

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 9th August 2018

Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Louise Marshall	Findochty
Ann Mitchell	Buckie & District	David Parker	Forres
Morag Stewart	Buckie & District	Graham Murdoch	Forres
Jim Patterson	Burghead & Cummington	Lesley Edwards	Forres
Colin Birch	Cullen & Deskford	Eleanor Hayward	Forres
Stewart Black	Cullen & Deskford	Graham Hilditch	Forres
Iain Catto	Elgin	James Mackie	Innes
David Chapman	Elgin	Crinan Dunbar	Innes
Eddie Wallace	Elgin	Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth
Catriona Gray	Elgin	Marion Ross	Speyside
Diane Anderson	Findhorn & Kinloss	Karen Pryce-Iddon	Strathisla
Anne Skene	Findhorn & Kinloss	Iain Lax	Strathisla

In attendance:

Jane Martin, Community Council Liaison Officer (Moray Council)

Emily Garrow, Minutes (Moray Council)

Dawn Brodie, Community Support Officer (Moray Council)

Colin Bell, Environmental Protection Manager (Moray Council)

Cllr G Alexander, Cllr J Divers, Cllr D Ross

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Jim Nicol, Dufftown & District Community Council; Jim Mountford, Heldon Community Council; Billy Davidson, Burghead & Cummington Community Council; Colin Hanover, Lennox Community Council; Cllr D Gatt, Cllr G Cowie, Cllr G Leadbitter, Cllr M McLean, and Cllr R Shepherd.

2. Presentations:

Moray Public Toilets – Colin Bell, Dawn Brodie, Jane Martin

Information was given on the background of toilet closures by Colin Bell; involving what lead up to the proposals, financial challenges, licensing, what toilets specifically have been closed to date and the introduction to Community Asset Transfers. Jane Martin and Dawn Brodie then presented information on toilet provision in Moray, involving the background to public toilets, the future of public toilets and comfort partnerships. Details involving the intricacies of running community toilets were explored e.g. cleaning, opening and closing times and options for funding. The presentation came to a conclusion in advising the Committee that Community Councils can volunteer members to aid in the facilitating and organisation of running public toilets. The presentation will be circulated to members of the Committee and any queries should be contacted to Jane Martin.

The presentation was opened for questioning, Committee members raised several concerns including:

- Lack of multi-agency communication.
- The provision to charge a standard fee for use of the toilet facilities and how this would potentially aid in remedying some of the budget concerns. Colin Bell advised that this model has been tested and the costs for set up and organisation culminate to more than the revenue that would come in.
- The impact on those with disabilities or chronic conditions e.g. colostomy bags; Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out but closures would still impact those in need, this may not be in accordance with the Public Bodies (Scotland) Act.
- Hidden costs in closing toilets through demolishing the buildings and internal infrastructure of the plumbing.
- Local businesses (shops, cafes, restaurants etc.) having an influx of the public needing to use toilet facilities but not creating any revenue for the income of the establishment.
- Lack of adequate consultation on the closure of public toilets.
- Lack of management of the actual facilities.
- What happens to the building when it's closed? Does the building get destroyed?
- What would the JCC's role be in taking these concerns forward?

Sub-group to be formed including Carolle Ralph, Jim Paterson, David Parker, and Karen Pryce-Iddon; with Stewart Black to be kept informed of all activity. Colin Bell offered his services as a front-man for this group and to pass information on through Moray Council as appropriate. It was noted that exact financial figures relating to the closure of public toilets is readily accessible through Freedom of Information requests to Moray Council.

3. Approval of minutes May 2018

It was noted that Item 1: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies required a spelling amendment to Cllr Tim Eagle. With this amendment, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting; proposed by Marion Ross, seconded by Carolle Ralph.

4. Matters arising

Police Attendance at Community Council Meetings

Alastair Kennedy advised that Maggie Miller (Chief Inspector, Police Scotland) was contacted in relation to meeting attendance and that it was ensured the relevant efforts would be made to rectify this issue. Jim Patterson noted that Police attendance has increased since this request was made.

Scottish Information Commissioner

Jane Martin advised the group that the JCC are now officially registered as a Data Controller with the Information Commissioners Office.

Defibrillators

It was noted that the British Heart Foundation and Microsoft have joined forces to develop a new initiative over the next 12 months to create a network of readily accessible defibrillators across the UK that can be used by ambulance services.

5. Treasurer's Reports

A brief overview of the Treasurer's Report was provided, Bank Balance at 5th August 2018 was **£12,611.03**, this includes PB funds and the Voluntary Action fund.

