



Present: D Boag, S Boag, S Mack, J Shaw, M Simpson, M Whyte, C Wilson, F Work  
Plus 20 villagers

Apologies: Alan Budge , Christine ?, Dianne Timony, Stuart Gray, Maureen Suggett

#### **Minutes of last AGM**

Approved by Danny and Susan Boag.

Matters arising from those minutes:

- Fiona sought approval of purchase of two flagpoles; trying to source an Edzell flag but suggestion made that the primary school has a competition to create an Edzell flag.  
Question raised where they would be placed – outwith the boundary of the village? Confirmed they would be on the muir where the daffodils are together with a Cairn thanking everyone in Edzell who has contributed to the village. Unanimous agreement to the flagpoles
- Cherry trees have been planted with a further £100 used for rhododendrons; these were planted further away from the arch.
- Cycle path – Sara Mack to do a reminder letter to the council
- New vehicle purchased for EVIS and the subgroups especially the Gardens Group.
- Recycling Group had been looking for volunteers to run the charity shop and to open and close the skip. Enough volunteers came forward.
- Accounts audited and everything fine
- Charity shop now paid by direct debit
- Bonfire site – annually £50 spent on grass seed following the bonfire therefore changes made to prevent this. Good liaison between EVIS and Garden Group with support from Noranside.
- Xmas party – EVIS donated £799.31 but this is now self-funding.
- Change made to Constitution to include dissolution clause. In the event of dissolution, monies would be split amongst the village charities.

## **Chair's Report**

Fiona had 3 goals for her time as Chair in 2007

1. each EVIS sub group to be financially independent
2. each EVIS sub group to actively manage their own group
3. each event to be financially viable (excluding the pensioners' trip) unless previously agreed with the village

### 1 & 2

EVIS had previously paid for the Recycling Group's SEPA licence but this year they were able to meet this cost themselves. A major achievement for Ian Kinnear and the group.

At last year's AGM, it was agreed that the Children's Party fund (previously known as the Christmas Tree fund) would endeavour to meet the costs of the party and gifts themselves following a donation from EVIS. This year Muireen Suggett and Deanne Davidson raised £1444.67 – a great achievement. Now a new committee of Muireen and J McIntosh. The event this year is on 16 December and the funds for this (£700) have been raised through the charity shop.

The Gardens Group have been very hard working throughout the year. Currently, EVIS give the Gardens Group £1000 per year for the plants for the village although ideally this figure would be less. While this is currently feasible, long terms this may not be the case.

The charity shop now has its own bank account and is managed by the committee led by Dianne Timony.

The Youth Group is now well established and manage their own accounts and host their own AGM. Although they wish to remain independent of EVIS, there are issues around public liability insurance cover, insurance risk, Disclosure Scotland (especially child protection and insurance cover) and auditing of accounts. Fiona is passing this onto the new committee to follow up.

### 3.

Fiona's biggest concern in 2006 was funds and this had been commented on by the auditor. While there was a large pot of money in 2006, bills such as insurance @ £1200 will quickly diminish funds. A decision was made by the committee to hold less small events e.g. coffee mornings and to concentrate on car boot sales. The latter cost little in way of resources including manpower but generate income. Manpower is a huge issue for EVIS. Sunday is the best day for a car boot sale but a decision was made to hold these on a Saturday to accommodate the church.

The main committee also had to challenge its own spending. Nonetheless, a decision was made to purchase a laptop to support the accounts. All electronic forms and list of duties are now held on the laptop for use by subsequent committees.

With respect to the Pensioners' Trip, this was not such a drain on funds due to David Blacklaw donating the cost of the high teas at the Panmure Arms Hotel.

Maintenance days were started in 2006 and this illustrated that all the property chores could be completed in the one day. However, co-ordination for this is huge and, last time, most of the work was undertaken by men from Noranside; village support was poor.

Fiona has worked hard at improving risk assessment and the health and safety aspects of events. All events have been recorded for future reference and to avoid duplication of information. This has seen a change in approach to the planning of the Gala and Bonfire night to meet safety standards.

More committee members are desperately needed. The village is growing with a population of just < 1000. In the 1880s, the village had a population of 400-500 with a committee of 12. The committee is the same size but with more to do and this is Fiona's biggest concern as she stands down.

The next EVIS event is the Bonfire Night on 3 November at 1830 on the Edzell Muir.

