



Elgin North Area Forum
AGM Minutes
Tuesday 27th October 2009.
Elgin Town Hall.

- Present:** Eilidh McLean (Joint Chair), Kieron Green (Joint Chair), Malcolm Stewart (Secretary), Alastair Fulton (Treasurer), A B Loveland (B.U.J.F.C), Vera Gaskell (B.M.I.A), Elsie Scott, Beth Simpson, Sheila Hollis, May McGarrie, Donald Mackay, Alastair Kennedy (J.C.C), Alex Macmillan (Elgin Community Council), Allan Bell (Elgin Community Council).
- In attendance:** Cllr Russell, Cllr Jarvis, Cllr Shand, PC Mike Malloy, Denise Gormley (Community Support Unit), Kate Fulton (Minutes).
- Apologies:** Cllr Divers, Cllr Leadbitter, Cllr Sharp, Harry Torry, Ed Brumby, Heather Park, Chris Savage, Lynne Farquarson, Debbi Anderson, Debbi Burns.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Eilidh took the chair and welcomed everyone to the Forum's AGM for 2009. She then asked for any apologies.

2. Minutes from 2008 AGM

These were proposed as an accurate account of proceedings by Malcolm Stewart and seconded by Kieron Green.

3. Matters Arising from 2008 AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairpersons' Report

In the Chairpersons' report Eilidh thanked the residents of Elgin North for continuing to volunteer freely from their own time over the past year. She also expressed thanks to all those who had spoken at forum meetings, whether professionals or interested members of the community. She also thanked both Elgin Community Councillors and Moray Council Councillors for promptly addressing any concerns raised by forum members, and for their continued support.

Over the past year the Forum has worked hard to write up a Strategic Action plan which listed forum initiatives and work such as the Litter and Vandalism group and a Transport Strategy Group under the appropriate five themes of the Community Planning Partnership.

Eilidh highlighted the regular Community Issues item on the agenda as one of the most successful activities of the Forum, whereby both groups and individuals have been given the opportunity to bring their concerns to the forum for discussion. Items of concern over the last twelve months include; the Deanshaugh Football ground (a community asset currently unusable), Quarrelwood (the Forum has made some effort to sow the seeds of partnership working around this issue) and also residents of Waulkmill raised concerns regarding their neighbourhood (Cllr Russell got many of these concerns addressed immediately, others still require work and involvement by the major landowner in the area, Springfield Properties). Community issues are an extremely successful part of the Forum as it provides a useful platform for residents of the area to raise concerns, large and small and have them channeled through the most effective route.

Eilidh went on to talk about the future of the Forum. Over past Forum meetings, concerns have concentrated on the lack of Community Support Workers in the Elgin Area and also on consultation on the amount of community funds to be made available to support the Forum. Eilidh recognised that the Moray Council is not unique amongst organisations spending public money regarding the scale of financial problems it currently faces. She stated that the Chairs of the Elgin North Area Forum would urge decision makers within Moray Council to recognize that it was more important than ever that local communities are fully engaged during these hard times and be given the opportunity to voice their concerns through channels such as Area Forums.

A copy of Eilidh's report was handed out at the meeting.

5. Treasure's Report

Although the Forum has not had a Treasurer for approximately the last year, Alistair Fulton had kindly agreed to compile a report on the Forum's finances. Alistair reported that as of August 2009 the forum had £3036.71.

Eilidh thanked Alistair for getting the accounts up to date in time for the AGM.

6. Standing down of Office Bearers

At this stage in the meeting Denise took over the Chair for the election of the Office Bearers for the coming year. Before asking for nominations for the various posts she thanked the present Office Bearers for their hard work and commitment over the past year.

7. Election of Office Bearers

Chair - there was no one willing to take on the position of Chair.

Vice Chair - there was no one willing to take on the position of Vice Chair.

Secretary – Malcolm Stewart said he was happy to continue as Secretary and this was seconded by Kieron.

Treasurer - Alistair Fulton said that he would be happy to become the Treasurer and this was seconded by May McGarrie. With Alistair becoming the new Treasurer of the Elgin North Area Forum, a copy of the minutes is required to be sent to the Bank of Scotland to enable him to become a signatory for the account.

Action: Copy of minutes to be sent to Bank of Scotland

Denise explained that in not having a chair this would be problematic for the running of the Forum. A short discussion was held and Eilidh McLean nominated herself as joint chair, this was seconded by Kieron Green. Kieron also nominated himself as joint chair and this was seconded by Eilidh McLean.

Following the elections Denise welcomed everyone back.

Office Bearers for Elgin North Area Forum:

Joint Chair – Eilidh McLean and Kieron Green

Vice Chair – Vacant

Secretary – Malcolm Stewart

Treasurer – Alastair Fulton

Following the AGM an ordinary forum meeting was held which was chaired by Eilidh.

8. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2009

These were proposed as being an accurate account by Elsie Scott and seconded by May McGarrie.

