

# Minutes of JCC Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

### Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Shaun Moat	Forres
Christine Allan	Buckie & District	David Parker	Forres
Meg Jamieson	Buckie & District	Lesley Edwards	Forres
Morag Stewart	Buckie & District	Jim Mountford	Heldon
Ann Mitchell	Buckie & District	Jim Mackie	Innes
Stewart Black	Cullen & Deskford	Sandy Anderson	Innes
Anne Hodge	Dufftown & District	Steve Hickin	Keith
Sarah Anderson	Dufftown & District	Mike Reid	Lennox
Iain Catto	Elgin	Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth
Graham Hilditch	Forres	Mike Mulholland	Lossiemouth
Graham Murdoch	Forres	Marion Ross	Speyside
		Karen Pryce-Iddon	Strathisla

### In attendance:

Chief Inspector Norman Stevenson, PC Bob McKay (Police Scotland),  
Tessa Brock (Global Ecovillage Network)  
Jane Martin, Community Council Liaison Officer (Moray Council), Catherine Sinclair (minutes),

### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Jim Patterson and Billy Davidson (Burghead & Cummingston), Colin Burch (Cullen & Deskford), Eddie Wallace, James Wiseman and David Chapman (Elgin) and from Findochty Community Council.

### 2. Speakers: Chief Inspector Norman Stevenson & PC Bob McKay

CI Stevenson has been a Detective Inspector in Grampian for the last 7 years and in his new role, is meeting local groups and organisations. He is willing to share his email with Community Councillors but advises it may not be the fastest way to make contact over an issue, and that local inspectors may be able to give a better answer.

Mobile Policing is coming to Moray. This will reduce the need for officers to return to base to use a desktop computer and free up time, allowing for more time out and about in communities. Officers are currently being trained to use a Samsung Note smartphone that runs bespoke software. It has fingerprint security and data is backed up every 30 seconds. The phone has a printer and access to some national and international databases. This means background checks, confirming identities, issuing penalties etc. can be done on the spot. There is no need to queue to speak to a radio operator. Radios will still be available as a back-up but the Police feel that mobile coverage is as good, if not better than radio coverage in Moray.

Email alerts will improve efficiency of communication between colleagues as responses can be made when out and about, rather than having to wait until the end of an officer's shift. It will lead to better data collection to e.g. identify problem Road Traffic Collision areas, share information with insurance companies and build intelligence. This data is also useful for deploying personnel according to which areas need attention. The software has been piloted and Moray is the second area to phase in this system. Users are providing feedback. More functionality will be added in future such as JESIP, a system that enables accurate information to be shared quickly across all emergency services, using the same protocol and common terminology. Notes made on the phone are satisfactory for referring to in court cases. It does not yet have the functionality to record interviews but forms can be completed on the device.

This device will not replace the required good Policing skills, but will complement them. Although a more visible Police presence may be reassuring or act as a deterrent to some anti-social behaviour, it is still important to keep reporting incidents via 101 to assist personnel deployment to problem areas. A request was made for Officers to be working at school pick-up times, especially at known hot spots to encourage safer driving around schools. The Police aim to market this new way of working through media and social media but a key message to share is that a Police Officer on a smart phone is working.

### **3. Approval of minutes 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

With the date amended to May, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting; proposed by Shaun Moat, seconded by Karen Pryce-Iddon.

### **4. Matters arising**

None

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The balance at 8<sup>th</sup> August is £10,205.09. Of this £1,882.65 is JCC grant funds and the remainder is Participatory Budgeting funds.

### **6. CCLO Update – Complaints Training**

Jane Martin and John Black, the Moray Council Complaints Officer delivered training to Forres Community Council. There will be a roadshow across Moray soon.

### **7. Community Councils Members of the Public Unacceptable Actions Policy – Approval & Adoption**

Jane has made some changes after receiving feedback, with thanks to Iain Catto for his input. Further changes were suggested at the meeting and Iain will draft an opening statement. With these changes, there were no objections to adopting the policy. The final policy will be circulated shortly and all present were asked to make their Community Councils aware of the policy.

