

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 11th July 2017 at 7.00pm

1.	<u>Sederunt and Apologies.</u> (* Associate, ** Youth)	<u>ACTION</u>
a.	<p><u>MEMBERS</u></p> <p>Alastair KENNEDY(Chair), Gordon METHVEN(Sec'), Iain CATTO, Steven CHRISTIE, Douglas CLARK, Catriona GRAY Aileen MARSHALL Pat PATERSON, Mary WALL, Eddie WALLACE,</p> <p><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></p> <p>Cllr John DIVERS, Cllr Ray MCLEAN Ben HENDRY (P&J) Con Michael DUNCAN (Police Scotland), Hazel LAWSON (Northern Scot) Craig WOODALL (Stagecoach)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Bryan WATSON(Vice Chair), David CHAPMAN*, Steven MILNE, Gordie WELLS Jim WISEMAN Cllr Graham LEADBITTER Cllr Paula COY, Cllr Frank BROWN</p>	
b.	<p><u>WELCOME</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><u>PREVIOUS MINUTES 13th June 2017</u></p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Eddie Wallace and seconded by Catriona Gray with no objections and were adopted as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING.</u></p> <p>Page 1 item 3b – Lighting up the Cathedral. The subgroup has met and developed a plan of action. The first step is to meet with Historic Scotland. AK</p> <p>Page 1 item 3c – Alastair Kennedy to request Community Warden attendance. Contact made and awaiting response. This is to be followed up. AK</p> <p>Page 1 item 3g – Operational plan special meetings. The minute from the latest additional meeting to be circulated to members. AK</p> <p>Page 1 item 3i – Scottish Rural Action. Alastair Kennedy to raise the need for a Moray representative with the JCC. AK</p> <p>Page 2 item 5b(1) – Circulate the fair trade renewal application. AK</p> <p>Page 2 item 5b(4) – Giant hog weed. Members agreed this was landowner's responsibility. After discussion it was agreed we should contact SEPA and also seek a list of landowners from Ken Kennedy at Moray Council in order to write to them. AK</p> <p>Page 2 item 5c(5) - Bus problems at Stagecoach. (See agency report). Iain Catto is following this up. IC</p> <p>Page 2 item 5c(7) - Birnie Road roundabout at Sandy Road. Councillor Divers advised that, following discussions with Sandy Adams at Springfield Properties, the crossing is to be moved from its present location and a pedestrian island is to be installed.</p> <p>Page 3 item 5e – Training re licensing. Iain Catto to raise this with the JCC</p> <p>Page 4 item 6b - Donation of £100 to be made to the JCC to help fund the promotion of community council elections. Alastair Kennedy to speak to Steven Milne. AK/SM</p> <p>Page 5 item 10h – Hustings to be organized for the local by election. This was held at Elgin Academy. A microphone would have been helpful.</p>	
4.	<u>AGENCY UPDATES</u>	
a.	<p><u>POLICE SCOTLAND</u></p> <p>Constable Michael Duncan read highlights from the Community Safety Report particularly a number of thefts of bicycles across Elgin and drivers reported for dangerous speeds, 118mph, 101mph and 91mph in Moray during Operation Cedar. He further advised there will be a school watch operation during the summer</p>	

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	<p>holidays by the police and Moray Council and similar partnership working for weekend celebrations. He praised the work of the taxi marshalls at weekends as their presence prevents fights breaking out between customers waiting for taxis home.</p> <p>Iain Catto asked if the speeding motorists were boy racers but PC Duncan didn't have that information.</p> <p>Iain Catto asked where officers came from to work weekends and operations. PC Duncan said they can come from anywhere.</p> <p>Aileen Marshall advised she had heard of three separate occasions where members of the public had called at the public counter at Elgin Police Office during normal working hours to find it closed. PC Duncan advised the public to call 101 and Councillor Divers suggested using the intercom buzzer which connects to an operator.</p>	