6. Community Council Liaison Officer Update

Local Governance Review

Jane Martin circulated an attachment to each Community Council, explaining that the Scottish Government has launched the next phase in their Local Governance Review. This is encouraging people to take part in a conversation regarding 'Democracy Matters'. This project will provide information on key public sector organisations like the NHS, Police, Councils the Scottish Government and a whole range of public bodies responsible for services like local enterprise, housing and transport. This conversation aims to give the public a voice in a discussion about local communities deciding their own future. An event on this will take place for Community Councils on 25 September 2018 at 7pm; currently looking into inviting other organisations and partners into this. Interested parties or any queries should contact Jane Martin for information.

7. WW1 Commemorations

Britain have now observed 100 years since WW1, to recognise this locally Jane Martin applied for funding on behalf of the JCC for 10 silhouettes; these will be brought to the November meeting in which the first half will be dedicated to commemorating 100 years, inviting ex-servicemen etc. to participate. Any queries should be contacted to Jane.

8. Group updates

i. LEADER

tsiMORAY have been awarded **£13,091.85** to work in partnership with the Grant Lodge Trust to employ a Project Development Officer to help them complete the business case for the Community Asset Transfer of the Lodge from Moray Council. This is an essential first step towards the restoration of the Lodge Elgin as a Social Enterprise Hub & Civic Engagement Centre. The award represents 70% of the total project costs.

Moray Council have also been awarded **£50,000** in their role as lead partner for the Moray Economic Partnership to support the Discover Moray's Great Places project which is jointly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project will explore how Moray's rich cultural, built and natural heritage can be further enhanced to maximise community engagement, attract new audiences,

participants and visitors through working closely with Moray's Creative Scotland Place partnership. The award represents 50% of the total project costs. The Chair encouraged members of the Committee to consider ways that this funding could be used.

ii. Participatory Budgeting Update – Money for Moray

The Money for Moray PB group have once again applied for funding from the Scottish Government's Community Choices Fund. However, applicants who have been successful in the past are to be assessed differently this time round to the criteria will be strict. At the last meeting the group had begun organising a conference on PB on 7th September, however, due to the low response rate from other areas to the circulated email it was agreed to postpone the conference until the 9th November.

iii. Community Engagement Group (CEG)#

The next CEG meeting is next week (14th August). It was agreed six months ago that the Chair should be a community representative and would be six month tenure, so that is due for discussion; as is the Lead Officer which was also a six month post. One item on the agenda is a report from the Money for Moray PB group. This has been completed and it details the statistics e.g. how much money the group has leveraged into Moray and how many groups have benefited etc.

iv. Peer Learning Visit

One proposal from LEADER is to organise a 'Peer Learning Visit' which follows on from the presentation and information on Community Investment in Clash Gour from Force 9 Energy at the last JCC meeting. The event is planned to take place in Orkney, interested parties to email Jane Martin if interested; need at least 9 members to show interest to progress.

9. Information Sharing

Buckie & District

Harbour is currently quite busy; an overview was given on the activities taking place. There has been some unrest with local workers regarding working in Wick for offshore maintenance jobs. Fisherman's Hall Community Asset Transfer is progressing accordingly.

Burghead and Cummington

Concerns were raised on the impact of pig farming; the terrain becomes very boggy and water runs off the slopes that can bring a lot of damage in relation to flooding and erosion. This blocks the drains as it runs down to the road, as well as the soil becoming compacted by pigs which forms a pan that needs to be subsided. A small group has been formed to look into this alongside the Council.

Elgin

The progress of the Community Asset Transfer for Elgin Town Hall has been ongoing. The Community Council have had a role in recent budget discussions for the next financial years with Moray Council. There is an ongoing issue with seagulls in the centre of town, with lasers implemented to divert them elsewhere – however this seems to just re-locate the problem rather than resolve. Other issues include Dr Grays; though this is generally a Moray wide issue, Findrassie Estate, the development of policies for GDPR whilst also continuing the production of a commissioned website.

Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council

Maggie Miller (Chief Inspector, Police Scotland) had visited the Community Council where a number of concerns were raised which mainly constituted of traffic issues e.g. speeding and parking in Findhorn – this is an ongoing problematic area. The FACT Management are setting up a social networking group to tackle social isolation and are requesting that Findhorn and Kinloss work in partnership with Forres to address these issues and take forward action over the next few months. Giant hogweed along the river and bay in Findhorn is becoming a problem and the Wild Things organisation has offered their support in tackling this issue. Regarding the toilet closures, a group have noted their interest in taking over the responsibility of running it. Findhorn Village Conservation Company have been involved in changing the structure of parking in Findhorn; involving changes within the camping/campervan site.

