

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2017

Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

Present:

Alastair Kennedy	(Chair)
Mike Mulholland	Lossiemouth Community Council
Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth Community Council
Les Morgan	Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council
Gordon Methven	Elgin Community Council
Iain Catto	Elgin Community Council
Graham Murdoch	Forres Community Council
Eleanor Hayward	Forres Community Council
James Mackie	Innes Community Council
Karen Pryce-Iddon	Strathisla Community Council
Bill Davidson	Burghhead & Cummingston Community Council
Jim Patterson	Burghhead & Cummingston Community Council

In attendance:

Jane Martin, Community Council Liaison Officer, Cllr Claire Feaver, Anita Milne, Catherine Sinclair (minutes), John Fraser, Moray Men's Sheds

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Cllr Tim Eagle, Cllr Derek Ross, Cllr Mark McCrae, Jill Anderson (Strathisla)

2. Men's Shed Presentation

John Fraser from Moray Men's Sheds gave a talk about the history of Men's Shed in Australia where it originated, the UK and Moray. Men's Sheds are designed to reduce social isolation and make the most of the members' skills.

Premises are key and must be affordable, and easy to get to as well as physically accessible.

There are 2 physical premises in Moray so far. One is shared with Wastebusters in Forres and one is in Fochabers Institute. The Men's shed in Keith, founded by Fiona Addison, Tesco Community Champion is currently working on finding premises.

Other key points covered were that Men's Sheds need a big enough local population to provide members and committee members; becoming a charity takes time and work; a business plan is needed but it is just a document saying where you are now and 'where you are going'; sorting a bank account can be challenging and takes time.

Early funders were Baxters, Moray Council, Firsport, Age Scotland, tsiMORAY and donations come in from speaking engagements. Funding is essential as Men's Sheds cannot generate enough income to be sustainable.

In Australia, Men's Sheds have also taken on a mentoring role. This is more challenging in the UK due to regulations etc. Fochabers Men's Shed asked Milne's High School if pupils could help with their IT. This has worked well with a team of students revamping the website, setting up a crowdfunding account and social media. In return, the Men's Shed sent a work team to tidy the school memorial garden and build a greenhouse they had been donated.

3. Minutes of previous meeting 9th February 2017

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

4. Matters arising

Item 4: Ship to ship oil transfers – a new proposal is likely to be submitted by the company. Ongoing.

Item 5: A96 dualling - information from Finnerne Community Council was circulated.

Item 6: Community Safety Reports – Police matters in Innes resolving.

Item 7: Email policy - from Cullen and Deskford Community Council was circulated

Item 7: Community Council Membership numbers – still with Democratic Services due to recent local elections taking precedence. It looks unlikely that member numbers will change.

Item 8: Community Council Election date – carried forward. Not yet set.

Item 11: Colours of Cluny video – link circulated

5. Scheme for Community Councils and Constitution Review - update

The closing date for the second review is Friday 12th May. The Joint Community Council, several Community Councils and the Community Support Unit have fed in. Democratic Services will present a report to Moray Council on 13th June. The majority of respondents feel membership, only from within the current boundaries, should stay as it is.

6. Community Council Elections, October 2017 – Promotion Subgroup

The elections cannot be promoted until they have been approved by Committee so no action can be taken yet. It is planned the subgroup will meet in the next few weeks.

Promotion costs will be discussed with the working group but it was suggested each Community Council be asked for £50.00 as in previous years. Jane Martin will prepare costs for the meeting.

7. Community Council Grants

The grant system does not work well for Community Councils in less populous areas as they do not have enough grant money to cover venue and admin fees. Discussion was held on various options including increasing the baseline grant and decreasing grant per head of population.

ACTION: The Community Council subgroup will discuss and CCLO will report back

8. Participatory Budget update

The Joint Community Council, Moray Area Forum and Moray Federation of Community Halls and Associations jointly applied for £40,000 of grant money and £6,500 of admin costs. An event was held at the end of March in Rothes Hall. Eighteen projects were short-listed and pitched for funding with fourteen being awarded an average £3-4,000 each. The working group will continue to meet as there are likely to be more opportunities to secure funding for grants. More information is available on the Moray Participatory Budgeting website and will be on the Joint Community Council website shortly. Community Councils have been well represented during the process and it was agreed participatory budgeting is a good way of distributing money.

