

# Burghead and Cummingston Community Council



## Minute of regular meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**Present:** Billy Davidson (Chair), John Gordon (Secretary), Hilary Gloyer, Les Taylor, Abbey Main, Jim Patterson

**Apologies:** Molly Fraser, Jennifer Walker

**In Attendance:** Joan Megson, Kelly Croudace, Constable Martin Dyer, Community Warden – Tim Betts, Councillors Chris Tuke and Eric McGillivray

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

The meeting agreed to suspend standing orders to allow presentations by those in attendance.

**Councillor Eric McGillivray** took the floor and referred to the forthcoming library closures in Burghead and Hopeman.

. Hopeman, he said, had reluctantly accepted the decision to close their library and were to hold a public meeting to set up a committee to run their library themselves.

Eric advised the meeting that, in his opinion, any protest marches against the closures were futile and would be a complete waste of time.

He suggested, taking a lead from Hopeman to accept what was a fait accompli and to apply to take over the running of the library by volunteers. Eric suggested that a Community Asset Transfer request be made to Moray Council to enable the Burghead Community to advance the possibility of volunteer takeover and handed over leaflets which explained the procedure.

The Chair thanked Eric for his advice and advised him that Burghead was not going to “roll over” and accept the closure of their library without a fight and was invited to stay in the meeting to hear the representations of the Save Burghead Library Action Group who were present at the meeting. The Secretary reminded Eric that he and Councillor Tuke had voted for the closure of Burghead Library without a word of consultation with the people of Burghead.

Councillor McGillivray declined the invitation to stay as he had urgent business elsewhere and left the meeting.

## **Police Report**

Constable Martin Dyer gave the Police report

## **Ongoing Investigations in Burghead**

This report covers the period from 2 February until 4 March 2013. Burghead and Cummingston saw 7 reported crimes.

On 12 February 2013, a complaint of Threatening Behaviour, contravention of Section 38 Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 was received. A juvenile male is the subject of a Police Report.

On 19 February 2013, a male appeared at Elgin Sheriff Court charged with Threatening and Abusive Behaviour following an incident the previous day in Burghead.

On 24 February 2013, a vehicle was damaged whilst parked on Grant Street, Burghead. One juvenile male is the subject of a Police Report.

On 26 February 2013, a male driver was cautioned and charged with Careless Driving on the B9040 Burghead to Hopeman road.

On 10 February 2013, business premises on Grant Street, Burghead were forcibly entered and money stolen.

During the early afternoon of 16 February 2013, a motor car parked on Forteath Street, Burghead was struck by another vehicle causing damage. A positive line of enquiry is ongoing with regard to this crime.

Between 14 and 19 February 2013, damage was caused at Burghead Primary School.

## **NEW 101 NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER**

A new 101 non-emergency number was launched across Scotland on Thursday 21 February 2013, and will replace the vast range of existing police force non-emergency numbers, including the Grampian Police 0845 600 5 700 number, which will be gradually phased out.

The introduction of the 101 non-emergency number will give the people of Scotland a new way to contact the police, seek advice, and speak to a local officer or to report a crime that does not need an emergency response, for example:

- Car theft;
- Damage to property;
- A minor traffic collision;
- Suspected drug use or dealing;
- Information about crime in their area.

The 101 non-emergency number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It costs a flat rate of 15p per call and will connect the public to a police service centre in their local area. The number has already been launched successfully in England and Wales and is widely used.

The key reasons for introducing the 101 non-emergency number in Scotland are to:

- Help keep people safe by giving them one easy-to-remember number for contacting the police, wherever they are in Scotland;
- Make the police more accessible, while reducing pressure on the 999 system;
- Help the police cut crime by making it easier for the public to pass on information;
- Support the creation of a more efficient and effective police service for the people of Scotland;
- Increase interoperability with England and Wales, with 101 becoming the nationally recognised non-emergency number for contacting the police across the UK.

The public should continue to call 999 in an emergency - when a crime is in progress, when someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when a life is in danger or when violence is being used or threatened.

## **CRIMESTOPPERS**

If anyone has any information relating to controlled drugs or drug dealing. Please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers allow information to be passed in relation to any crime or criminal activity anonymously. They can also be contacted via the website at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

## **PARENTLINE SCOTLAND**

ParentLine Scotland is a free helpline (08000 28 22 33) and email service [parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk](mailto:parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk) for anyone with concern about a child. [www.parentlinescotland.org.uk](http://www.parentlinescotland.org.uk)

## **Community Warden's Report**

Community Warden Tim Betts advised the meeting that he was maintaining a good rapport with the community, giving advice and support where necessary.

