

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 13th August 2015

Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

Present:

Les Morgan	(Vice Chair) Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council
Gordon Methven	Elgin Community Council
Andrew Gray	Elgin Community Council
Graham Murdoch	Forres Community Council
James Mackie	Innes Community Council
Lansana Bangura	Innes Community Council
Sandy Anderson	Innes Community Council
Jane Martin	Keith Community Council

In attendance:

Ian Todd, Community Support Manager Catherine Sinclair (minutes)
Tish Richford, Team Manager & Blair Dempsie, Service Manager, Criminal Justice Services
Paul Watson, Senior Education Advisor, School for the Future Policy

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Alastair Kennedy (Chair), Karen Pryce-Iddon (Strathisla Community Council).

Changes to the agenda were noted. Pam Gowans is unable to attend with an update on integration of Healthy & Social Care. There will be 2 presentations.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 13th August 2015

Item 6 – should say Dyke & Landward Community Council. Subject to this amendment, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Gordon Methven, seconded by Jane Martin.

3. Matters arising

ACTION c/f: Jim Mackie to email R Lochhead further information on environmental impact of dumping dredged materials into the Moray Firth

Item 4b) – Subgroup to be convened looking at concerns about relevance of Community Councils - ongoing

4. Reports

a) Community Payback

Tish Richford gave a presentation on Community Payback. Unpaid work is undertaken instead of a custodial sentence, a fine, or where it is felt to be the most appropriate sentence for an individual. It should not be seen as a soft option. It has been demonstrated to be more successful than short-term custodial sentences in changing offender behaviour. Positive feedback is received from those undertaking work and communities or individuals benefitting from it. Individuals or work squads can carry out e.g. environmental improvements, wood staining, painting, joinery and building renovation thanks to the skills of supervisors and offenders. Work must never replace that of an employed person or a statutory service. If Community Councillors wish to suggest work, they can email tish.richford@moray.gov.uk or phone 01343 557200. Mike McRitchie will assess the work and report on its suitability. Further discussion was held and Tish showed photographs of the type of work carried out in the community.

b) School for the Future

Paul Watson gave a presentation regarding review of the school estate in Moray. Council officers have formulated criteria against which schools can be measured, designed to be robust, transparent and equitable. Review of the school estate is to assess it and analyse how best to sustain and improve it, not necessarily about school closures – which are always a last resort. Assessment factors are:

- 1) Quality of educational experience
- 2) School roll (approx. 90 for primary schools, approx. 145 for secondary schools)
- 3) Financial Position
- 4) Staff well-being and development

5) School at the heart of the community

The first 3 factors are most important, but if a school is not performing well on those, the other factors are also taken into consideration. Schools may be sustainable, sustainable with collaboration, with confederation or via amalgamation into a new school premises. Collaboration can include shared teachers, shared pupils or shared facilities e.g. 2 smaller schools coming together for PE or music. Confederation can be a joint headship as already happens in some Moray schools. School catchment areas also need to be reviewed to balance schools capacity and ensure sustainability. There are plans to review schools in 2 ASG areas per year, beginning with a pilot project in Forres. Although there is no statutory requirement to consult on the draft proposal, The Moray Council is keen to get feedback from teachers, parent councils and the wider community. Comments should be submitted to futureschools@moray.gov.uk by Friday 18 December 2015. (For full report see email from Alison McLaughlin to Community Councils dated 23rd October – JCC agenda 12th November)

c) Financial Report

No report

d) Rural Parliament Update (Gordon Methven)

Gordon will circulate a report received today on an international rural parliament meeting held recently. He is to attend the Scottish Rural Summit on 24th November, along with other members of the Rural Parliament Advisory Group.

5. Information Sharing

Elgin Community Council

The Moray Community Awards ceremony will be held at the Alexander Graham Bell building at Moray College on 20th November at 6.30 for 7pm. All Community Councillors are invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided by Elgin Youth Development Group.

ACTION: Gordon to circulate invitation

The budget to move the High School to financial closure has been pulled due a change in EU guidelines. Another local authority did not follow new guidance but have been allowed to move to financial closure. Funding may be returned and alternative sources are being sought but meanwhile work cannot proceed and is costing The Moray Council £100,000 a month in interest.

The Community Council is preparing a community resilience plan and would like to invite all community councils interested in developing their own plan to a workshop.

ACTION: Andrew Gray to email invitation with some suggested dates to Jane for circulation to all Community Councils.

