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**Minute of meeting of the Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in Inverurie Academy, Jackson Street, Inverurie.**

**Present:** Ron McKail, Resident of Westhill (Chair) [RMc];  
 Alan Sibbald, Monymusk Neighbourhood Watch (Vice Chair/Webmaster) [AS];  
 Gary Tolometti, Alford Neighbourhood Watch (Treasurer) [GT];  
 Bob Ingram, Kemnay Community Council [BI];  
 Tracy Skene, Resident of Inverurie [TS];  
 Nom Wright, Inch Community Association [NW];  
 Bob Fowler, Inverurie & District Driving Instructor Association [BF];  
 Alison McPherson, Community Health in Partnership [AMc];  
 Judy Whyte, Councillor for Inverurie & District [JW].

**In attendance:** Stewart Wood, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
 Kieran Russell, Police Scotland  
 Pam McElhinney, Secretary.

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Action Points</u>
<p><b>1. Welcome</b>            The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. Apologies</b>            Apologies had been received from Cheryl Smith, Annie Grant and John Latham.</p>	
<p><b>3. Approval of Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017</b>            The minutes were taken to be a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.</p>	
<p><b>4. Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b><u>GoodPoint Smoke Alarm Tester Sticks</u></b>            In February, Annie Grant (AG) applied for funding on behalf of the Scottish Fire and Rescue service. The sticks can be used to reach most smoke detectors and press the 'test' button while the user is stationary on the ground. A message on the side reminds users to test their alarms regularly.</p> <p>The sticks were passed to the Fire Service and are already being distributed to elderly, disabled and vulnerable residents.</p> <p><b><u>Speed Monitoring and Recording Device</u></b>            The device has now in Westhill. It is high up on the lamppost to reduce the risk of vandalism reoccurring.</p>	

<p><b><u>Public Access Defibrillators (PADS)</u></b>  BI advised that there is now a PAD ready to be used in Dalmadilly (just outside Kemnay).</p> <p><b><u>Credit/Debit Card Anti-Fraud Protectors</u></b>  At a previous meeting, the group agreed to fund aluminium sleeves that slip over contactless cards to stop fraudulent transactions from mobile card machines taking place. 1000 holders were distributed but demand was high.  <b>Action:</b> <i>RMc to order 1000 more of the protectors</i></p> <p><b><u>Updates 6 Months Post-Funding</u></b>  It was agreed that 6 months after a project receives funding from the GNMCSG, contact will be made with the project leader / applicant to find out how the project is going. RMc and AS will contact the project leaders to ask for progress reports.</p>	<p>RMc</p> <p>RM/AS</p>
<p><b>5. Chair's Report</b></p> <p><b><u>Group Constitution / Contract</u></b>  This is currently being rewritten and the new version will be more user friendly using plain English.  Councillors Judy Whyte (Inverurie &amp; District) and John Latham (Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford) have been appointed to the group as observers.</p>	
<p><b>6. Police Report</b></p> <p>PC Kieran Russell provided the group with the crime figures for the Garioch area. Over the last 4 months, 89 Road Traffic Offences were recorded in the Inverurie area (mostly on the A96). There were 63 incidents of Controlled Drugs being seized throughout Garioch over the same timeframe. A number of Thefts and attempted thefts have also been recorded in all parts of Garioch with homeowners always reminded to keep properties and vehicles locked and keys out of sight.</p> <p>Operation Strobe has been targeting anti-social behaviour after a couple of recent incidents in Inverurie and Kintore. Altogether 41 people have been charged and the age range of those involved was 15-22 years. Body worn CCTV cameras were used to identify the offenders.</p>	
<p><b>7. Presentation – Stewart Wood of Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b></p> <p>Stewart Wood, Fire Safety Enforcement Officer, talked to the group about his role in the fire service.</p> <p>The Fire Safety Enforcement Team consists of 5 officers who cover the Aberdeenshire &amp; Moray area.</p> <p>They provide fire safety advice, and ensure all relevant premises such as care homes, hotels, offices, and other businesses have carried out a fire risk assessment and have put measures in place for the safety of persons using the premises.</p> <p>The Fire (Scotland) Act was introduced in Scotland in 2005 and outlines the</p>	

responsibilities owners of non-domestic properties have. The Fire Safety (Scotland) regulations were introduced in 2006 to assist duty holders to comply with The Fire (Scotland) Act. Duty holders may get the fire risk assessment carried out by an independent Fire Risk Assessor. Unfortunately it is difficult to judge the competence of companies or persons who advertise their services as fire risk assessors, some may have no formal qualifications or training in Fire Safety. An approved list of registered Fire Risk Assessors can be found on the government website. Owners can find Fire Safety advice on the Scottish Government website under the heading Firelaw Scotland.