b.	<p><u>STAGECOACH</u></p> <p>Craig Woodall apologized for the lack of a Stagecoach representative at the last meeting. Much of the following was discussed during matters arising.</p> <p>The No 36 timetable issue is to be remedied.</p> <p>Douglas Clark again raised the issue of the Elgin - Findhorn service which was removed recently and since then it is much more expensive to travel between the two places due to having to change buses at Forbes, now £9.00 rather than the £5.00 it was previously. Craig Woodall advised he hasn't had time to investigate this but said most people now buy day tickets. He said the number 31 service has to stand on its own merits but he will look into the fare structure.</p> <p>Douglas Clark then asked about destination ticketing. Craig Woodall said he would look into it as he was aware of a gentleman who has personally arranged regular ticket returns between Inverness and Portknockie.</p> <p>Douglas Clark asked for both hourly and half hourly services to be investigated.</p> <p>Craig Woodall advised there had been investment and recruitment into preventing vehicle breakdowns and the situation has improved due to the new engineering manager and assistant. They are carrying out temporary repairs to keep vehicles on the road and scheduling in full repairs for routine servicing which occurs for each vehicle every 21 days.</p> <p>Craig Woodall then spoke about a re-painting programme at Aberdeen to improve the appearance of the current fleet until new vehicles arrive. He wants to keep standards up and feels he is now seeing light at the end of the tunnel in this regard. He also advised the heating on each vehicle will be checked and any problems rectified during the summer in preparation for the winter months.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy advised the heating was on during a recent journey between Dundee and St Andrews which made the bus too warm but a lady who complained was told the driver had no control over the heating which is something Craig had previously highlighted. He also asked about wifi on this service. Craig Woodall said the heating shouldn't have been on but things like this should be picked up during the routine checks. There followed a brief discussion about the merits of wifi on buses.</p> <p>Douglas Clark thanked Craig Woodall for the information provided and asked a question about the average age of vehicles in Moray as he had read the average age of vehicles in Lothian was 4 to 5 years. Craig Woodall replied that the average age of vehicles in Moray was 5 to 7 years. Douglas Clark said he was surprised it was so low as he believed the Jet buses were 9 years old. Craig Woodall advised that the average age of buses in any area can change very quickly as company policy is 10 new vehicles in and 10 out when the fleet is improved in any one area. He is to fight the business case for new vehicles in Moray.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy asked whether the company was considering electric buses. Craig Woodall said they had looked into this but they were currently much more expensive due to charging difficulties etc.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy thanked Craig Woodall for coming and he then left the meeting.</p>	
c.	<p><u>COMMUNITY WARDEN</u></p> <p>No representative. Alastair Kennedy to speak to Willie Findlay at Moray Council about this.</p>	AK
d.	<p><u>CONSULTATIONS</u></p> <p>Communiity Safety – Survey Monkey. Members asked to complete this.</p> <p>Transport Strategy – remove from agenda.</p> <p>Parking Strategy – remove from agenda.</p> <p>Community Councils Scheme – The proposal to allow non-residents to serve as full members on community councils was refused by Moray councillors. Ongoing.</p> <p>20mph Members Bill Consultation: individuals to respond as there is no consensus – remove from agenda.</p> <p>Local fire and rescue plan – Alastair Kennedy read out a letter from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – remove from agenda</p> <p>Climate change bill consultation.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p> <p>GM</p>

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	Community Empowerment and Common Good Property: Consultation on Draft Guidance. Planning Review: independent consultation analysis and Position Statement is now online – remove from agenda	GM
5.	<u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u> (See reports previously circulated)	
