

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 8th February 2017

Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

Present:

Alastair Kennedy	(Chair)
Jim Patterson	Burghead and Cummington Community Council
Bill Davidson	Burghead and Cummington Community Council
Iain Catto	Elgin Community Council
Gordon Methven	Elgin Community Council
Les Morgan	Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council
Donald Cameron	Lennox Community Council
Ann Mitchell	Buckie & District Community Council
Morag Stewart	Buckie & District Community Council
Graham Murdoch	Forres Community Council
Sandy Anderson	Innes Community Council
James Mackie	Innes Community Council

In attendance:

Jane Martin, Community Council Liaison Officer, Cllr Divers, Catherine Sinclair (minutes)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Iain Grieve, Cullen Community Council and Carolle Ralph, Lossiemouth Community Council.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 10th November 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Les Morgan, seconded by Iain Catto.

3. Matters arising

Item 10. LEADER: Staff has been recruited to all posts and is due to start shortly.

Item 10. Local Outdoor Access forum: Membership information has been recirculated.

Item 8b Rural Parliament: There was further discussion on Moray making a bid to host the Scottish Rural Parliament. **ACTION: Alastair to raise the matter with Moray Council**

4. Ship to Ship Oil transfers

The application has been withdrawn and will be resubmitted. In the meantime there is no further action that can be taken. The new proposal will have to be assessed to see if safety and spillage measure concerns from the community have been addressed.

5. A96 Dualling

The team declined an invitation to speak at JCC, saying they will continue to consult communities via the A96 forums. They expect to know the route corridor within 2 years. Finderne Community Council are willing to share their thoughts and findings with JCC, although cannot attend on a Thursday night. It was suggested the information be shared via email. **ACTION: Jane to request**

6. Community Safety Reports

The new format reports were discussed. There were varying opinions but it was agreed that the trial period should run for longer. A consistency of reporting on Police matters was also needed - some areas are receiving useful reports with a good level of detail and others less so. Chief Insp Mackie's comments about manpower were reiterated. Jane is supporting other agencies to supply specific and useful information for the reports. She thanked everyone for their comments. Police have not attended Innes Community Council meetings for some months.

ACTION: Jim Mackie to email Jane Martin re ongoing Police matters in Innes and she will pass to Chief Insp Mackie. Jane to discuss consistency of reporting with Chief Insp Mackie.

7. Scheme for Community Councils and Constitution Review – Promotion Sub Group

The working group met 1st February and discussed a few more points, as circulated and discussed. Democratic Services did not approve the use of a workplace as well as residence for eligibility as a Community Council member as it would be too difficult to police and monitor.

At a recent congress Jane Martin gave a presentation on the review of Community Councils Scheme, particularly the complaints procedure. Since then, several Community Councils have asked for the procedure, and Kevin Stewart MSP has written to advise all Community Councils to form a complaints procedure and referenced Moray's procedure.

Jane will be updating the Community Council handbook and is looking for suggestions and feedback. She will split the handbook into chapters to make it more mobile friendly. She will add information on data protection and using of social media etc. She is looking into providing online training for community councillors – possible via Moray Council's CLIVE system. She has taken contact details of each Community Council homepage and replaced them with a link to the Chairs and Secretaries document.

Cullen and Deskford Community Council have written guidelines for use of a shared Community Council Gmail account. **ACTION: Jane to share with all Community Councils and if desired, it can be incorporated into the handbook.**

Jim Mackie asked as youth members will now be full members rather than associate members, should membership numbers for each Community Council be reviewed. He also suggested that during the period between formation of the new Community Council and adoption of the constitution, the model constitution should automatically come into action or the new constitution be adopted retrospectively.