Fiona finished by thanking the committee for their unyielding and loyal support and certain members for their guidance and friendship in addition to their hard work especially Claire Wilson. Thanks to all the sub groups. Also thanks to those outwith the committee for assisting e.g. Alan Budge, Ross Clyne and Mr Burger King. Finally, a thank you to the village shops for displaying posters and collecting tickets/monies for events. The minutes in the library demonstrates the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.

### **Garden's Group Report**

Problems faced this year have ranged from poor weather, council cutbacks on planting arrangements to a fair degree of vandalism during the summer months.

The council cutbacks were communicated too late to allow good established replacements to be purchased, despite a £500 grant. They have subsequently met with the Parks Department and will be able to apply for grants in plenty of time next year.

The new vehicle has been fantastic and although all the groups use it, it is undoubtedly of most use to the Gardens Group.

Several new planters were purchased with the ones in the High Street being of very substantial metal.

Open Gardens Day was very successful with 10 gardens open and many visitors. A cheque of £494.90 was able to be sent to MacMillan nurses at Stracathro.

Fundraising events were the charity shop for one month and this raised £2353 before costs, the Fashion Show which was very well supported and the Festive Evening in the Church Hall. All events are hoped to be repeated in 2008. There is also the possibility of a Classical Musical Evening being held next July but this has still to be confirmed.

With the above events and hopefully £1000 contribution from EVIS, there should be sufficient funds to maintain the floral displays next year.

The Flower Show was opened by Sharon of the Post Office and, despite terrible weather, produce and flowers were still able to be exhibited. However, it was felt that exhibitions were needed from a lot more people therefore it needs publicised that the flower show is open to all not just Edzell residents. Also, more entries are needed for the village gardens next year.

Edzell was awarded a 4 thistle banding in the Beautiful Competition this year – a marking a between 70 and 79 out of 100. The village of Duffus again took 1<sup>st</sup> place. Not known where Edzell was placed but the Gardens Group are trying establish this and will advise accordingly.

The Beautiful Scotland competition has evolved and now covers:

- horticulture
- seasonal and permanent planting
- sustainable initiatives to conserve energy, protect wildlife and wildflower habitats
- projects for schools/young people
- local environmental quality
- cleanliness of streets
- maintenance of hard landscaping and street furniture
- public participation
- community involvement in all the above
- fundraising and publicity

Due to the above, it is thought to be more appropriate that a decision is made by EVIS (with the approval of the villagers) on whether or not to enter the competition and that the various subgroups and the community support this wholeheartedly.

The Festive Evening is 4 December 1900 for 1930. Tickets will be £5 and includes a glass of wine. There will be demonstrations by Sharon on a festive arrangement, the Pampered Chef and also a demonstration on making ice cream.

Thanks to everyone who has helped the group over the last year. Also, thank you to Fiona for her support, encouragement and advice throughout the year.

### **Re-cycling Group Report**

3 skips now being operated. Cardboard container has been in place for almost a year and in its present site, 5 months.

More people now involved in the group; 14/15 members. The main task undertaken is the locking and unlocking of the containers.

The Group is working towards generating enough revenue from recycling to pay the SEPA licence in full.

One of the biggest tonnages collected is green waste and the Group has managed to negotiate back payments for this going back to April 2006. Total payments for the last 18 months is £2462.

The Group has registered to become a collection facility for which there is a £6000 payment to cover the cost of additional storage, etc. This has yet to be received and in the absence of this payment, it is unlikely that they will be able to become a collection facility.

They have spoken to Alloa Community Enterprise who is willing to pay £400 per tonne of aluminium. About 1 tonne of aluminium is collected per year and the plan is to sell this on when enough has been collected; this will be an extra income.

### **Charity Shop Report**

Apologies from Dianne Timony.

Allocations for the charity shop for 2008 were made on 18 October. Letters still to be issued but the allocations can be seen on the website **[www.edzell.info](http://www.edzell.info)**

There have been a few visits from the Trading Standards and they have been happy with the shop's trading methods.

A number of cheques are waiting to be delivered which should be delivered/posted this week.

It was decided on 18 October by the committee to pay amounts for recycling to three groups from their own funds; these were cheques that were not received by the committee. These should also be distributed in the next few days.

A request for refund of rates has been compiled to be passed to EVIS for payment.

