

Minute of Inaugural Meeting Joint Community Council of Moray

Date: Thursday, 9 November 2017

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: The Supper Room, Elgin Town Hall, Elgin

Chair: Jane Martin Community Council Liaison officer (CCLO)

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Attendees:

Iain Catto	Elgin	Nick Taylor	Innes
Bruce Flett	Elgin	James A Mackie	Innes
Patsy Gowans	Elgin	Jim Chambers	Innes
Catriona Gray	Elgin	Sandy Anderson	Innes
Alastair Kennedy	Elgin	Morag Stewart	Buckie & District
Aileen Marshall	Elgin	Ann Mitchell	Buckie & District
Pat Paterson	Elgin	Christine Allan	Buckie & District
Mary Wall	Elgin	Alison Low	Portknockie
Eddie Wallace	Elgin	Rob Barsby	Portknockie
James Wiseman	Elgin	Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford
Michael Walker	Forres	Stewart Black	Cullen & Deskford
Alan Tissiman	Forres	Barry Addison	Cullen & Deskford
David Parker	Forres	John Wright	Lennox
Graham Hilditch	Forres	George R Garden	Lennox
Eleanor Hayward	Forres	Alan Flett	Lennox
Lesley Edwards	Forres	Donald Cameron	Lennox
Tony Pinner	Finderne	Neil Kidd	Keith
James Patterson	Burghead & Cummingston	Steve Hickin	Keith
Kirsten Garstang	Burghead & Cummingston	Fiona Addison	Keith
Billy Davidson	Burghead & Cummingston	James Mark	Strathisla
Tim Stanning	Lossiemouth	Iain AW Lax	Strathisla
Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth	Frannie Shaw	Speyside
Mike Mulholland	Lossiemouth	Julie Sarab	Speyside
Maureen Garden	Lossiemouth	Marion Ross	Speyside
-Neil McLeod	Heldon	Anne Hodge	Dufftown & District
Mary Evans	Heldon	Angus Anderson	Dufftown & District
		Sarah Anderson	Dufftown & District

Also in attendance: Chief Inspector Maggie Miller (Police Scotland), Inspector Paul McCrudden (Police Scotland), Dawn Brodie (Community Support Unit), Gillian Bailey (Community Support Unit), Jane Findlay, Cllr Donald Gatt, Cllr Ryan Edwards, Cllr Amy Patience, Cllr Frank Brown, Cllr Graham Leadbitter, Cllr Claire Feaver, Cllr Louise Laing, Cllr Theresa Coull

Welcome and Introductions

Jane Martin welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She introduced Moray's Area Commander, Chief Inspector Maggie Miller and Inspector Paul McCrudden.

She thanked the outgoing office Bearers Alastair Kennedy (Chair), Les Morgan (Vice-Chair) and Treasurer (Catherine Sinclair). Les Morgan has retired from Community Councils and Jane thanked him for his hard work and support to her.

She gave some background on the formation of the Joint Community Council and what it does. It is recognised as the lead body for Community Councils in Moray and represents them on a number of committees and groups.

Apologies were received from:

Elgin: Steve Christie, Douglas Clark, Jeff Gable, Margaret Park, Bryan Watson; Forres: Kenny Shand, Graham Murdoch; Dyke Landward: Carl Wright, Jane Foster; Finderne: Chris Piper, Carlo Miele, Nikki Howard, Brian Higgs, Anna Gatward, Howard Davenport; Burghead & Cummington: Gilbert Farquhar; Lossiemouth: Graham Fleming, Marian Evans; Heldon: Neil Sutherland, Colin Souter, James Mountford, Audrey Masson, Joanne Kirby, Sally Hodder, Nicola Hire, Willie Duncan; Innes: Anne Speake; Buckie & District: Steve Thornton, Anne McKay; Findochty: Andrew Slater, Samuel Oliver; Portknockie: Bert Reid, Angela Mair; Cullen & Deskford: Dennis Paterson, Norman Marwick, Phil Lovegrove, Steve Horrocks; Lennox: Mike Reid, Angus McNair, Colin Hanover, Robert Gray; Keith: Susan Hutcheon, Sandy Dickson, Marguerite Cruickshank, Sandra Clark; Strathisla: Karen Pryce-Iddon, Allison Marston, Keith Comrie; Speyside: Jean Richardson, Andy Cameron; Dufftown & District: Jim Nicol, Joan Nicol, Alistair MacDonald, Zoe Bremner; Cllr Sonya Warren, Cllr George Alexander, Cllr James Allan, Cllr John Divers, Cllr Maria McLean, Cllr Paula Coy, Cllr David Bremner, Cllr Derek Ross, Cllr John Cowe, Cllr Marc Macrae, Cllr Ray McLean

