

Burghead and Cummingston Community Council



Minute of regular meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on Thursday 4th April 2013

Present: Billy Davidson (Chair), Jennifer Walker (Treasurer), John Gordon (Secretary),
Abbie Main, Molly Fraser, Hilary Gloyer

Apologies: Jim Patterson, Les Taylor

In Attendance: Councillor Chris Tuke, Community Warden Tim Betts,
Police Constable Jonathon Menzies

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present.

The meeting agreed to suspend standing orders and invited the visitors to present their reports.

Community Warden

Tim Betts advised the meeting that the campaign against dog fouling was having positive results and culprits had been caught and fined.

A major part of the campaign was to educate dog owners of their responsibilities as dog owners. Tim has been approaching dog walkers in public places to check if they were carrying poo bags in readiness for collecting any mess made by their dogs. Those who did not have bags were given some bags and reminded that failure to use them was an offence.

Tim said that the campaign had received great support from the pupils of Burghead Primary School who had drawn posters to advertise the campaign.

Police Matters

Constable Menzies presented the police report.

This report covers the period from 4 March until 3 April 2013. Burghead and Cummingston saw 3 reported crimes.

These related to complaints of Assault and Threats which were detected, two resulting in cases being forwarded to the Procurator Fiscal, Elgin.

Anyone with any information of the above crimes or any other crimes in the Lossiemouth Policing Area should contact the Police Scotland on 101, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or call in person at the Lossiemouth Police Office.

Operation Moravia

Between 12 and 17 March 2013, Operation Moravia was held in the Fochabers and Lossiemouth Local Policing Team area with officers from the LPT, Moray Development Team, Special Constables and Roads Policing Unit.

During the Operation 18 historic crimes were investigated and 12 detected. These crimes related to numerous Vandalisms, Serious Assault, Firearms offences, Theft and Threats.

Roads Policing Patrols in the area were increased and 9 conditional offers and 5 V-Recs issued. Several drivers were educated with regard to minor Road Traffic matters.

Police Scotland

At midnight on 31 March 2013, Grampian Police ceased to exist as an organisation becoming part of the new National Police Service of Scotland, which will be known as Police Scotland. The local community can be assured however that they will notice very little change at the local Policing level. The local community and Community Council will continue to receive the same high quality service under Police Scotland.

The new 17,000-strong single national force, headed by the former Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police, Stephen House, has replaced the eight-force structure and become the second largest force in the UK, after the Metropolitan Police in London.

The former Grampian area will now be served by two divisions Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire & Moray.

The Police Scotland are keen to highlight their use of social media and advise the public that our latest news can be found at www.scotland.police.uk and using the <http://www.twitter.com/policescotland> or <http://www.facebook.com/policescotland>

Crimestoppers

If anyone has any information relating to controlled drugs or drug dealing, please call Police Scotland on 101. Alternatively, contact can be made with 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

Parentline Scotland

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

A brief question and answer session ensued on matters of local interest in which Constable Menzies and Warden Betts both assured the meeting that Burghead and Cummingston had one of the lowest instances of recorded crime within their beats and were very happy to receive the continuing support of our community in their efforts to maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Constable Menzies and Community Warden Betts left the meeting and standing orders were resumed.

Adoption of minute of previous meeting

Proposed by: Abbie Main
Seconded by: Hilary Gloyer

Matters arising from minute of previous meeting

Burghead Library

The meeting agreed that the protest march held on 16th March had been very well supported despite the atrocious weather.

The community had turned out in force to make their feelings clear about the decision taken by the Moray Councillors.

Councillor Tuke was questioned on what considerations, if any, he and his fellow councillors would make following the unprecedented protests made in Burghead and throughout Moray over the closure of community libraries.

Councillor Tuke advised the meeting that the decision to close was still under review and would be the subject of an equality impact assessment.

Councillor Tuke gave no indication that he was likely to change his mind about closing Burghead Library. He also confirmed that he had been unable to obtain, from Moray Council, the running costs particular to Burghead Library.

The meeting agreed to support any further initiatives from the Library Pressure Group in their efforts to save Burghead Library.

Building the Broch

The consensus of the Community Councillors who had attended the presentation in Burghead School was that nothing new or positive had been presented and did not merit the monies that had been spent on it over the last six months.

Chemical Works

Indications were that the requested tidying up work was to start soon.

Caravan Site

An e-mail message had been received from the owner of the caravan site in which he confirmed that it had always been his intention to finish the reinstated bank with white sand and marram grass to match its surroundings. The work however had been compromised by fly tipping over the bank.

New Bus Stop Request for Fraser Road

The Secretary advised the meeting that a request had been submitted. However the person in Moray Council who dealt with such requests was on leave and he still awaited a reply.

Burghead Cemetery

Abbie Main confirmed that he would contact the relevant department of Moray Council to arrange a meeting at the cemetery which he would attend and seek action to improve the maintenance of the cemetery.

Dangerous Pavement on Grant Street in front of Fountain Court

The Secretary confirmed that he had reported the obvious faults to Moray Council who were expected to respond with the urgency it warranted.

Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act

The Secretary confirmed that he had submitted the request which had been acknowledged by Moray Council who had advised they were expected to respond in not more than twenty days. It was therefore expected to available for the next meeting.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Planning Application for Marchhead Cottage, Cummingston

The Secretary advised the meeting that they had offered consultation by Moray Council on an application to demolish Marchhead Cottage to build in its place two semi-detached dwellings with associated parking.

A full set of the build plans were available at the meeting for inspection and comment.

The majority view of the meeting was that the proposal was a gross overdevelopment of the site. The mass of the proposed dwellings was out of keeping with its surroundings and that the proposed entrance to and egress from the car parking arrangements would cause a traffic hazard.

The Secretary was instructed to forward the Community Council's objection to the application to Moray Council.

Request for Donation from JCC

Correspondence had been received from the association of Joint Community Councils of Moray in which they had requested financial assistance to mount an advertising campaign for the Community Council elections due to be held in October this year.

After discussion it was agreed not to donate to the cause.

Being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 2nd May

To be held at the Harbour Office, Burghead