9. Community Safety Report

Feedback on the reports was that the content was fine, and has improved recently but timing does not suit those Community Councils meeting later in the month. Jane Martin has started pasting Police reports into relevant Community Council areas and it was agreed this is useful.

Discussion was held on Police attendance at meetings and how to make the most of it. Inspectors' contact details are on the front page so Community Councils can contact them e.g. if there has been no Police attendance at meetings. Community Councils would also like to see Community Wardens and hear about their initiatives.

ACTION: Jane to invite Willie Findlay to next JCC meeting

10. Reports

a) Financial Report

The current balance is £8,882.82. This breaks down as:

JCC Grant Balance of £1,080.33 (2016 and 2017 grants were both received this year)

Participatory Budget round 1 balance of £533.13 with a few expenses to pay for evaluation work

Participatory Budget round 2 balance of £7,265.36 with one grant cheque to clear of £3,155.29 and some expenses to pay.

b) Rural Parliament Update (Gordon Methven)

Alastair Kennedy had initial discussion with Roddy Burns, CE of Moray Council regarding hosting the Rural Parliament and was advised to put it before the new Moray Council administration. Discussion was held on the Rural Parliament and it was agreed to keep it on the agenda.

c) LEADER

All Chairs of Community Councils will be invited to attend the official LEADER launch this month and should send another representative if unable to attend themselves.

d) Community Engagement Group

There were 18 papers for a previous CEG meeting, which Alastair Kennedy felt was too much to circulate so has stopped circulating the huge amount of papers that are sent prior to each CEG meeting. The direction of the group seems unclear but will keep on the agenda for now.

11. Information Sharing

Burghead Community Council

The increase in harbour fees has caused a great deal of upset as they have become unaffordable for many local people. The dredger has not been in the area in the last 3 months and is not performing as expected. Police and Community Warden attendance has been poor and Police are unable to answer questions at meetings and do not feedback with answers after the meeting.

Elgin Community Council

Network Rail gave a talk about level crossing closures at The Wards. The possibility of a link road through Ashgrove could affect the ability to overnight trains in Elgin. (This is thought to be the best solution to get to the Central Belt in reasonable time in a morning and also to avoid loss of morning trains at short notice if a driver calls in sick.)

A successful election hustings was held at the Alexander Graham Bell building with 40-50 people in attendance.

The Community Awards ceremony was very successful with around 200 people in attendance. All finalists were given a presentation and the Community Council was pleased with the event.

Feasibility of producing a business or operational plan for Elgin Community Council is to be explored.

Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council

Findhorn Foundation's use of findhorn.com and .net was discussed with them. It is not possible to change without adversely affecting their business. If a Findhorn club or organisation, e.g. the Findhorn underwater basket weavers wanted to use findhornunderwaterbasketweavers.com then they could.

There has been much discussion lately on dog poo. Some irresponsible dog owners are littering poo bags and problems seem to be getting worse.

The Community Council has taken delivery of a defibrillator which will be mounted on the wall of the Kinloss church hall. It was funded by Community Council funds, a Community Council fundraising event and a grant from Berry Burn.

Stagecoach announced their intention to stop the bus serving Kinloss and Findhorn. The Community Council acknowledged that many of the buses on the schedule ran empty but successfully campaigned to persuade Stagecoach to continue to provide some service. A modified schedule started on 8 May.

Many of the current Community Councillors will not be standing for the new term starting in October and they are trying to identify and encourage new nominees.

Forres Community Council

The termination of the 36 bus service has caused concern and is yet to be resolved. Stagecoach lost £80,000 a year on this route. Discussion was held on withdrawal of the Moray Council subsidy as many other local authorities still provide a grant. Stagecoach also advised that the reducing level of reimbursement of concession fares from Scottish Government has been a big factor in decision making.

Some of the land previously thought to be Common Good has been found to be held in trust. This may not have much practical impact on how the land can be used.

A presentation on Varis Court sheltered housing development was given. Thirty-two units have been built including 8 dementia units. This is a pilot scheme by Hanover Housing and looks impressive.

The latest Planning For Real event had about 40-50 people in attendance and lots of good ideas were suggested including developing campsites, adventure play areas etc.

Anti-social driving is an issue with noisy exhausts and deliberate backfiring at night.