### **Edzell Youth Club Report**

Apologies from Stewart Gray.

Started June 2006 and now, with the help of EVIS and the Youth Club Support Committee, they have a pool table, 2 very large flat screen televisions, 2 Nintendo Wiis and chairs. 25 youth attend weekly to enjoy these facilities.

All this would not be possible without the help and hard work of so many:

- Helen Wallace from Angus Community Education for all her tremendous support and endless resources
- EVIS for their fantastic donation and maintenance of the hut
- George Robertson, Bobby Milne and Alison Paterson of the Youth Support Committee for their generous donation and continued support and helpful advice
- Linda Farquharson, treasurer who looks after the books, Heather Farquharson, secretary for her tireless hard work and Peter, vice-chair for his support and help
- The rest of the committee for their work behind the scenes and the volunteers who assist weekly.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The committee this year have tried to run events so that they break even or even make a profit.

The charity shop took over their own accounts this year – thanks to Dianne Timony for taking on this role.

The Bonfire Night last year took in £712 but due to the high cost of insurance, the profit was approximately £300.

The Hogmany Dance made a profit of over £450 and was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Gala this year was a great success and with the car boot sales made a profit of £359. This excludes the Flower Show (which the Garden Group facilitates) which due to dropping entries and the purchase of new vases, ran at a loss. The new committee will meet with the Gardens Group to agree how the Flower Show can be more cost effective.

The newsletter was unfortunately delayed this year and income has therefore been lost from the donation envelopes. The newsletter is currently awaited from the printers.

The cost of hire of the Inglis Hall has risen this year; not due to it being used more but because the hourly rate rose. It is maybe time for us to start utilising the church hall more. Currently the hall is booked for Gala night and although the hall keeper was sent home at 1800, we were charged until the original booking time of 2200.

The Kids' Party was an extra expense this year but Muireen Suggett has taken on the Chairpersons' role. A successful run in the charity shop has meant that there is not a need for EVIS to fund the party.

Property upkeep this year was high due to the purchase of the new van @ £7670 and two maintenance days which helped repair and refresh much of the property that EVIS are responsible for.

The corporate account currently sits at £19742.54 and the general account at £1891.54.

The Recycling Group has also had two runs in the charity shop to raise funds for the group especially the SEPA licence. The group currently pays £750 per annum in ground rental to the council but it was found that this was for the whole site. The Youth Group have therefore agreed to pay 50%.

Property expenditure was more this year as approximately £440 was spent concreting the area for the cardboard skip. The cardboard generates a good income for the group and their bank balance currently sits at £921.64.

The committee are aware of the need to continue fundraising but this takes a lot of time and effort. We are desperately short of hands in addition to committee members.

Thanks to Sheila Stewart for auditing the accounts.

### **Gala Day Report**

The stall donation method for fund raising proved to be successful for the second year running. This allowed committee members to concentrate on management as opposed to running stalls. Each stall holder was provided with an envelope which was marked with the respective stall no. and was asked to return the envelope to the gala convenor sealed with a donation which reflected their level of sales on the day. Donations varied from about £10 to £40. Only one stall holder reported nil sales and was unable to make a donation.

There was support received from villagers throughout gala week, from making soup and cakes to lending equipment and this was much appreciated. However, success of the gala day in particular relied heavily upon volunteers from outwith the village due to the limited physical resources available directly from the various EVIS committees and sub committees. Had it not been for the exceptional support which was provided by the Round Table, both in providing volunteers and essential materials and equipment and the prisoners from Noranside whom provided us with labour, the gala day would not have been as successful as it was.

Although help was provided by many of the committee and sub-committee members it should be known that Fiona Work sacrificed most of her 2 week holiday specifically to organise the gala week events. Had it not been for the prior knowledge and experience of Fiona, Claire, Alan Budge and Ross Clyne the gala day could not have happened. Fellow villagers do not seem to realise the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes.

### Complaints and Issues Arising

The quality and relevance of some the stalls were thought to be poor and were possibly more suitable for the car boot sale.

It was reported by several stall holders that there were too many stalls selling similar products or hosting the same gimmicks which supposedly resulted in their day being uneconomic.

Violence broke out amongst youths from outside the village at night when the music was approaching an end. Unfortunately there was an unsatisfactory response from the local police. This put pressure on volunteers to engage and attempt to break up fighting between drunken youths. Fortunately no members of the committee suffered casualties it did appear that the youths respected the demands of those wearing 'high visibility vests'.