9. Matters Arising

- i) Litter - the Forum needs to ascertain where they would like to see Moray Council situate additional litterbins. Members were encouraged to consider sites to feedback at the next forum meeting to allow approaches to be made to the appropriate council department.
- ii) Barlink- Denise attended the first meeting of the local residents recently. The residents' main issue in this estate is the tree preservation order in the children's play area. Other community issues were identified for development but these could only be worked on once the issue around the trees is resolved. This is an ongoing piece of work.
- iii) Vandalism at the Churches - Denise has spoken to both Jacqueline and Amy Cheer and it has been suggested that a multi-agency meeting be held in a couple of weeks time to address the situation.
- iv) Doctor's Surgery - following concerns from the forum regarding the lack of public transport to the new surgery at Glassgreen, Donald drafted a letter (copies

handed out at meeting) to be sent to the Practice Manager. It was suggested that perhaps Donald contact Rebecca Kail (Chair, Elgin South Forum) informing her that Elgin North are looking into this issue and to see whether this has been an issue raised at the Elgin South Forum. Alistair Kennedy suggested that it would also be worthwhile if the Forum did a bit of liaising with Elgin Community Council which has been in contact with Stagecoach regarding this issue. It was agreed that both Eilidh and Donald should attend the next Elgin Community Council Transport meeting and that a copy of Donald's Letter be sent to the practice Manager.

ACTION: Eilidh and Donald to attend next Community Council meeting. Malcolm to send letter on behalf of the Forum.

- v) Better Community Engagement Training - Harry to be contacted to see if he is able to attend next meeting to feedback to the Forum.
- vi) Financial Constitution – Eilidh met with John Ferguson on this matter and was told that he is still reviewing this paper.
- vii) Childcare - this notion is to be revisited at a later date.
- vii) Community Support Workers - following discussion at the last Moray Area Forum meeting, Kieron reported back that there is a six month freeze on these posts. It may be a possibility that Moray Council will remove the freeze after this period of time.

10. Community Issues

- i) Speed limit on Morrision Road - Vera enquired if the 20mph speed restriction on Morrision Road between the two schools could be extended to the end of Morrision Road. After a short discussion it was agreed that this had been investigated at length by the Moray Council and that it would not be appropriate for the Transport Strategy group to reconvene to look at this.
- ii) Trees at Barlink - Cllr Russell informed the meeting that he had been able to link Springfield Properties with the appropriate person in the Council regarding the tree preservation order. Cllr Russell expressed his wish for this piece of work to include residents at Waulkmill Grove area. Denise responded that to date she was not aware of any of the residents from that area expressing concerns over the trees in that particular area, however, she would endeavour to ensure that these residents are made aware of this action and support them if this was their wish.
- iii) Joint Meeting with Community Council - Alistair Kennedy suggested that it might be useful for some members from Elgin North Area Forum to attend a joint meeting with the Elgin Community Council as he felt there was a fair bit of duplication in the issues being discussed by both groups. This was agreed as a positive way forward for the community of Elgin.

ACTION: Elgin North Area Forum Office Bearers to attend

meeting with Elgin Community Council. Denise will liaise with both to arrange and facilitate the meeting.

- iv) Consultation on Moray Council proposed budget savings - a meeting on the potential savings is to be held early in November this year. There is to be a proposed six week consultation period. Consultation documents will soon be made available by Moray Council. Elgin North Area Forum and Elgin Community Council will contact people when further information is made available to ensure the community is well informed.
- v) Election of Community Council Members - a second round of nominations and elections are to be held to try and fill the remaining seats. Application forms can be obtained from the Access Point at Headquarters of the Moray Council and the closing date for all applications will be at midday on Friday 18th December 2009.
- vi) Quarrelwood Association - at this stage in the meeting Angus Dixon, from the association, joined the meeting. He gave a brief resume of the background of the association and its current remit. His main reason for attending the meeting was to ascertain how he could attract new members in the work of the group. He gave a brief discussion of the remit for all volunteers - i.e. the work that they would have to undertake would not be very onerous as they would only have to convene two or three times a year to form a work party in which they would be pruning/thinning/planting trees. There is also a committee meeting every two months. Anyone interested can contact either Angus or Ken Kennedy from the Council.

Following on from this discussion it was suggested that perhaps there needs to be a universal way in which to drum up volunteers. Various members of the Forum suggested local youth groups who could perhaps participate in the aforementioned work of the woods. It was further suggested that perhaps the Forum could host an event in which to provide community members with information around all the different community groups they could get involved with. It was agreed to explore this further with the forum's strategy group.

ACTION: Denise to email Angus details of local youth workers and Duke of Edinburgh contacts. The forum will invite Quarrelwood Association to future possible community events

- 11. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 1st December 2009 at 7:00pm in Elgin Town Hall.**

With there being no other business to discuss Eilidh closed the meeting at 8:30pm.