Elgin Community Councillors attended the digital workshop on Community Councils effective use of IT

The Community Council will look at a proposal for a lit crossing on the A96 for East End Primary.

The member involved in fundraising for the Christmas Lights reports a successful campaign.

A litter pick is planned for 21st November.

Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council

The Community Council is attempting to procure a CCTV camera for the Findhorn to Kinloss Road and also defibrillators for Findhorn and Kinloss.

ACTION: Contact Sandpiper trust as per James Mackie's suggestion

The Findhorn Village Conservation Company (FVCC) is in the process of the transfer of a large area of Findhorn land from Novar Estate to the FVCC. As a local community charity company, the FVCC intends to carry out a Planning For Real exercise to obtain community input into use of the land.

The Community Council is assessing demand in Kinloss for allotments and is in discussion with Kinloss Barracks. 39 Eng. Regt, Kinloss Barracks has very kindly provided men and equipment to repair the pot holes on the Beach (Dunes) Rd. This was done as a training exercise and Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council was responsible for funding the cost of materials.

The Morayvia Aviation Heritage Centre, located in the former Abbeylands Primary School in Kinloss, has officially opened and it is well worth a visit.

The Moray Car Share Scheme requested dedicated car parking spaces in Findhorn but the Community Council objected.

Local people have been complaining to the Community Council about the wildfowl hunters' methods shooting geese in the vicinity of Findhorn Bay. There is no byelaw in place therefore the shooting cannot be controlled. Moray Council does not appear to be able to fund the very significant costs to create a byelaw.

Forres Community Council

The planning application for retail development on Common Good land at Bogton was rejected and has now been withdrawn.

A Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme meeting was held 11/12/15 to think about where best to allocate grants. Owners will pay 50% of costs, giving a total value of £3million. There was also a Planning for Real meeting 12/11/15. Young people have been effectively engaged in this process, sticking plans to blocks and starting to paint them.

A presentation on the new Forres train station was given. There will be 2 platforms, increased frequency of trains and a bridge to replace the nearby level crossing. Members of the public are to be encouraged to email and request increased car parking spaces as is there is land to extend it.

Innes Community Council

Dog fouling remains a problem. Discussion held on legislation and how best to change attitudes.

Innes Estates has a planning consultation to place solar panels on part of the old Milltown Airfield.

The closing date to sign the petition on Invasive Non-Native Species is 27/11/15. There should follow an invitation to make a presentation to the Scottish Government petitions committee.

ACTION: Jim Mackie to send Jane an email for circulation to all Community Councils encouraging as many individuals as possible that are so minded to sign it

Keith Community Council

Keith in Flower was awarded a grant of £1,500 from the Hill of Towie Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.

There will be new Christmas lights for Reidhaven Square. Keith Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme suggested some funding go towards repair of the Keith Institute, but Historic Scotland declined this because it is a public building and has no defined end purpose as yet.

Concerns have been raised with Police Scotland about ongoing low levels of staffing in Keith, particularly in light of recent vandalism. Concerns about Community Wardens were raised with local councillors – plans to reduce to 1.5 posts and requiring Wardens to clock on in Elgin and be allocated work from there did not go before Committee. Discussion on the work of Community Wardens was held.

ACTION: Les to write requesting a report on provision of Community Wardens throughout Moray

7. AOCB

Jane Martin is the new Community Council Liaison Officer and will start her post 16th November. She is standing down as Chair of Keith Community Council.

Jim Mackie suggested that although the Joint Community Council is represented in the Community Planning Partnership, it would be useful for community councillors to attend the 2020 forums organised by tsiMORAY to feed in to discussions at a grass roots level and to hear what parts of the community are saying on e.g. Health & Wellbeing, Environment & Sustainability. He encouraged all community councillors to sign up to the newsletter (see www.tsimoray.org.uk) as this is where such meetings are publicised.

8. Date of Next Meeting – 11th February 2016

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.09pm

ACTIONS

Gordon Methven to circulate invitation to Moray Community Awards

Andrew Gray to invite Community Councillors to proposed Community Resilience Plan development workshop

Jim Mackie to email R Lochhead further information on environmental impact of dumping dredged materials into the Moray Firth

Jim Mackie to send Jane an email for circulation to all Community Councils encouraging as many individuals as possible that are so minded to sign it

Les to write requesting a report on provision of Community Wardens throughout Moray

Les to contact Sandpiper Trust re defibrillators