Findochty

The constitution has changed to allow the ability to take on assets as a temporary control measure; a group has been formed in relation to the Town Hall. The Community Council has been involved in Gala Day's, litter-picking and other community based activities. A planning application has been received for a 12m high mast beside the Town Hall; this is being investigated. Conversation at the most recent meeting

revolved around planned activity, resolving the current dis-jointed state of the intent of the Community Council and identifying what the community want from it.

Forres

Meetings have taken place with Leanoil Hospital involving the NHS and IJB to investigate the current position of the hospital and potential future. No decision has been made yet, however there is a meeting set for November to further explore options. A feasibility study is undergoing to see what potential uses could be found for the hospital in the event of closure. Funding has been applied for and an informal group set up of people with local experience e.g. a local architect who will draft a specification guide giving guidelines on feasibility. Need to look at the state and spec of the building to identify the costs in bringing it up to standard. Engagement needs to take place within the community to discuss possible local uses e.g. Dementia Centre, student halls for Glasgow School of Art, or Community Asset Transfer.

There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour in Forres and concerns raised over the offenders being rehoused in inappropriate areas e.g. next to OAPs. This needs to be investigated in more detail and Douglas Ross MP has offered his support in chairing a local meeting to discuss this issue.

Forres Community Council wishes to investigate further the possible engagement with Common Good Assets in accordance with the Community Empowerment Act 2015 the potential to change the use of Common Good property; Dawn Brodie advised that guidance has been published this month on Common Good; Jane Martin to forward information on.

Innes

The community have taken possession of a phone box from BT; have attempted to have a meeting with Garmouth regarding defibrillators however this is still being pursued. Police attendance at Community Council meetings has dropped.

Cullen

Main issues have been involving the Community Centre, the closure of toilets and disposal of the Town Hall. The Community Council are hopeful that the new figures on the toilets can be transferred to a license, and are still waiting to receive a signed lease for the Community Centre.

Lossie

Ongoing efforts with Royal Mail in making sure the Community Council owned post box is open for use. Commemorative concert for WW1 scheduled for 4th November; aiming to fundraise for one of the poppy benches. There have been recent issues over the summer months with gorse fires – potentially organising the Police to bike the Hopeman to Lossie road on patrol.

Speyside

Some safety concerns were raised over the biomass plant cord in Rothes; these were allayed following a meeting that observed residents being happy with what they saw. Other updates include two recent requests for co-option, a transport group being formed that is working towards a bus service on A95 between Aberlour and Aviemore and funding has been applied for from Pass For All to update a worn out footpath that is currently not accessible. The Community Council also received a presentation by Sean Coady (Head of Service) on changes to Primary Health Care.

Strathisla

There have been issues with attendance of Community Council members to meetings; in comparison to other Council's Strathisla may be a bit disjointed. Suggestions are welcome on what the Community Council can do to help engagement with the public, showing them what the Council can do for them, and changing the perception around the inner-table of members.

Action: Jane Martin will arrange support meeting for Strathisla.

10. AOCB

Towerview

Cllr G Alexander noted a phone call received from a parent of a child with a disability, stating that the Towerview Care Centre will be closing next week and that all patients will be transferred to Elgin.

Allotments Consultation

Consultation closes on 20th August for views.

Proud to Care

Community Council members encouraged to collect leaflet for information purposes.

Seagulls

Cllr J Divers expressed further concern over the issue of seagulls in Elgin, noting that it is not only the centre of town that bears this problem. Time estimates to rectify these issues may take three to four years.

Toilets

Cllr D Ross advised that efforts are still ongoing to keep Fiddich Park open (Speyside Way); Craigellachie is a smaller community so this makes it more difficult for people to take on the responsibility of the toilets.

3-Weekly Collections

The group expressed concern over the collection order; stating that the domestic waste should be two-weekly and all other waste three-weekly. This is particularly important for those with small children and other households that present differentiating needs due to disability or other circumstances. Concerns have been voiced to Moray Council and it is being taken into consideration.

Moray Forum Steering Group

The Transport Seminar will take place from 10am-2pm on 22nd September; speakers to include Stagecoach, Citizens Advice Scotland and others. Email with relevant information to be circulated to all Committee members.

11. Date of next meeting 8 November 2018

12. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.17pm.

13. ACTIONS

Jane Martin to organise support meeting with Strathisla Community Council.

Jane Martin to organise meeting for the Public Toilets sub – committee.