Two Community Councillors have stepped down, including the Treasurer. Due to the difficulty with banking it was agreed that a petty cash system would be acceptable if detailed records were kept, although the handbook advises against it.

The Forres bypass plan is in draft form and is due to be checked.

Discussion about a safe crossing at the new railway station is ongoing. Scotrail own land by the Royal Hotel so it is hoped this will make installing a pedestrian footbridge across the A96 simpler.

A public meeting has been arranged for 8th June to discuss Leancoil hospital, healthcare for older people and other issues. Pam Gowans from Moray Health and Social Care will attend.

Discussion on using administration grant money for a survey of the Mosset Burn – this is acceptable use.

Innes Community Council

Public meetings have been held with Lateral North and an Innes Heritage project is being set up. Around 50 sites of interest have been identified. A leaflet will be developed and an app will follow.

The River Spey is still problematic with erosion at Kingston. The Crown Estate has promised they will engage consultants to look at getting the river back on its original course.
Innes Community Council is backing Lhanbryde Community Challenge in its work regarding the Tenants Arms and looking into forming a community development trust. It is hoped that the many conditions attached to planning mean the Tenants Arms is no longer a feasible project for the developer.
Moray Council Roads have been out and were taken around the problem areas and repairs have commenced.
Two Community Councillors will not be standing again this year.
A phone box has been purchased and Innes Community Council is looking to raise to install a defibrillator.

Keith Community Council

There are a number of ongoing issues with roads, drains etc. Frequent dangerous driving is affecting the lollipop crossing on Banff Road.
Progress is finally being made on Scots Toun gateway signs. Once they are in place, the budget for further Scots Toun activities will be known.
Three Community Councillors sat on the inaugural meeting of Edintore Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and allocated grants totalling £64,000 to local community groups and organisations.

Lossiemouth Community Council

Fundraising is ongoing to provide defibrillators in the area. The Community Council are funding one as a promotional item. Mapping of available defibrillators is also ongoing and the aim is to provide CPR training for everyone who wants it. (CPR training is not necessary before using a defibrillator.)
Lossiemouth Community Council helped set up a ceremony of memorial of the Battle of Arras as 11 Lossiemouth men lost their lives on the same day during the battle.
There has been a dreadful smell from the waste water treatment plant, potentially affecting tourism, public health and the environment. Scottish Water and Veolia were invited to a meeting and another meeting is planned. Concerns were raised 25 years ago that the outfall pipe was not far enough out to sea. The public are asked to report smells – this was not happening as it was not clear which number to use.
Following on from an email from Living Streets, Lossiemouth Community Council submitted a time lapse video of the lollipop man. The area has been selected as a Living Streets 'Twenty's Plenty' project.
Lossiemouth Community Council is working in partnerships with schools and CPP partners.
Tarmac advised they wish to expand their operation opposite the cemetery. This was met with shock because of the impact it would cause on such a tranquil, peaceful area where people often sit. The Tarmac representative appeared to take this on board. Ongoing.
The Development Trust is looking at creating a cycle path between Lossiemouth and Hopeman and has been asked to get in touch with other local Community Councils and development trusts to create paths throughout Moray. Discussion was held on existing local paths and initiatives. LEADER funding priorities include reducing carbon emissions and improving tourism so may be relevant for this work.

Strathisla Community Council

The Community Council also wish to donate defibrillators to each parish in the area. There are also questions about barriers on the wrong side of the road in Mulben and about crash barriers at Parkmore Brae being declined. **ACTION: Jane Martin will attend the next Community Council meeting**
A new Community Councillor has been co-opted from Rothiemay. There is only 1 empty seat now.
A massive charity bike ride will pass through Rothiemay later this year. Local organisations will then benefit from donations of approximately £6-7,000.

12. AOCB

The Chair expressed disappointment at the low attendance at this meeting. A decision may need to be made as to whether Joint Community Council meetings should continue.
ACTION: To be discussed at the inaugural JCC meeting in November – an open evening

13. Date of Next Meeting – 10th August 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.13pm

ACTIONS

Promotion sub group to discuss proposed changes to Community Council grant and promotion costs for Community Councils regarding elections
Jane to invite Willie Findlay to August JCC meeting
Jane to attend next Strathisla Community Council meeting
Discuss future of JCC at November meeting

