

The City & Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Held in Moray Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th December 2019 at 7.00pm

1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES. (* Associate, ** Youth)

1.1. **OFFICE BEARERS:** Alastair KENNEDY (Chairman), Jim WISEMAN (Vice Chairman), Sheila COCHRANE (Secretary), Steven CHRISTIE (Treasurer)

1.2. **MEMBERS:** Douglas CLARK, David CHAPMAN*, Jeff GABLE, Aileen MARSHALL, Pat PATERSON, Eddie WALLACE

1.3. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr Frank BROWN.

1.4. **APOLOGIES:** Hazel LAWSON, Bryan WATSON, Cllr Paula COY, Cllr Maria MACLEAN, Cllr John DIVERS, Cllr Graham LEADBITTER, Cllr Ray MACLEAN.

1.5. WELCOME

Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman announced the passing of Elgin Community Council member Iain Catto saying that he will be sorely missed. A minute of silence was observed.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES 12/11/2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were not read out and a proposer and seconder were sought. Eddie Wallace proposed, Steve Christie seconded with no objections therefore the minutes were adopted as a true record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1. BUS STATION WAITING ROOM

The waiting room has been available for use

3.2. DEVELOPMENT TRUST [Action: ALASTAIR KENNEDY]

This was undertaken by Iain Catto

3.3. RAIL PERFORMANCE

3.3.1. PUNCTUALITY [Action: DOUGLAS CLARK]

Douglas Clark had reminded Richard Lochhead of Alex Hynes' promise to return to Elgin to meet travellers affected by poor rail performance.

Douglas Clark reported that the 0755 to Inverness on Friday 6th December 2019 had been cancelled. James Wiseman added that on Friday 6th while walking to get the 0730 train and saw the 0755 to Inverness reported as "On Time" on the real time message board on Platform 2. The 0755 train is a through train starting from Aberdeen at 0613 therefore the reported circumstances would imply that the 0755 train was broken down at Keith.

3.3.2. SAFETY [Action: JAMES WISEMAN]

James Wiseman had tried reporting the stranding of passengers, discussed last month, to the HSE however was redirected by the HSE website to the office of Road and Rail

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Regulator in London who advised that they would only act if a formal complaint had been registered and not answered to our satisfaction.

4. AGENCY UPDATES:

No agencies were present.

5. ELECTED MEMBERS UPDATE:

Councillor Frank Brown gave an update on recent changes to the political demographic of the Council due to the by-election and other moves saying that this will change the composition of committees.

DEVELOPER OBLIGATIONS

The Planning Committee removed the developer obligations cap which will allow developers to contribute more fairly to infrastructure.

LADY HILL

The renovation of Silver Cottage at Lady Hill has been approved, funded from the Elgin Town Centre Fund.

REMINDER: The Chairman reminded everyone that we leave our politics at the door.

6. TREASURERS REPORT

Steven Christie had circulated the balance sheet and there were no questions about it.

7. REPORTS AND UPDATES

7.1. ELGIN BID & MORAY SPEYSIDE TOURISM BID

RENEWAL OF ELGIN BID FUNDING

Elgin BID has had its funding renewed.

TOWN CENTRE SEATING AREA

The town centre seating area is looking in poor condition and is to be replaced by Elgin BID

MORAY SPEYSIDE TOURISM BID

Moray Speyside Tourism BID is about to find out if it will be funded.

7.2. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Alastair Kennedy reported that £150,000 has been granted for the next round of participatory budgeting in Moray.

7.3. PLANNING..... [Action: JAMES WISEMAN]

TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

Moray Council are proposing a partnership approach to the Town Centre Masterplan requiring attendance over a series of meetings. Previous meetings had been attended by James, Alastair and

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Aileen. It was agreed to find out what is to be discussed at each meeting and decide how best to support this piece of work. An extra meeting of Elgin Community Council may be required to allow everyone to contribute.

7.4. FAIRTRADE

The Fairtrade group will be attending Elgin Academy and New Elgin High School events this week to maintain a presence at their seasonal markets and promote the Fairtrade world.

7.5. 340/341 BUS SERVICE [Action: DOUGLAS CLARK]

There was further discussion about the removal of the 340/341 bus service in Elgin. Various figures were discussed and Councillor Frank Brown said that the Moray Council had looked at funding the service but it would have had a nett operating cost of £115k per year which in the current economic climate is not sustainable.

TOWN SERVICE BUS

It was reported that Stagecoach had looked at the feasibility of an Elgin town service bus, as opposed to using the Lossiemouth bus which currently fills that role, but ruled it out.

DIAL M FOR MORAY [Action: R&T]

It had been observed that the Dial M For Moray buses appear to be underused and it was thought that it could be better used to fill the gap left by the 340/341 bus. It was agreed the R& T committee would contact MC department for clarification on the workings of the Dial M for Moray.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Moray Council has purchased an electric bus for their fleet.

7.6. CYCLIST ISSUES [Action: ALASTAIR KENNEDY]

It was noted that there is a problem with cyclists using pavements where these are not dual use cycle and footways. There was general agreement that cycling on pavements and cycling at night without lights should be raised with the Police for education and enforcement action. Councillor Frank Brown confirmed that it was illegal to cycle on the pavement and had been since the late 1800s.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS..... [Action: ALASTAIR KENNEDY]

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

It would be useful to have a speaker from REAP or the Woodland Trust on how to further our wish to be carbon neutral. The Woodland Trust offers free trees to Community Councils.

9. A.O.C.B.

9.1. MORAY COUNCIL BUDGET

Councillor Frank Brown advised that The Moray Council has to find a further £6½m of savings in the forthcoming budget. The budget has been delayed due to the general election.

9.2. A96 DUALLING [Action: R&T]

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David Chapman and Eddie Wallace had attended meetings on the dualling of the A96 and reported that soil investigation work will start next year.

9.3. FINDRASSIE DEVELOPMENT

The Findrassie development is likely to start on site next year. It was noted that the Findrassie developer had engaged really well with the community and incorporated features that emerged from that engagement.

10. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone, wished them compliments of the season and closed the meeting. Thereafter, members adjourned to the pub for seasonal refreshment.