

# Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

### Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Alan Flett	Lennox
Mike Mulholland	Lossiemouth	Colin Hanover	Lennox
Ann Mitchell	Buckie & District	George Garden	Lennox
Morag Stewart	Buckie & District	Donald Cameron	Lennox
Christine Allan	Buckie & District	Robert Gray	Lennox
Bruce Flett	Elgin	Mike Reid	Lennox
Iain Catto	Elgin	Graham Murdoch	Forres
James Mackie	Innes	Eleanor Hayward	Forres
Sandy Anderson	Innes	Graham Hilditch	Forres
Karen Pryce-Iddon	Strathisla	Lesley Edwards	Forres
Iain Lax	Strathisla	David Parker	Forres
Bill Davidson	Burghead & Cummingston	Louise Marshall	Findochty
Jim Patterson	Burghead & Cummingston	Rob Barsby	Portknockie
Steve Hickin	Keith	Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford

### In attendance:

Jane Martin, Community Council Liaison Officer, Fabio Villani (tsiMORAY), Catherine Sinclair (minutes)

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Cllr J Divers, Anita Milne, Kirsten Garstang, Norman Marwick, Stewart Black, Steve Arkley, Jane Foster, Carl Wright, Patsy Gowans, Eddie Wallace, Anna Gatward, Bob Laughton, Leah Fraser, Nicola Hire, James Mountford, Sally Hodder, Marguerite Cruickshank, Neil Kidd, Fiona Addison, Carolle Ralph, Alison Low, and Julie Sarab

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting August 2017

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Morag Stewart, seconded by Eleanor Hayward.

### Minutes of previous meeting November 2017

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

### 3. Matters arising

**Police attendance at Community Council meetings** – Attendance has improved for some Community Councils but it is still low at Forres, Lossiemouth, Lennox and Burghead.

**ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to follow up**

**How the Joint Community Council should develop** – information was gathered at the November meeting. It was suggested a subgroup may wish to form to look at this and meeting before the next Joint Community Council meeting. Jane Martin will organise this.

**Rural Parliament** – it will not be possible to put a bid together in time this year due to required groundwork – setting up a liaison group, finding funding and sponsorship, accommodation, conference venue etc. It was suggested that planning for possible hosting of the next Rural Parliament begins immediately after the coming Rural Parliament to allow enough time to develop a bid.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

The current balance is £75,449.44. This breaks down as:

JCC Grant Balance of £1,436.72

Participatory Budget round 1 balance of £408.93

Participatory Budget round 2 balance of £3,345.69

Participatory Budget round 3 balance of £3,636.94

Participatory Budget round 4 balance of £66,500

**5. Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) Research results** – SCDC found the Moray session to be one of the best with very diverse opinions and positive feedback. A recurring theme was

representation in the Community Planning process. Information may be fed to the Scottish Government Governance Review.

## **6. Community Councils Development and Training**

**Planning** training will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> February – places to be booked by 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Community Empowerment Act** - Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) will be delivering training on the Community Empowerment Act and participation requests. These training workshops will be in Elgin Town Hall, Supper Room on Wednesday, 18 April at 7.00 pm

**Data protection** – Jane Martin has arranged data protection training with Sarah Frame O'Hare (Moray Businesswoman of the Year) and Ordered Company. The session will be 4hrs and a mix of presentation and workshop. An invitation will be extended to the Moray Forums and the Moray Federation of Community Halls and Associations to also attend the training. Community Councils and groups to purchase the strategy cards to from the training for future reference on Data Protection, **ACTION: ALL Community Councils who have not already done so to register as a Data Controller with the Information Commissioner's Office** <https://ico.org.uk/registration/new>

**Licensing training** – Discussion held. Consultation is meaningless unless Community Councils have a good understanding of the process and officers are willing to provide good engagement with the Community Councillors making representation at meetings. Iain Catto will raise this with the Moray Licensing forum to see if training can be arranged. **ACTION: Jane Martin will invite Licensing department to speak at the next Joint Community Council meeting**

