transport loading would be through the day or night. George understood that it would be a day schedule.

George Littlejohn then intimated that he would not be standing for re-election and gave the following speech expressing his closing thoughts.

**Subject – My closing thoughts after serving the people of the City of Elgin for 12 years as a Community Councillor given at the regular Sept meeting of the ECC, Tues Sept 10th 2013.**

As this is my last report from the Roads & Transportation Committee after serving the citizens of the City of Elgin for the past 12 years, and as I do not intend standing for re-election for the upcoming 4 year term 2013 – 2017, I would like to conclude with the following.

It has been a privilege to serve the people of the City of Elgin as a Community Councillor:

Serving mostly as Chair of the Roads & Transportation (R&T) Committee, I hope that with my colleague Murray Ross we have made a difference in most areas of what the R&T Committee took on board on behalf of the citizens of Elgin, extended on matters affecting all the citizens of the North East and Scotland's north.

Our involvement has taken us to work with Rail Companies, Bus Companies, Infrastructure Companies for improvements such as Bus signage improvements for the intending passenger; Zone 1 City of Elgin Taxi standard improvements; working with all levels of 'Government on various matters in order to improve things hopefully for all citizens of the City of Elgin, the North East and the North.

We have communicated far and wide regarding Road matters, to the HQ of BEAR Scotland in Perth extending to their road managers in the field as well as Moray Council, to deliberate problems we wished improved. Overall, we have left a good relationship with BEAR, they themselves having their hands tied as they are bound by the wishes of the Scottish Government through Transport Scotland. This tie up makes life in the fast lane slow and slower depending on the subject matter, however many items discussed do come to fruition with patience.

The R&T Committee over the 12 years that I have been active has formed a good relationship with Moray Council Councillors and Officials which develops a healthy atmosphere to work within.



Also, the 6 present and past Moray Councillors representing the City of Elgin have shown that they do indeed care for the 'City Community Council bring forward by their exceedingly good attendance at each ECC meeting, which is appreciated by ECC members. I am sure that within their own deliberations they have included matters which developed at the ECC.

On Railway Passenger, Freight and infrastructure matters we have been involved from London to Glasgow, Inverness to Aberdeen, and of course the City of Elgin. To the D for Transport in London regarding our protest that the long distance trains were on the table to be cut back to Edinburgh from London, which would have meant that the people of Elgin, the North East and the North would have lost their long distance trains from Inverness – London and Aberdeen –London.

As I have reported to colleagues, long distance trains will continue to operate from Aberdeen and Inverness to London, with new replacement stock for the Class 125 express trains to be built by Hitachi at a new plant near Newcastle. We communicated with the then Secretary for Transport Philip Hammond to present our case on keeping these trains running from Aberdeen and Inverness: He, in turn communicated back that the decision had been made to construct new trains and they would continue to ply between London - Inverness and Aberdeen.

Nothing was too small or large for us to investigate ourselves, and or take forward to other agencies for further investigation, and to sort out on our behalf for the people of our 'City.

Let me thank my colleagues, some who have retired previously over the past 12 years, for support given to the Roads & Transportation Committee: Support for subjects that the R&T Committee brought forward for debate through the years: We may not all have agreed at every turn, but that is healthy for debate, as new ideas a spawned because of diverse views being offered in what is – a debating chamber.

There have been times when I felt that differing views were being stifled for debate: This was unfortunate.

I trust that in all my views and disagreeing with colleagues, I stuck strongly to the objective, that is, what is being said or done on any subject, and steered clear of the subjective, which has no place in debate.

Let me thank my colleague Murray Ross for his enduring support to me and the C&RB of ECC. His contacts with BEAR, Scottish Water, Moray Council and other individuals have proved invaluable through time, stemming from anything road surface problems to sunken manholes and more that were followed up relentlessly. Murray pre and post his recent operation continued & continues to show a keen interest in the R&T agenda.