ACTION: Jane to look into

8. Community Council Elections, October 2017 – Promotion sub group

Plans to promote the elections were discussed. Materials could be shared via JCC, with Community Councils paying for additional materials from their own grants. Jane will start promotion shortly and is hoping to include press and radio. She would like to promote the positive stories from Community Councils and would like to hear from each Community Council. She would also like to form a working group to take this forward. Donald Cameron, Les Morgan, Gordon Methven and Bill Davidson volunteered to be on the sub group. Others are welcome to submit suggestions to Jane. The date for nominations is not known yet but is likely to be August. **ACTION: Jane to circulate date once known. Jane to research Parish Council Schemes to see if there is anything to learn about having contested elections**

9. Participatory Budgeting Update

In partnership with the Area Forums and Moray Federation of Community Halls and Associations, JCC has accessed £46,500 from the Community Choices Fund for a second round of Money for Moray. Thanks to Iain Catto for his work on the application. There is £40,000 for grants and £6,500 for expenses. Applications must address social isolation. So far, 26 applications totalling £84,134 have been received and more are expected by the deadline 10th February. Depending how many applications are eligible, 2 events may have to be held. It is planned to hold event/s at Grant Hall in Rothes again. Applicants can give a 2 minute presentation, the audience votes for their top 10 projects, and winners are awarded grants on the day. There are plans to support and encourage groups to present confidently and to allow someone else to present on their behalf if they are nervous.

The working group is going to interview a sample of 9 recently funded, completed projects to ask how they found the process and if they know any economic impact their project has had. Almost all the previous round of Participatory Budget funds have been spent now, with just a few transactions outstanding.

10. Reports

a) Financial Report (Jane Martin)

At year end 2016 £5,000 of participatory budget grant had been received and £4,179 spent, leaving a balance of £828. Details of spend are itemised in the accounts.

£1,436 of grant money was spent leaving a balance of £607. No grant money has been received since 2015. Jane has made enquiries and will report back. Jane was thanked for her hard work on the accounts. Catherine Sinclair will take on the role of Treasurer.

b) Rural Parliament Update (Gordon Methven)

Discussion was held on Scottish Rural Action elections.

11. Information Sharing

Buckie Community Council

A Community Councillor is going to the Visit Scotland Expo 26th - 27th April and has put out a call for information to showcase what is available locally.

Both the Community Council and area forum have written regarding the closing of Clydesdale Bank but are doubtful it will make any difference.

Community Councillors attended a meeting about allotments and men's sheds on 9th February but only 4 members of the public attended. They are going to keep spreading the word and reassure people they will not all be co-opted onto committees. There was discussion on men's sheds and it was agreed to invite someone to speak at the next JCC meeting. **ACTION: Les to invite his contact**

Burghead and Cummington Community Council

The dredger is working better now after some teething problems and has been at Burghead and in Hopeman basin. There is concern at the significant increase in harbour fees, part of an attempt to make harbours sustainable.

Police have not been attending meetings. There are still problems with speeding vehicles. Burghead Community Council feel it is clear that a lot of work previous done by Moray Council will now have to be carried out by individuals and community groups.

Efforts have been made over the last few months to move caravan from the cemetery road, but there is no legal power to move it on.

Elgin Community Council

Iain Catto moved out of the area but was immediately voted on as an associate member. One person has been co-opted on and another is interested.

Several additional meetings have been held to discuss the transport strategy and consultation. A meeting with Stagecoach is planned to discuss a number of issues. James Wiseman is still working on the local emergency and resilience plan.

The Fair Trade group is planning a Fair Trade Foundation event in March.

Steve Christie has been appointed the Chair of Keep Moray Beautiful.

The third round of Moray Community Awards is open and nominations can be accepted until March 24th. The awards ceremony is planned for April.

The Chair has been in contact with Historic Scotland about the possibility of lighting Elgin Cathedral and this looks promising at present.

Due to rail improvements, the level crossing at Wards Road will be closed 24th April – 1st May, 26-30th May and 6-17th October.

Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council

Procurement of a community defibrillator is progressing. It is hoped the £1,500 cost will be met by an application to Berryburn Wind Farm (£500), a quiz night (£500) and Community Council funds (£500).

Work is ongoing on Southside projects scoping what is wanted. It is hoped the sinkhole in Southside will be repaired from factoring fees.

Discussions are ongoing about the use of findhorn.com, org and net by the Findhorn Foundation, as some feel they should use Findhorn Foundation to differentiate from the village.