**ACTION: Iain Catto to draft introduction**

### **8. Group updates**

#### **i. JCC Working Group – Moray Wide Service Cuts – Carolle Ralph**

Members of the group have been working on their own local issues so have not met since the last JCC meeting. There has been a promising meeting with the Roads department, which means it may be possible for communities to fundraise to have a crossing installed. A zebra crossing costs approximately £7,000 and a pedestrian crossing approximately £30,000.

Colin Bell, Moray Council is drawing up volunteer rules for grass cutting and the possible use of council machinery.

The group will plan to meet again re toilets.

**ACTION: Alastair Kennedy will contact Laurie Piper re toilets**

#### **ii. Energising Communities – Catherine Sinclair**

Since the conference in May we've produced a conference report which will be available on the Joint Community Council webpage shortly, alongside the speakers' slides. The Joint Community Council has become a member of Community Energy Scotland and expressed an interest in their Community Futures programme – a series of workshops to upskill people in community renewables. We have met with Local Energy Scotland to discuss the support they offer and Hopeman, Burghead and Cummington communities have also met with Local Energy Scotland to look at local issues. We have arranged a peer learning visit to Huntly & District Development Trust and would like to thank Jane and Dawn Brodie from the Community Support Unit for their support and Highlands & Islands Energy for funding the trip. The Joint Community Councils plan to take the lead on forming a multi-organisation working group with a view to developing a community body that will be able to invest in local renewables opportunities in future.

#### **iii. Clash Gour Community Ownership – Graham Hilditch**

Ten organisations have signed the Memorandum of Understanding and 1 more is considering it. Graham's vision is for income from shared ownership to be used to redress climate change and move towards a Carbon Neutral Moray. It is hoped this will encourage investment in long-term, legacy projects and encourage people to get on board. Clash Gour is also offering a Community Benefit Fund.

Graham met with Alex Walker, who was instrumental in setting up the Findhorn Park wind turbine to discuss how the shared ownership opportunity could be opened up to allow individuals to invest.

Graham met with Airvolution, Berryburn II developers, who are also interested in exploring shared ownership.

Roths III may offer shared ownership. The developers have written to Innes and Speyside Community Councils about public meetings. James Mackie, Innes Secretary has replied to suggest engagement is carried out via the Joint Community Council.

Planning Aid Scotland and Local Energy Scotland would like to deliver training on wind farm planning applications, covering policy decisions etc. Speyside Community Council received information from Gary Templeton, Moray Council and found it to be clear and informative. It helped make it easy to make a decision.

#### **iv. Participatory Budgeting – Money for Moray – Morag Stewart, Alastair Kennedy**

A useful meeting was held with Moray Council leaders to see if Money for Moray can support the introduction of participatory budgeting within Moray Council by 2020-21. The Council leaders requested a presentation on Participatory Budgeting to be given to elected members. A Corporate Director has since changed this to a request for information, not a presentation. Members also met with Paul Connor, Principal Accountant who is writing a report on mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting in Moray Council. Money for Moray will provide feedback on the draft report.

Money for Moray will hear about their application to the Community Choices fund, (now named the Community Investment fund since being aligned with 4 other funding streams) later this year.

Money 4 Moray will have a table at the launch event for the Buckie Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP). They will promote Participatory Budgeting and explain it to members of the public.

#### **v. Community Engagement Group (CEG) – Alastair Kennedy**

The last meeting was cancelled due to the high number of apologies. The next meeting is later this month.

#### **vi. LEADER - Alastair Kennedy**

The programme has closed to new applications and all funds for Moray (approximately £3 million) have been allocated. The Chairs of LEADER Area Groups are looking for a replacement for LEADER funding post Brexit. They are lobbying Michael Gove for funding from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

Iain Catto advised that those running village halls and community buildings are looking for funding and there is limited availability. **ACTION: Alastair to bring this before the Chairs' group**

### **9. Community Council Information sharing**

**Buckie & District Community Council** – Has 8 members and a minute secretary, but are in need of a secretary.

Buckie LOIP is being launched with an afternoon tea on 14<sup>th</sup> August in the North Church Hall, catering for up to 150 with support from local businesses. Stalls in the hall will include the Community Council, Money 4 Moray, Police, and Moray Wellbeing Hub etc. A few Community Council members have been involved in the development of this 10 year plan, which began last summer.