I conclude by offering my support to the new City of Elgin Community Council who take office on October 1st 2013 barring any elections having to take place. May they indulge themselves in service to the people of the City of Elgin by being self-starters, seeing things to be done without waiting for matters of concern / or to improve, to arrive at any 'Committees in basket.

Good luck to you all from this present 'City Community Council who a standing for re-election.

Thank you.

George P Littlejohn – Chair Roads & Transportation Committee.

#### 5e. YOUTH

Alastair Kennedy welcomed the input from the young people present and asked them if they had any questions or points to make. Alastair explained the re-election process and his hope for a youth committee in the next Community Council.

#### 6. COMMUNITY PLANNING

##### 6a. ELGIN NORTH AREA FORUM - No report.

##### 6b. ELGIN SOUTH AREA FORUM

Steven Christie reported that the South Area Forum discussed the Western Link Road, Busses, Community Care Model, Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme. James Wiseman added that the South Forum had met with Frank Knight and Andy Duff and seen a preview of the proposals to be presented at the forth coming pre-application exhibition.

##### 6c. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITY OF ELGIN (SPICE)

Steven Christie reported that SPICE met Jim Royan last week and got an update on the Castle to Cashmere project. Ladyhill is central to that project. SPICE are hoping to have the Ladyhill designated as a war memorial.

ALEXANDRA ROAD: An event clearing the shrubs at Alexandra Road is planned for 21 – 22 September 2013.

LITTER PICK: The next litter pick is planned for 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013

##### 6d. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER – No Report

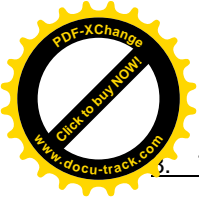
#### 7. EDUCATION

##### 7a. ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL – No Report

##### 7b. ELGIN ACADEMY – No Report

##### 7c. PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Alastair Kennedy advised that a consultation is expected on the School estate review by Moray Council



8. TREASURERS REPORT

No 1 Account £2,414.63

No 2 Account £3,173.68 as before.

9. ONGOING TOPICS

9a. DEANSHAUGH PLAYING FIELDS – No Update

9b. OLD MILLS – No Report

9c. MORRISTON RUNNING TRACK – No Report

9d. LESSER BOROUGHBRIIGGS

Alastair Kennedy had researched this issue and found that there were other proposals for a 3g pitch in town. He suggested the land at Lesser Boroughbriggs was worth of the order of £500k. There is also concern over the availability of the 3G pitch for people of Elgin. Alastair Proposed that a decision on the fate of land at Lesser Boroughbriggs be postponed until more information is available.

10. EVENTS

10a.SCOTTISH 6DAY ORIENTEERING EVENT

Alastair Kennedy noted the benefit of having the banners which were consistent with other Banners purchased by Community Councils.

10b.COMMUNITY AWARDS – No Update

10c.TRAINING

WINDFARM TRAINING 21 SEPTEMBER 2013 – Cancelled.

10d.INVITATIONS

FRED OLSON RENEWABLES have invited the Community Council to celebrate the Rothes Windfarm. David Chapman will attend.

11. JCC UPDATE

Alastair Kennedy advised that the JCC was promoting the forthcoming Community Council Elections.

12. CONSULTATIONS

13. CORRESPONDENCE

14. AOCB

David Chapman gave a report on the Community Safety meeting that he attended at the Town Hall.

15. CLOSE

Alastair Kennedy thanked all members of the Community Council for their work over the last session. He also thanked the Elected Members for their support and attendance; Alistair Whitfield of the P&J and Hazel Lawson of the Northern Scott for covering the proceedings; Police Scotland, Community Wardens and Stagecoach for their regular updates; Finally to the Moray Council for the Caretakers, the Community Council Liaison Team and the Community Support Unit. Alastair thanked the office bearers, hoped that all members would stand again and looked forward to being part of the next City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 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 8:30pm

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

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

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

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

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