Forres Community Council

The new railway station will be bigger, with 2 platforms and 2 lines to ease congestion on the route. There is concern about the lack of provision for a safe pedestrian crossing across the A96 and a petition has been raised. At present neither the contractor, Bam Nuttal, nor Transport Scotland accept responsibility or the need for a crossing. There have been a number of non-fatal road traffic collisions at this crossing but they seem to be attributed to driver error, rather than road design. There is a stakeholder meeting on 10th March so Forres Community Council will try and press the case there.

A stakeholder meeting was held about Mosset Burn which is growing in and silting. It is rich in eels, trout have returned and salmon are spawning downstream so it is health in the lower stretches. It is monitored 6 monthly for silting and SEPA will only allow dredging if there is a flood risk. The upstream forestry drainage system will be monitored in the coming years and this may have a positive effect on the burn in time.

There is no Chair at present but it is hoped a member will take on the role at the next meeting.

Colours of Cluny were a fantastic success and is being repeated. 8000 visitors would have represented breakeven but more than 12,000 attended. The economic impact is still being assessed but is expected to be £150,000 - £200,000. The target next year is 20,000. Graham Murdoch suggested hospitality business further afield may wish to promote it autumn. He will show the Colours of Cluny video at the next JCC and circulate meantime. All are welcome to share it. **ACTION: Graham to circulate Colours of Cluny video**

Innes Community Council

Troves traveller site has been shut down after approximately 10 years when it was found out the site did not comply with Moray Council standards required.

The Planning department held a public hearing about The Tenants' Arms in Lhanbryde. Some 250 letters of objection were received, a few on the grounds of heritage but the majority on safety grounds. The site is opposite existing shops and near 2 busy bus stops and traffic and road safety are already an issue. The application to pull down the existing building and erect a Co-op was granted with a number of conditions. This may make the project economically unfeasible. Ongoing.

One member is attending Keep Moray Beautiful meetings.

The Garmouth to Lhanbryde road has been upgraded as the edges have been damaged by heavy vehicles.

There has been useful discussion with Kevin Price, Moray Council, on various areas of concern in Innes.

The Community warden has worked effectively with the Community Council but it is appreciated her time is limited.

A successful application was made to Money for Moray to put on a Saturday bus service but it is proving difficult to meet the required minimum of 6 volunteer drivers so this may not go ahead.

Lateral North has visited and will spend two days liaising with the Community Council and other groups to look at heritage projects in Garmouth and Kingston and possibly in Urquhart.

Lennox Community Council

Members attended a useful presentation on Beatrice.

Speeding on the Spey Bay road is still a concern and residents would like to have signs on the road.

Speeding cars on Gordon Street in Portgordon are also an ongoing problem.

The Fochabers Gala is on 23rd July and all are welcome.

12. AOCB

Community Council boundaries/size

Donald Cameron reiterated his feelings that Lennox is too big to be a workable Community Council area and has mooted a split into Spey Bay & Fochabers and Portgordon & Clochan. Others from Lennox disagreed. Each area also has very active community associations that carry out a lot of work for the community. He feels the Community Council has difficulty gelling as unit and contributing to community activities.

Transport Guide

The guide is being redrafted and was circulated to all Community Councils for comment. No responses were received so Iain Catto circulated hard copies for all Community Councils and asked them for input. A route map will be added to the next draft.

13. Date of Next Meeting – 11th May 2017

The Chair thanked those who had attended, although he was sorry to see so few Community Councils represented.

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

ACTIONS:

Alastair to raise hosting Rural Parliament with Moray Council

Jane to request A96 information from Funderne for sharing by email

Jane to feedback Police matters and Community Safety report feedback to Chief Insp Mackie

Jane to circulate Cullen and Deskford's email policy

Jane to look into changing membership numbers in light of youth member changes, and into adoption of constitution on formation of the Community Council

Jane to circulate date of Community Council elections when known and research Parish Councils re contested elections

Les to invite Men's Shed speaker to talk at next JCC meeting

Graham to email Jane the link to Colours of Cluny video