A link will also be added to the Community Safety Aberdeenshire website.

**8. Aberdeenshire Council Garioch Traffic Management Order -Statutory Consultation (RMc)**

The group were emailed details of Traffic Management proposals in Garioch.

These included:

- The speed limit being reduced to 30mph on Oldmeldrum Road passing Osprey village on approach to Inverurie
- Double yellow lines being extended on Blackhall Road near the junction with Rutherford Folds (Inverurie)
- The speed limit being reduced to 50mph on the approach to Elrick from Kirkton of Skene. The limit in Elrick is 30mph currently and the proposal is for a 50mph limit to be added for 2 kilometres prior to the 30mph zone.

The group discussed who will police the new double yellow lines now that there are no traffic wardens in Inverurie. It was agreed that it now comes under the Police's remit but often they will only intervene if vehicles parked in restricted areas are causing an obstruction.

**9. Group Insurance Policy**

The group has a Public Liability Insurance policy in place through the Highland Council. Next year the policy will be held by Zurich instead as the Highland Council will no longer offer this type of insurance.

**10. Community Safety Network Update**

Finance and Insurance policies were amongst the topics discussed at the latest CSG Network meeting. Service Level agreement, councilors attending meetings and Community Safety Hub at Gordon House in Inverurie were also discussed. Cheryl Smith has been involved with setting up the Hub allowing the Police, Social Work, Fire and Rescue and the NHS to work together and share useful information. The Hub is reported to be working well.

**11. Community Safety Executive Update**

Disclosure Checks

Previous the group were unsure why the CSE were considering disclosure checks for all group members. Clarification was given that even without contact with the public, it is good practice to have all volunteers checked for criminal convictions.

RMc asked if the CSE could schedule the meeting around the full council meeting days in order for himself or Mark Findlater to be able to attend.

<p><b>12. Community Planning Update – Garioch</b> There was no update regarding Community Planning in Garioch.</p>	
<p><b>13. Community Planning Update – Marr</b> A meeting took place 18<sup>th</sup> May which AS attended. Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action gave information about the Dementia Friendly Towns project taking place in Aberdeenshire. Community Support and Safety Officer Shona McDonald carries out specialist Home Fire Safety Visits for those who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind or with additional needs. Extra safety items such as flame retardant bedding, flashing smoke detectors and other equipment can be provided. Nicolle Macdonald carries out the same role in Deeside.</p>	
<p><b>14. Treasurer’s Report</b>  A treasurer’s report for the month of May was discussed. GT confirmed most of the funds had been received for the year but he was still waiting for the £1750 grant for one area.</p>	
<p><b>15. Website Report</b> A website report for the month of May was discussed. It showed that there had been 7,182, visits to the website which equated to an average of 231 visits per day. Over the past twelve-month period (June 2016 to May 2017 inclusive) the website received a total of 92,792 visits. New material added included Anti-Fraud Cardholder details, Smoke Alarm Tester Sticks and Crime Reduction links.</p>	
<p><b>16. Pass Plus</b> It was noted that all the allocated money for Garioch (£1050) and Buchan (£1050) was spent on 7 applications for each area over the last 12 months. North Marr however only had 4 young drivers make use of the funding available. If numbers continue to be low for North Marr, the group will look at promoting Pass Plus in this area.</p>	
<p><b>17. Correspondence</b>  Several of items of correspondence had been circulated to members since the previous meeting including: Aberdeenshire Council (Garioch) (Traffic Management) Order, April 2017 Operation CEDAR – from Police Scotland (via Neighbourhood Watch)</p>	
<p><b>18. Any Other Competent Business</b>  No other competent business was discussed.</p>	
<p><b>19. Dates of future meetings</b>  It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on: <b>Monday 11th September 2017</b> Subsequent meetings are to be held on:</p>	

*Monday 13th November 2017*

*Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017*

*Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

*Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018*

*Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018*

*Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018*

*Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018*

*Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018*

*Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018*