2. Appointment of Office Bearers

Chairperson: Alastair Kennedy **Proposed:** James Mackie **Seconded:** Rob Barsby

Vice Chairperson: Jim Patterson **Proposed:** Alastair Kennedy **Seconded:** Billy Davidson

Secretary: No Nominations. To be considered February Joint Community Council meeting. Jane will provide support to the secretary and help with organising meetings

Treasurer: Catherine Sinclair **Proposed:** Aileen Marshall **Seconded:** Billy Davidson

Catherine Sinclair will continue as the minute secretary, proposed by Jim Mackie, seconded by Morag Stewart.

3. Area Commander – Chief Inspector Maggie Miller

Chief Inspector Miller has been in post about 2 months, having previously worked in Caithness, Shetland and latterly as a Detective Inspector in Inverness CID. She has 25 years' experience as a Police officer, having joined as a Constable. She believes effective Policing relies on the community and has found that officers in Moray know their communities and regularly go above and beyond the call of duty. She is enjoying getting to know Moray communities and is finding out more about the types of issues faced. She finds the Community Safety Report impressive and it is useful when resources do not allow Police to attend every Community Council meeting. She reiterated that contact details for community teams are on the Community Safety Report and that people are welcome to get in touch as information sharing between communities and Police is a win-win situation.

Q: Although the Community Safety Report is useful and gives themes and a flavour of what is happening, it would be useful to see figures on numbers of callouts etc.

A: A balance needs to be struck between themes and quantitative data. People can be frightened into staying in their homes if they read about high numbers of disorder callouts, when this could cover anything from children kicking a ball and annoying a resident, to more serious incidents. It is however useful to let people know e.g. if there is a series of break-ins so they can take more security measures

Q: The Safety Reports are historic. If there is a trend in a particular area, can that information come directly e.g. to the secretary of a Community Council. This may encourage people to report crimes.

A: Exchange of information in is an important role for Police and it was suggested Community Councils can also follow Twitter and Facebook and use this as a way to disseminate information to wider communities.

Q: Have you any views on 20mph speed limits in main streets in towns or villages?

A: A change of speed limit has to be in response to analysis so it is not possible to make a general comment. In some cases analysis may not lead to a reduction in speed limit but can lead to e.g. increased patrolling.

Q: How much do the Police work in partnership with other services?

A: There are close working relationships both operationally and tactically and emergency services sit on a number of committees and forums in common e.g. Community Engagement Group

Q: Have you any information about satnavs sending lorries the wrong way in Porknockie?

A: Not that particular case, but it happens all over the UK and is something that needs to be taken up with the satnav company

Q: How are defibrillators in Police cars working out?

A: That's a question for the Chief Inspector of Roads department and the information from them will be passed on.

4. Constitutional Documents

The Joint Community Council constitution was updated by Jane Martin and circulated for consultation. There were no objections to adopting the new constitution.

5. Treasurer's Report

The balance at 10th November 2017 is £71, 695.65. This breaks down as:

Administration grant	£1,249.87
Elections promotions	£107.66
Balance from Participatory Budgeting 1	£408.93
Balance from Participatory Budgeting 2	£3,439.19
Balance from Participatory Budgeting 3	£66,490.00

There are a few expenses still to come in from the elections promotional activities.