Friends of Buckie Square / Buckie Roots is 1 year old and having a birthday picnic in Cluny Square on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Weeding and watering is continuing and they are still awaiting erection of a polytunnel.

Members have been involved in 3 beach cleans with a fourth due later this month.

All of the Community Council have been involved in a mowing demonstration at the start of the Speyside Way. There are various recommendations on areas the community would like to see cut.

The Community Council has applied to the Town Centre Fund and is awaiting a response.

They have dealt with littering and household waste being dumped at the collection point at Newlands Lane.

Fly-tipping is an ongoing issue. Police have been contacted due to concerns over speeding and road safety.

The North Pier is now open to the public. Hopefully repairs and reinforcements will prevent further undermining. Repair of the large potholes on the breakwater should make public access much safer. The harbour can now take in bigger boats. SSE Beatrice wind farm plan to open an office in Buckie Harbour and hope to set up apprenticeships in future.

The Buckie gateway sculpture has been decided and will be placed near the Tesco roundabout. The winning design, "Buckie Darling" is a deer sculpture made of herring shapes.

Two members met with a senior youth worker at Buckie High School and picked up some useful strategies about youth engagement.

Following concerns raised by local residents, the Community Council had a site visit to a potential housing development at Buckpool. They are awaiting the outcome of their Planning objection.

Community Councillors are attending Fisherman Hall meetings to keep up to date with their progress and concerns.

A member attended the launch of Beatrice Offshore Windfarm. This now provides renewable energy for about 450,000 homes – more than 3x the number of houses in Moray and the Highlands. Power lines extend from the windfarm to Portgordon. The Community Council is still awarding £250 micro-grants to local groups. A few members will be attending the Energising Communities trip.

The final Bucks for Buckie event took place in May and went very well.

Members are attending the Buckie Classic Car show with a stall and a 'guess how many balloons are in the classic car' competition to boost funds and raise profile. There are also plans to re-design the Community Council leaflet.

The Community Council is delighted to hear Buckie is one of the areas identified to help communities grow their own food.

**Cullen & Deskford Community Council** – the Community Council is meeting with Fordyce and Sandend Community Councils and Hall committees to choose a route for the cycle path.

There are plans to fundraise to cut grass at Logie Park. Plans to fundraise for play equipment for the park have been put on hold meantime.

Cullen pet cemetery will have to pay inspection fees and the volunteer caretaker has decided to retire.

Public toilets have been targeted by 'non-house-trained' vandals.

**Dufftown Community Council** – Thanks to work by community groups, a plaque has been unveiled at the clock tower. The pipe band attended and children read poetry. The saltire flag is now flying again thanks to a local contact who arranged the use of a cherry picker.

The Community Council has dealt with queries on road improvements, speeding and road signs. Lorries have been going the wrong way down routes, a worry with schools about to go back. The Secretary wrote to all companies involved, but only received one reply.

There has been liaison with local elected members about tidying 2 areas that have been used for fly-tipping. It is challenging to attract more Community Councillors.

**Elgin Community Council** – The Community Council has been dealing with road and rail issues, seagulls, and the impact that the works on Poundland are having on the High Street and Batchen Street.

The Community Council will have a stall at the launch of the New Elgin LOIP to try and recruit new members. There have been discussions on how to become a carbon neutral Community Council.

A response was submitted to the consultation on sex entertainment venues to say each application should be judged on its merits.

Progress is being made on the website with 3 members undergoing training on content management.

Grass cutting has become a major issue. Some of the most problematic areas will be cut thanks to the Common Good Fund. An action group was set up after the Community Council held a public meeting to involve everyone who wants to help with cutting, equipment or funding.

**Forres Community Council** – as well as the usual issues, Forres are dealing with some large projects

Engagement on the public consultation on the future of Leancoil Hospital included 106 people attending a drop-in session at the Tollbooth, 300 emails and 7,000 views on social media. £30,000 was raised to commission architects to provide an options appraisal. Future uses could be multi-agency, with a health and social care theme. Erskine has visited as they are looking for a site for a rehabilitation facility in the north of Scotland. Glasgow School of Art is in need of student accommodation. The Community Council has spoken with NHS Grampian about a potential community asset transfer and they are encouraged by the work to date. There has been some vandalism with lead being removed. Police have stepped up patrols and volunteers are also keeping an eye on the building.

