

Burghead and Cummingston Community Council



**Minutes of inaugural meeting held at Burghead Harbour Office on
Thursday 7th November 2013**

Present: Billy Davidson (Chair), John Gordon (Secretary), Jennifer Walker (Treasurer), Joan Megson, Hilary Gloyer, Mollie Fraser, Shirley Munn, Les Taylor, Kelly Croudace, Gilbert Farquhar

In Attendance: Tracey Rae (Community Council Liaison Officer), Cllr Chris Tuke, Cllr John Cowe and Community Warden Tim Betts (albeit briefly)

Tracey Rae started off the inaugural meeting with an introduction and induction of the newly formed Community Council. This involved an explanation of duties and practices and making us all familiar with the new community council handbooks. Separate minutes of this part of the meeting will be issued by Tracey Rae.

Appointment of Office Bearers

Mollie Fraser proposed Billy Davidson as Chairperson, this was seconded by Hilary Gloyer. It was decided by all to nominate a Vice Chairperson at a later date.

John Gordon was appointed Secretary with no objections. As this can be a massive undertaking Shirley Munn and Kelly Croudace volunteered as Joint Minutes Secretary. This was also agreed with no objections.

Jennifer Walker agreed to continue in her previous role as Treasurer. Again this was agreed with no objections.

Adoption of the minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed by: Les Taylor

Seconded by: Hilary Gloyer

Police Report

The previous police report was discussed and Hilary reported that there were 2 further break in attempts at the Headland Trust although these had been unsuccessful. Mollie proposed asking for the police to make regular visits.

The disabled parking in Sellar street was discussed as this is the cause for some disputes. It was noted that there are two disabled parking spaces across the road from each other and if both are used at the same time the road is then blocked. There could be no sense made to this but Cllr Tuke said discussions were taking place to try to resolve the issue.

AOCB

It was brought to the attention again to everyone present the poor maintenance of Burghead Cemetery. Cllr Tuke assured the community council that provision was to be taken under the winter maintenance budget starting shortly.

Burghead War Memorial: John asked when essential repairs were to be undertaken as the railings were in a critical condition. Cllr Tuke advised that Ken Kennedy was to request funding from Central Government. It was generally agreed that it was displeasing that this had not been done already as previously discussed. It was also noted how disappointing the continued decay in the railing and the lack of advancement in rectifying this issue.

Members questioned the possibility of using the Community Justice service to facilitate weeding the streets. Both Councillors advised that this had been looked into but was not available.

St Aethans Well: Hilary said that work was continuing and would be concluded before the end of the month.

Library Closures: John asked Cllr Tuke why he voted to close Burghead Library, much discussion regarding this ensued, with Cllr Tuke saying that difficult decisions had to be made and that there was just not enough money to keep all the libraries open.

Joan Megson gave an update on the Save our Libraries current position. An advocate in Edinburgh advised the group that there were good grounds for contest in court and obtaining an interdict.

It was decided to invite Mr Alistair Campbell, Libraries & Museums Manager, to speak to the Community Council with the possibility of opening the meeting to the public.

Council Members vented their disappointment and frustration over the lack of development in Burghead over the last 5 years.

AOB

Shirley mentioned that the new path from Cummingston and Burghead was very icy and slippery in recent morning and how this could be very problematic for all users.

Joan and Gilbert thought the idea of an informal induction meeting for new CC members was a very good idea and would be of great value to get new members informed of the ongoing work of the CC.

Hilary brought up the question of who owed the land by the Maltings that the concrete stations were on. This would be with a view of having them removed and the area tidied up. Hilary also gave the Secretary a copy of the quantity surveyors report of Dan Ralph being the contractors choice on the Headland Trusts work, stating why he had been the preferred choice. John thanked Hilary for this report and commended the transparency of the Headland Trust. Hilary stated that under the freedom of information this was available to anyone who wished to see it.

Mollie brought to the attention a problem in Cummingston, now resolved, of hay bales being placed within 30 yards of homes within the village. The landowner had been contacted and the Farmer and removed them promptly.

John suggested that action be taken to facilitate change within the Station Yard. A suggestion to change it into a community garden was made.

A previous offer from Diageo to install a spur from the hot water pipe to the school grounds was to be looked into. Cllr Cowe suggested that Mr Stephen Cooper would be able to advice of a similar project already installed in Shetland. It may be possible to apply for European funding and grants from the Fisheries Local Action Group to facilitate this. It was proposed to discuss this at a later date once information was gathered.

Billy thanked both Councillors and Tracey for their attendance and continued support.

Being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.15pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm.

To be held at the Harbour Office, Burghead