## **7. Group updates**

**i) LEADER** – The Chair of the Joint Community Council also chairs the LEADER Local Action Group. Funding applications are based on a Local Development Strategy. Moray's was written in 2014 so is being reviewed and updated. There have been a lot of expressions of interest, many of which will progress to full applications. There has been a huge amount of interest from the tourism sector but that needs cooled down or other themes will receive little or no funding. Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity visited on 12<sup>th</sup> January and met with 5 successful applicants. A further 3 applications agreed in February brings the total to funds approved to over half a million pounds. Two LAG members recently left due to a change in jobs. Anyone interested in joining the LAG can speak to the Chair in the first instance. It is a fair commitment but good to see funding being spent in Moray.

**ii) Participatory Budgeting Update by Christine Allan, Buckie Community Council** – The latest round of Participatory Budgeting had the theme of Economic Development. Twenty-two groups applied, of which 21 were successful. Groups shared in a grant fund pot of £55,000. The event was held in Lhanbryde Community Challenge and generally went well. The next event will be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March in the Grant Hall, Rothes at 1.30pm for 2pm start. The theme is 'health and wellbeing'. Applications can be downloaded from the Money for Moray website or completed online. All Community Councils are asked to circulate information about participatory budgeting as the more successful applicants, the better it works. Participatory budgeting is becoming part of the democratic process so it is important to inform people about how it works. The Participatory Budgeting subgroup is an excellent group and works well together.

**iii) Community Engagement Group (CEG)** – the last meeting was held 3<sup>rd</sup> of February and included discussion of how best to get information and reminders out about 3 weekly green bin collection. Recycling bins will remain at a fortnightly collection. The CEG is almost an advisor in implementing Local Outcome Improvement Plans in Elgin East and Buckie. There are still questions on what the CEG is expected to do, where it goes in future and where it will sit within the new Community Planning structure.

## **8. Refreshments and networking**

### **9. Presentation: Community Ownership - Laura Nicholson, Lucy Sujanoba, Local Energy Scotland**

There is an opportunity for a community body in Moray to invest in the Clash Gour Wind Farm and share in the profit. Minimum investment would be £250,000 and maximum is up to 5% of scheme costs. Local Energy Scotland advised on their Scottish Government funded CARES scheme (<https://www.localenergy.scot/resources/cares-toolkit/>) which provides free and impartial advice to assist the development of and benefit from renewables. Any community ownership would be separate from Community Benefit funds which EDF and Force 9 have committed to provide at the recommended level of £5,000/MW. Slides and links to a webinar will be circulated.

## **10. AOCB**

It was agreed Force 9 could attend the May Joint Community Council meeting to talk about Clash Gour investment opportunity (handout circulated)

**Scottish Budget Workshop** – Rob Barsby attended and found the workshop disappointing and not a good opportunity to feed into budgeting plans. It was badly organised with poor activities, a lack of community engagement, and was a poor example of encouraging community participation.

**Moray Council Budget Consultation** – lack of time meant there was little chance for Community Councils to engage their communities on this consultation. Findochty Community Council promoted the consultation widely and held an event that 6 members of the public attended. Elgin Community Council requested that consultation should start earlier on future budgets and would ask other Community Councils and the Joint Community Council to support this request. Comments were also made that it is difficult to contribute to budget decisions without financial information and departmental budgets etc. A request was also made that Scottish Government consultations should also have at least a 3 month notice period to allow time for discussion and response.

**Third Force Guide to Running a Charity or Social Enterprise** – hard copies circulated and more available at tsiMORAY. Has information on funding and data protection.

#### **11. Date of next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

#### **ACTIONS**

**Alastair Kennedy: Follow up on Police attendance and Community Council meetings**

**ALL: Community Councils who have not already done so to register as a Data Controller with the Information Commissioner's Office <https://ico.org.uk/registration/new>**

**Jane Martin will invite Licensing department to speak at the next Joint Community Council meeting**