a.	<p><u>PLANNING</u></p> <p>Moray Local Development Plan (MLDP) 2020 - Call for Sites – Alastair Kennedy to contact Elgin Golf Club regarding the area highlighted in the last call for sites report.</p> <p>Main issues report – there is an event planned by the JCC regarding this matter.</p> <p>Application 1701010/APP – Change of use from a store to a boxing club at store number 41 North Street, Bishopmill. This is a retrospective application and a number of residents have objections. After discussion about parking problems and noise issues it was decided we should make observations and not object as although members sympathised with local residents' concerns it was felt that the people of Elgin as a whole would be supportive of clubs of this nature.</p> <p>Application 1700919/APP – Forming of new fenced storage yard, moving of car wash bays and proposed new wash bay at Grampian Motors, Morriston Road, Elgin – Gordon Methven declared an interest and informed members he had objected on personal grounds. He advised members that other local residents had objected due to noise issues, problems with dirty water being sprayed beyond the site and road safety concerns regarding sight lines. After discussion it was decided we should make observations and not object.</p>	AK IC IC
b.	<p><u>FAIR TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT</u></p> <p>Pat Paterson advised we had a stall opposite Starbucks and would be at the Fairtrade Festival in Elgin on 19th August.</p> <p>There was a discussion about Sainsbury's no longer supporting Fairtrade but instead launching their own fair share scheme for tea and members were concerned about this extending to other products and other stores following suit and also launching their own schemes.</p>	
c.	<p><u>ROADS & TRANSPORTATION</u></p> <p>Eddie Wallace said he was supporting a passenger regarding complaints about Scotrail. He said he was aware of two separate incidents at Elgin Railway station where passengers had been badly let down, one where luggage had been left on the platform and the lady concerned having to leave the train to journey back to Elgin to collect her belongings.</p> <p>Iain Catto asked if Elgin Railway Station had free wifi as other smaller stations have free wifi. Alastair Kennedy is to ask the question of his contact at Scotrail.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy asked members if they agreed we should ask our associate member George Littlejohn to attend the next update on the railway works. This was agreed. Alastair Kennedy to follow this up.</p> <p>Douglas Clark expressed disappointment with the service at Elgin Railway Station with not enough coaches and passengers missing connections due to trains being late and staff being rude to passengers when they were seeking information.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy said that a recent report highlighted 95% of trains in Scotland arrived within 5 to 10 minutes of their schedule but that Elgin was one of the poorest performing stations. He suggested emailing Humza Yousaf MSP. Alastair Kennedy mentioned a public meeting with the previous CEO of Abellio at Elgin Town Hall organized by Richard Lochhead MSP. There was supposed to be a follow up public meeting that never happened.</p>	AK AK AK/DC
d.	<p><u>HEALTH AND WELLBEING</u></p> <p><u>Older People's Reference Group</u> – to meet on 12 July 2017</p> <p>There was a discussion about lack of staff at Dr Gray's Maternity Unit. Aileen Marshall said it was worth keeping an eye on the situation and is to monitor. Iain Catto suggested writing to the NHS and Aileen Marshall will write to Malcolm Wright, NHS if the temporary staffing situation doesn't improve.</p>	
e.	<p><u>LICENSING</u></p> <p>Training should be available for community council reps after the elections. Iain Catto to take this to the JCC.</p> <p>There is a new policy timetable for 2018 which Iain Catto will keep an eye on and inform members of developments.</p>	IC IC
f.	<u>EDUCATION</u>	

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	No report	
g.	<u>ELGIN SOUTH GROUP</u>	