Tim advised that instances of dog fouling on public areas continued to be the most annoying and frustrating of cases he had to deal with, and that patrols to combat this scourge were to be stepped up in an effort to catch the culprits.

The meeting agreed that until the irresponsible dog owners saw some prosecutions of the offenders it was unlikely that the situation would improve.

A short question and answer session on local topics took place between the Members and Constable Martin Dyer and Community Warden Tim Betts before they left the meeting.

### **Save Burghead Library**

The Chair introduced Joan Megson and Kelly Croudace who were spearheading an action group set up to fight the closure of the Burghead Library.

Joan Megson advised the meeting that a door to door petition in Burghead had so far received over eight hundred signatures in protest at the closure of Burghead library. Only four people interviewed had failed to give their support.

Kelly said that in light of the overwhelming support they had received in their attempts to save the library, they had organised a protest march to be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, at which the community would be able to demonstrate its support for the library.

The march was to start at the playing fields and proceed up Grant Street to Gordon Square where a short rally was to be held.

The march, a first for Burghead, was being organised with the approval of the local authority and Grampian Police. A considerable sum was required for Insurance cover for the march and the Community Council offered to cover the costs should all other requests for financial assistance fail.

Joan Megson said that they were finding it hard to find out the value of the projected savings specific to Burghead.

Councillor Tuke undertook to obtain the relevant information from Moray Council.

The meeting gave full consideration to Councillor McGillivray's earlier proposal to apply to run the library with volunteers from within the community.

The meeting agreed that any such scheme should be a last resort left until it was seen that their attempts to maintain the status quo had failed.

The Chair commended Joan and Kelly on their efforts to save the library and they left the meeting.

### **Standing orders were resumed**

### **Adoption of minute of previous meeting**

**Proposed by:** Hilary Gloyer

**Seconded by:** John Gordon

### **Matters arising from minute of previous meeting**

#### **Building the Broch**

An invitation had been received from the Moray Council Community Support Unit to attend a presentation they were to give in the Burghead School on 12<sup>th</sup> March at which they would be giving an update on the progress they had made in this project.

#### **Site of Former Chemical Works**

A letter had been received from Tulloch Of Cummingston in which they advised that due to the current economic climate, any development of the site had been put on hold. They did, however, undertake to tidy the site in the near future.

#### **Burghead Caravan Park**

No reply had been received, to date, from the management of the caravan park regarding the letter of concern sent to them about the appearance of the bank adjacent the caravan park due to the tipping of topsoil on it.

## **Any Other Competent Business**

### **Bus Stop request for Fraser Road**

Abbey Main made a request on behalf of bus users in the White City for the provision of a bus shelter on the north side of Fraser Road in the vicinity of No's 46 – 50 Fraser Road. The Secretary was instructed to contact Moray Council with the appropriate request.

### **Poor state of Burghead Cemetery**

Abbey Main expressed his disappointment about the limited remedial works that had been done to the verges of the cemetery, He felt that the standard of maintenance at the cemetery was well below that which was expected and was to request a meeting on site with the official in charge in an effort to improve matters.

### **Section of Pavement in front of Fountain Court**

Complaints had been received about the extremely poor state of repair of the pavement in front of Station Court, Burghead.

The Secretary was instructed to contact the relevant department regarding the concerns.

### **Proposed Bedroom Tax**

Les Taylor expressed his concerns about the implementation of the forthcoming so called Bedroom Tax in which council house tenants receiving housing benefit would lose a proportion of their benefit should they have a spare room in the house they occupied. This, he said, could lead to the tenant being forced to down size to a smaller house and if none were available in Burghead at that time, having to accept a smaller house in a different community.

The meeting agreed that this could be a potential problem for several residents of Burghead and although it was out with the control of the Community Council, representations could be made to the Moray Council to implement the forthcoming legislation in a sensitive manner with attempts made to relocate ay such tenants to suitable housing within Burghead.

Councillor Tuke warned the meeting that cuts and tightening of budgets were inevitable in the current economic conditions and more unpalatable decisions would have to be made.

John Gordon suggested that the next cuts be made in the County Buildings in an effort to eliminate the obvious waste and duplication of labour within the Moray Council ranks.

Councillor Tuke challenged John Gordon to give an example of "obvious waste". John Gordon advised the meeting of a recent visit he had made to the County Buildings during which the staff were sitting with the windows open in an attempt to reduce the excessive heat which was pumping out of the radiators. Councillor Tuke conceded that this was a problem.

The meeting agreed that the Secretary request from Moray Council under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a comprehensive list of the job titles of all the Moray Council employees and the numbers thereof.

Being no further business, the meeting was closed.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at the Harbour Office, Burghead**