



*The City and Royal Burgh of  
Elgin  
Community Council*

**Minute of a meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
at Elgin Town Hall**

Sederunt: **See attachment A**

**Alastair opened the meeting welcoming all attending, he explained that due to illness item 3 on the agenda has been rescheduled for Novembers meeting.**

Item	Content	Actions
<b>1. Police Scotland</b>	<p>No representative available which seems to be the norm as of late. Alastair then explained that Andy Meikleham, from Police Scotland had been in contact with him and had offered to meet either Alastair or another CC rep on a quarterly basis. This was then opened to the floor for comment, the overwhelming response was that this was not really acceptable – what if other CC members had questions for the police that they sought answers too?</p> <p>It was agreed that the more favourable outcome for us would ideally be a monthly presence, however as this may not be possible from the Police we would welcome a presence on a quarterly basis instead of a CC rep going to them.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Police report as issued each month has been greatly improved and is more informative than previously.</p>	<p>Alastair to contact Andy Meikleham</p>
<b>2. Previous Minutes</b>	<p>Proposed: <b>Alison Stockley</b> Seconder: <b>James Wiseman</b></p>	
<b>3. Matters arising</b>	<p>None</p>	
<b>4. Stagecoach</b>	<p>Douglas Clark asked if we had anyone attending from Stagecoach – we don't, and the Elgin depots are now managed from Inverness. There is a previous arrangement that the waiting room in Elgin would be open especially on colder wet days this no longer seems to be the case. We</p>	<p>Douglas will follow this up and hopefully</p>

	believe that Stagecoach has new Germany based owners which may explain the changes.	get an answer
<b>5. Review of Scheme for CC's</b>	We discussed the boundary changes and that they should be altered to place both Elgin South developments and those at Findrassie under the Elgin CC boundary.	Alastair will bring this up with Debra Duke
<b>6. Financing of CC's</b>	Since the last meeting Steve had looked at the figures for Elgin and had worked them out (a) with the current membership and (b) as with a full 18 members. In both cases we would run with a deficit at the end of a year. The figures have been sent to Debra and in turn will be discussed at the next JCC meeting where this review originated – we will hopefully have more to discuss in December.	
<b>7. Correspondence &amp; Finance</b>	None Report previously circulated – All bills paid to date Steve to review accounts held for external groups	Steve
<b>8. New Members</b>	Our Search for new members is always ongoing, good news is that we have some new members, Diane Burgess, Richard & Anne Mitchell and Allan Bell have All been made welcome.	
<b>9 Planning</b>	James spoke about planning consultations and how he responds to them. We also spoke about developer contributions and the criteria which triggers them	
<b>10. Seagulls</b>	This issue has been on our agenda for eternity, and there are many thoughts on how to deal with seagulls. Cllrs Divers and Keith have recently raised a motion and were successful to have the Council leader to write to the Cabinet secretary for Rural Affairs, with a view to getting a change to the way Nature Scot issue licenses for the control of seagulls. They hope to have something in place prior to the next breeding season. CC members have formed a sub group to look at this and in particular the information on gull numbers as produced by Nature Scot which we feel is out both out of context and date. We are due to meet with our local MSP Richard Lochhead to discuss this again with a view to raising the issue with the Scottish Government. Steve has launched a survey on gulls on the CC Facebook page (see attachment c for latest results)	
<b>11. Resilience</b>	Unfortunately, Brian was unavailable for this meeting. He has been busy and has now costed the items required to make up grab bags and other items for our resilience scheme. He will	