	<p>Elgin South Group Meeting 5/7/17</p> <p>Main points from the meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Attendance: Christine Clerk, Linda McKenzie, Aileen Marshall, Marilyn Kelly. 2. Elgin Cemetery: the waste bin in the middle of the new cemetery at the top of the hill has disappeared. This was close to the tap ('Linda's Tap!') and served a large area of the cemetery. Marilyn reported that plants are still disappearing from the lower part of the cemetery next to the Ashfield area. 3. A96: passed on info re A96 followed by short discussion. No particular conclusion reached. 4. Wetlands: there appears to have been a sudden increase in dog-fouling at this location. Also the ponds are now overgrown and have pretty well disappeared. 5. Elgin Town Centre: there was a general welcome for all the new developments around the town centre. 6. Elgin High Street: the old Café Ecosse building, in a key location, is particularly scruffy, especially as there is an 'ironic' Keep Elgin Tidy notice on it. 7. Elgin High Street: there is a real scarcity of street numbers, making it difficult to find particular locations. This may be particularly unhelpful for tourists. 8. No 10 bus. One member had been on this route to Inverness three days apart recently. The same bus with three broken seats was used each time. Is this acceptable, particularly on the main intercity service? 9. Trains: it was reported that there had been an incident of a disabled person being unable to leave the train at Elgin, as the arranged help did not materialise. 10. Next Meeting Wednesday 2nd August. <p><i>Aileen Marshall</i></p>	
h.	<u>YOUTH</u>	
	No Representative	
i.	<u>GRANT LODGE</u>	
	<p>The Grant Lodge AGM was held on 21st June 2017 at the museum.</p> <p>Pat Paterson mentioned they were planning on holding an open doors day.</p>	
j.	<u>SOCIAL MEDIA</u>	
	No report	
k.	<u>CHAIR'S REPORT</u>	
	No report	
l.	<u>SECRETARY'S REPORT</u>	
	Gordon Methven reminded members he would be standing down as secretary after the community council elections in October.	
6.	<u>COMMUNITY PLANNING.</u>	
a.	<u>SPICE and Keep Moray Beautiful</u>	
	<p>Steven Christie advised that SPICE hasn't met since the last meeting.</p> <p>He further said that Keep Moray Beautiful have taken the decision to disband due to lack of attendance at meetings.</p> <p>Iain Catto asked what would happen to the donation Elgin Community Council gave to KMB. Steven Christie said the cheque hadn't been cashed so the money would still be in our account.</p>	

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b.	<p><u>JCC & COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION IN COMMUNITY PLANNING</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy said he would speak to Jane Martin, Community Council Co-ordinator about the forthcoming elections.</p> <p>The JCC has been in touch with Moray Council Economic Development team as that section was holding £60,000 funding for further participatory budget schemes. The difficulty is lack of funding for costs of running PB.</p> <p>There will be a JCC sub group meeting on 12 July 2017 to look at raising the profile of the forthcoming CC elections</p> <p>The JCC is looking into changing the format of the August meeting.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy expressed concern at the way some community councils were funded. Councillor Divers advised that the JCC should be careful in how they approach this matter.</p>	AK/SM
7.	<p><u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>In the absence of Steven Milne, Alastair Kennedy advised there was 3,232.51 in the main account.</p>	
8.	<p><u>ONGOING TOPICS</u></p>	
a.	<p><u>PAIN CLINIC</u></p> <p>No report</p>	
9.	<p><u>EVENTS</u></p>	
a.	<p><u>TRAINING</u></p> <p>Alastair Kennedy said there should be training on the Local Development Plan at the forthcoming JCC event. Training should be available for community council reps on licensing. Iain Catto to take this to the JCC.</p> <p>Alastair Kennedy to invite Ellie Webster to come to our next meeting to provide information about the Bilbohall masterplan.</p>	IC AK
10.	<p><u>A.O.C.B.</u></p> <p>Pat Paterson asked if anyone knew what had happened to the proposal to place flowerbeds into the raised bank at Cooper Park. It was suggested there was a lack of funding and there was a short discussion about the work done by Forres in Bloom.</p> <p>There was a discussion about parking by Tony's School of Motoring in Batchen Lane and High Street as a member of the public had raised it as an issue. Members felt no offences were being committed.</p> <p>Eddie Wallace reminded members we were going to write to Moray Council regarding taxi conditions not being met. Alastair Kennedy will take this forward.</p>	AK/EW
11.	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>7:00pm Tuesday 8th August 2017 Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin.</p>	
12.	<p><u>CLOSE</u></p> <p>There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting.</p>	