There was a lack of entertainment during the evening for the 25 – 50 age groups. The entertainment in the evening and throughout the night seemed to focus on the pensioners and then on the youth, with the exception of perhaps two of the singers.

The aftermath was not sufficiently policed and as a result the Mace window was broken. Fortunately, the culprit was apprehended by the police. However, had there been better supervision on the High Street during this time then this could have been avoided.

There were large numbers of youths entering the village from 1900, many of who were under the age of 18. Many were seen drinking alcohol from early in the evening and by the time the youth entertainment began, many of the youngsters were somewhat worse for wear. This put a lot of pressure on the First Aiders, as there were several youths suffering from intoxication from alcohol and needed medical attention and observation plus there were several minor assaults which required attention. Thankfully there were no major casualties and the First Aiders handled the situation well.

The First Aid Tent location needs to be reconsidered for the next Gala. Consultations need to be made with the service provider prior to making a decision on the final location.

External Power supply to be installed to church hall before next year's Gala at a cost of £150.00.

### **Comment from Bob Myles**

Thank you to Fiona and the committee. The community spirit is excellent. The corporate agenda of the Community Council for the next year is to engender community spirit such as is seen in Edzell.

There is now a Communities Fund in place where money is set aside for every borough including Edzell; the intention is to help those who help themselves.

The new Council Headquarters are called Angus House. This is causing confusion with Angus House in Edzell. The chance was given for the village to change the name of "our" Angus House. Unanimous decision made to retain the name of our Angus House.

### **Bonfire Night – 3 November (including H&S changes)**

To be publicised in the Brechiner and on Radio Tay. This year there will be no fly tipping or silly string (the latter required additional manpower to clear the following morning).

For H&S reasons, there will be no local collections and the bonfire will be smaller. The intention is to make the bonfire burn for less time to prevent youths hanging about.

### **Committee members and recruiting**

Not enough committee members to support the activities in and around the village. Additional committee members desperately needed and/or further support from those in the village. A suggestion was made that there is a committee member from each street. A flyer is to be included with the newsletter making clear that in the absence of more committee members/help, EVIS may cease to function.

### **Hire of Inglis Hall prices**

EVIS is charged for a full day and for every separate area of the hall that is used. Proposed that that the Church Hall is used as an alternative. It was suggested that the Church Hall should be used as an alternative **where appropriate**. Unanimous decision reached supporting this.

A suggestion was made that we look to the Communities Fund and the Council to subsidise the cost of hiring Inglis Hall as and when required. Proposed by Mr Bing and seconded by Maxine Goodall that we write to the council regarding these costs. The new committee to progress this.

### **Christmas lights costs**

Costs to repair damaged Christmas lights in excess of £2000 vs. replacement costs of ~ £3500. Mike Whyte proposed a phased replacement and obtaining a 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> estimate for the cost of repairs. New committee to progress this.

### **Lindsay Place Notice to quit – lease renewal**

Unanimous decision made to remain and to continue lease.

### **Election of new committee**

Fiona Work and Claire Wilson resigning  
Danny Boag, Susan Boag, Sara Mack, John Shaw, Michelle Simpson and Mike Whyte continuing.

Jim Aitken and Alastair Lees proposed and seconded to join the committee. Office bearers to be agreed at the next meeting (Tuesday 13 November 1930 The Cottage)

### **AOCB**

Question asked regarding the trees at Lindsay Place. Following a questionnaire, these were trimmed.

Proposal that the Bonfire Night is moved from the Saturday to 5 November to prevent youths hanging about and any subsequent trouble. However, the committee have to spend time the day of the bonfire for preparations meaning

that annual leave would potentially have to be used. Furthermore, local farmers spend time assisting that they may not have during the week. Finally, it was thought that moving the day of the bonfire would not prevent trouble. Proposed by Maxine Goodall that we wait till following this Bonfire Night to gauge whether changes made have been successful e.g. more buses and a smaller bonfire. Matter to be discussed at the half yearly AGM.

Postman for the area retiring and proposal that flyer goes with the newsletter advising people of this to allow there to be a collection. Cash to be handed to the Post Office. Proposal agreed.

Next committee meeting Tuesday 13 November 1930 The Cottage