	<p>now make a formal request to SSE to change our plan and explain what we now aim to do.</p> <p>Graham Jarvis expressed some concern regarding the issuance of payments towards fuel costs – could this be opening a 'can of worms'? No decisions can be made until Brian has approval from SSE, they may have concerns on this too.</p>	<b>Brian</b>
<b>12 .HIE</b>	<p>Community Wealth Building – Alastair to invite the council officer responsible for CWB along to explain this to us, he has some knowledge but feels she would explain it better.</p>	<b>Alastair</b>
<b>13. Parking</b>	<p>We don't have the up to date figures on the amount of parking tickets issued but we estimate it could be in the 800's. Have we had value for money on this? Yes, but there was a question asked as to why our officers seem to go out in pairs when ticketing whereas in other areas it is done by lone workers.</p> <p>There has been an improvement regarding Batchen Street, although the jury is still out regarding indiscriminate parking elsewhere in the town centre. A discussion regarding the multi-story carparks was held – and the St Giles carpark in particular which due to building constraints is only 50% open and of that is running at 50% capacity – should this carpark be removed and the site made available for other use?</p>	
<b>14. Communication</b>	<p>Steve pointed out that quite often the response to emails is made by the same people each time. James pointed out that perhaps the title to each email should indicate if a response is required, Steve agreed to look at this as most mail passes via him so he will try to evaluate first before forwarding.</p> <p>Communication is important and members felt that although the NHS could not attend tonight, they could have given answers to the pre meeting questions we sent them. Likewise, the police we agreed earlier that a quarterly visit was better than nothing, but we still feel that there needs to be better communication between us from a service point of view.</p>	<b>Steve</b>
<b>14. Remembrance Sunday parade</b>	<p>A reminder that Remembrance Sunday falls on 10<sup>th</sup> November – anyone wishing to march in the parade for the CC should let Alastair know. Wreathes – we normally lay two, one at the Plainstones and the other at New Elgin in the afternoon anyone who would like to perform this should contact Alastair.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>15. Elected Members</b>	<p>Sandy Keith</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus Revolution – introduced in 3 -4 phases the first being Speyside, then a timetabled service covering the Elgin north area (expected spring 25)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Alastair to invite Steve Robertson to a meeting to update us on the buses</a></li> <li>• Council budgets - £12million of savings required , the councils chief auditor is looking to expand on the scrutiny of some services</li> <li>• Education – ongoing to improve attainment is our schools</li> </ul> <p>Jeremie Fernandes urged the public to respond to consultations</p>	<b>Alastair</b>
<b>A.O.C.B</b>	<p>Allan Bell The playpark at the top of New Elgin (Springfield site) has been fenced off for months and looks unsightly – apparently this is due to damaged equipment. The site falls under the auspices of a factoring company which residents have recently found out without consultation has changed from Screen autumn to Taylor Martin. The factoring charges have risen year on year, and strangely are higher during winter months than summer. It was suggested that the residents should form a residents association, with a view to dealing with the factoring company (which are notoriously difficult to deal with) the Community Support Unit at the council should be able to help with this.</p> <p>Steve asked Cllr Divers if he knew what was happening with the playpark adjacent to Greenwards Primary school. The equipment was removed recently due to damage however in their haste the department responsible forgot to consult on this – the consultation is now being organised.</p> <p>Alison The gardens at Ladyhill have been maintained by volunteers for many years via a group set up by late CC member Ann Glover and now continued by Alison and her friend Joyce. The group have used the shed at the rear of one of the cottages to store their equipment for years, although recently the long time empty cottage has been modernised and is to be brought back into use. Due to a lack of communication the shed and all its contents along with other equipment have been irretrievably removed. Cllr Divers said that as far as he</p>	

	<p>knew the group were to be reimbursed for the cost of the equipment, Alison replied that yes, they were offered B&amp;Q vouchers but the replacement of tools is only one issue the other is where would they store them?</p> <p>Sadly, Alison also reported that Cove Bay Nurseries from Aberdeenshire who have very kindly donated the flowers for the gardens for many years will no longer be able to do so.</p>	
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 7pm, ELGIN TOWN HALL</b>	

### Attachment A

#### Attendance record

Meeting date **8<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

NAME		ATTENDING	APOLOGIES
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	✓	
Brian Irvine	Vice Chair		●
Steve Christie	Treasurer	✓	
David Chapman		✓	
James Wiseman		✓	
Katherine Bowditch	Minutes		●
Kian Wyne			●
Alison Stockley		✓	
Joyce Bremner		✓	
Graham Jarvis		✓	
Diane Burgess		✓	
Anne & Richard Mitchell		✓	
Alan Bell		✓	
Peter Bloomfield	Cllr Moray Council		●
Amber Dunbar	Cllr Moray Council		●
John Divers	Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Sandy Keith	Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Jereme Fernades	Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Debra Duke	CCLO Moray Council		
Hazel Lawson	Press	✓	
Sean Angus	Press		



*Attachment B*

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**Finance Report**

**October 2024**

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£5,832.61</b>
Expenditure	
8 <sup>th</sup> Minutes	£x,x40.00
21 <sup>st</sup> Poppy Wreaths x2	£x,x50.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£x,x90.00</b>
Income	
<b><u>Nil</u></b>	
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b><u>£5,742.61</u></b>

Report prepared by Steve Christie 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Attachment C**

In October 2024 we ran a survey on the effects of seagulls on peoples lives and there were 900+ responses. After removing those from people out with Elgin I provide the figures **A** as a percentage, **B** against respondents and **C** % against the estimated population of Elgin (23,419).