Participatory budgeting balances are from funding secured by the Joint Community Council on behalf of the Money for Moray (Participatory Budgeting) Working Group which was set up following an invitation from Moray Council for the JCC to take the lead on the first Participatory Budgeting exercise. Community groups in Moray can apply for funding when an exercise is open. Applications are screened by a subgroup of the Money for Moray Working Group. An event is then held where successful applicants pitch for funds and the audience (typically 180 -200 people to date) vote for their top 10 projects. There is also a lot of really useful networking between groups at these events. Events are publicised as widely as possible – in the press, by social media, on Inside Moray etc. The first round was from Moray Council and subsequent rounds have been from Scottish Government. An exercise is currently underway on the theme of Economic Development funded by Moray Council's Economic Development section but only costs will be transferred to the JCC account. The final event for this exercise will take place in Lhanbryde Community Centre in the afternoon of 3rd December.

The remaining balance from the first round of participatory budgeting is likely to be used on further evaluation. The balance from round 2 is going towards a Participatory Budgeting conference in Moray. Round 3 of Participatory Budgeting, 'Community Choices' has a theme of health and wellbeing. That exercise will happen early next year.

In future, 1% of local authority budgets will be decided by Participatory Budgeting so this may be something that Community Councillors may wish to take a lead on. Moray is the only area where Participatory Budgeting events are run entirely by volunteers with no involvement from elected members.

Further questions on Joint Community Council / Community Councils

Q: Having a sign up to alert people to the fact that meetings are being recorded could intimidate members of the public and prevent them speaking up. Is it necessary to have this sign on display?

A: There is no need to display a sign at general meetings, only those that are recorded or will be photographed. If meetings are being recorded it is a legal requirement to display the sign to comply with data protection legislation.

Q: Has there been any further work on potentially reallocating budgets to give more rural Community Councils a bigger budget?

A: Not yet, but this is something that should be looked at. Suggestions for fair means of allocating budget are welcome. Jane will send this out for consultation in early 2018.

Q: Will Joint Community Council meetings continue to be held in Council Chambers? Could the Supper Room be used in future? What about rotating locations throughout the year to other towns?

A: There was some discussion that suggested that Elgin is most central. Any suggestions about location should be emailed to Jane Martin.

It has also been suggested that Community Councils set the agenda for Joint Community Council meetings (other than standing orders). Please let Jane Martin know of suggestions for speakers for future Joint Community Council meetings. It was agreed to invite the McKandie family to speak about their campaign to get more defibrillators in Moray at the next meeting.

Q: What emails does Jane Martin want to be copied into?

A: Jane is happy to be copied into any emails as it's a good way to know what's happening and to answer questions, share suggestions, information and events.

6. Break for Refreshments and networking

Dawn Brodie and Gillian Bailey gathered people's thoughts about what they want from the Joint Community Council and how it can achieve its aims.

7. AOCB

The Chair explained that quite a bit of work had been done on the future of the Joint Community Council and its work. It is likely that Community Councils will have an enhanced role in future due to the Community Empowerment Act, Participatory Budgeting and other changes. As some Moray Community Councils already have experience of Participatory Budgeting, it may make sense for Community Councils to take the lead on this. The Chair would also like to see an improved role for Community Councils in Community Planning, as he feels current representation is inadequate.

Clash Gour windfarm developers want the community benefits to be Moray wide. Members should decide if this is also something the Joint Community Council should take a lead on. There will be more information after the meeting with developers on 24th November at Moray College. (Registration required)

The Scottish Community Development Council workshop to research Community Councils and look at ways to better support and strengthen them is on 28th November. The workshop is now fully booked with a waiting list but any comments can be passed to Jane Martin who will feed them in. The workshop will explore questions such as 'Is Scottish Government asking too much of volunteers?'

8. Date of next meeting

Thursday 8th February 2018 at 7pm. Venue TBC

Any Community Councillors are welcome to attend, rather than just 2 per Community Council.