<b>877 Responses</b>		<b>A</b>	<b>B</b> Respondents	<b>C</b> % v Elgin population
Do you live in Elgin	Yes	<b>22%</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>5,152</b>
Have you been personally affected by seagulls	Yes	<b>17%</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>3,981</b>
Have you been personally affected by seagulls	No	<b>4%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>937</b>
Do you feel that seagulls have affected your mental health	Yes	<b>8%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1,874</b>
Do you feel that seagulls have affected your mental health	No	<b>7%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1,639</b>
Have you been attacked by seagulls	Yes	<b>13%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>3,045</b>
Have you been attacked by seagulls	No	<b>4%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>937</b>
If you answered yes to attack, did you require medical help	Yes	<b>1%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>234</b>
Have your children been attacked by gulls	Yes	<b>3%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>703</b>
Have your children been attacked by gulls	No	<b>1%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>234</b>
Have your pets been attacked by gulls	Yes	<b>5%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1,171</b>
Have your children been attacked by gulls	No	<b>2%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>468</b>
Have the gulls prevented you from using/accessing your own garden or leaving your home ?	Yes	<b>7%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1,639</b>
Have the gulls prevented you from using/accessing your own garden or leaving your home ?	No	<b>2%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>468</b>

<b>Do the gulls cause you sleep deprivation due to noise</b>	Yes	8%	70	1,874
<b>Do the gulls cause you sleep deprivation due to noise</b>	No	2%	18	468

### Comments from respondents

Herring Gull numbers in our area have increased significantly in our area over the last 6 or 7 years. This year there were in excess of 18 chicks in our street and the noise was simply unbearable. After hatching we were lucky if we were able to get 4 hours sleep per night for over 3 months because of the constant screeching of adults and chicks. We couldn't use our garden because of dive bombing and deliberate defecating by the adult gulls anytime we tried to sit outside. We have seen children in the street attacked by adult gulls and neighbours have reported the same happening to pets. This is no longer acceptable, and action MUST be taken so that we can have some sort of enjoyment from our homes and gardens. Herring gulls have developed a "no fear" attitude towards humans as for too long there has been no real deterrent. The only thing that will truly be effective going forward is a cull. I only hope that because you have issued this survey in October that respondents remember that because it is quieter at this time of year that the problem has not gone away – come February / March it will all start all over again - even worse than ever !

I was inserting money into the parking machine at Mark's and Spencer when a seagull attacked me from the back. My neck and head suffered the force of its sharp beak. Then it splattered on my hair Jacket and handbag. Fortunately for me the M&S staff cleaned me and gave support From which I was very grateful I am very wary of going into Elgin and have a fear of seagulls after my traumatic experience

Having been born and raised in Elgin and moved away, coming back to visit regularly I am shocked at the nuisance the seagulls are causing. I have regularly been woken at 04:00 by the noise and then been fatigued when driving a long journey that day. When it comes to sleep deprivation the noise is turning out to be a safety issue rather than just an annoyance.

I am totally against any measures that involve culling or preventing these birds from nesting. Urban gulls are only an issue because humans have caused their natural food source to deplete, bringing them in to more populated areas. If people did not leave such a mess, throwing litter and food away, then this would not be an issue. These birds are often harmed and treated badly when all they are trying to do is protect their young. Clean up Elgin and stop over fishing our seas, that would help. Stop the school kids chucking food and rubbish as they walk at lunchtime. Educate people how to look after our wildlife. These birds have as much right to live as we do. The nets that some of the buildings have put up are also cruel, I've often seen dying birds stuck in there. The corpse is then left to decompose. How much of a health hazard is that?



Put more bins in Elgin and even spend money on looking after public areas, and even increasing rubbish collections, not on killing these birds.