The Community Council has been delighted with the interaction between themselves and the new Community Policing Inspector for Forres.

The north route for the dualled A96 has been selected but people are concerned about the impact on Forres and have concerns about the selection criteria used. Associate members met with Transport Scotland in Glasgow and are awaiting a response. Ideally they would like the selection criteria process reviewed.

A survey of Mosset Burn has been commissioned regarding infilling and weed growth to produce a working document to advise what can be done in future.

The Community Council hope to organise a public consultation regarding the future of Grant Park. One option could be to form a trust to look after it in future.

More visits to Forres Academy are planned with a view to looking to engage with young people.

Thanks are noted to Kenny Shand who has pushed for better disabled access at bus stops.

**Heldon Community Council** – There has been some confusion in parts of Moray Council, about the difference between Heldon Community Council area and Heldon & Laich electoral area. Can this be clarified to avoid irrelevant communications?

Roths II Windfarm funds have been allocated to 6 local organisations. Dealing with multiple wind farms is complicated and it would be helpful if there was some standardisation. Community Benefit fund areas are negotiated between the developer and local organisations. In some cases funds are held by the developer and in some cases they are held by another organisation e.g. a trust. Shared ownership has a potentially

much wider area. Heldon Community Council has met with Berryburn II developers to decide priorities for funds in local areas.

**Innes Community Council** – There are 6 active members.

Christopher Third, Scottish Health Council attended a meeting and is arranging training sessions for local groups to look at how services are run and act as advocates for patients having difficulties. It was suggested this could be a useful presentation for the Joint Community Council.

There has been some good co-operation with Garmouth & Kingston Amenities Group.

About 10-12 campervans have been parked at Birdwatchers' Corner, which is owned by the Crown Estate. This has been traced to a listing on a website that advertises free camping sites. James Mackie has contacted the website to advise why people cannot camp there.

The St Andrews Church PB event went well with over 80 folk attending and support from some Community Councillors.

Speeding is an ongoing issue.

Merchant Navy Day is 3<sup>rd</sup> September and the Sea Cadets will raise a new Red Ensign Flag at Kingston at 2pm on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Heavy vehicles have caused damage to Corskie Farm road end, reducing the width of the road and damaging the surface on a bad corner. Moray Council Roads department has no budget for repair and Innes Community Council would like to see Greens reinstate the road.

**Keith Community Council** – There is no August meeting. Keith has now lost the Royal Bank of Scotland, TSB and Bank of Scotland banks. Clydesdale Bank has bought Virgin and will re-brand as Virgin but are committed to Keith for the foreseeable future. The ATM at the Spar has not been replaced after an attempted theft and Tesco has reduced from 2 to 1 ATMS.

Diageo has removed some dead and dying trees from near the A96 in Keith. There may be discussions with Diageo regarding the Auld Brig.

**Lennox Community Council** – There was a contentious meeting in June. The Chair resigned and the Vice Chair took over. Jane Martin has been asked to facilitate a meeting to look at how to go forward with a working Community Council. Recruitment is also an issue.

The Anzac Day celebration was well attended by Community Councillors and elected members.

**Lossiemouth Community Council** – There are 10 full and 3 associate members. Two 18 year old members have been brilliant assets, especially with respect to bridge fundraising. There are 1,300 followers on Facebook, and Twitter and Instagram have been set up recently.

A subcommittee of Lossiemouth Community Development Trust had been looking after the East Beach Bridge in recent years and the Community Council is offering support during this crisis. The impact on local businesses has been significant and they are being surveyed. A fundraising committee has formed but will not likely be able to raise the full cost of the repairs. Permission has been given to put polite notes on campervans to request donations for the bridge fund from those who enjoy holidaying in Lossiemouth and using the facilities (including the toilets).

Football pitches have not been cut frequently enough or short enough to play on recently. The Community Council will speak to Lands & Parks.

Community Councillors believe they will be able to fundraise £7,000 for a zebra crossing. They have started talking to bigger businesses for donations and have already had an offer of £3,000. Moray Council has been helpful with this although, could have responded more quickly, given the time scale.

Community Councillors wore their branded high visibility vests and patrolled the East Beach Bridge when it was newly closed, to advise people about the dangers of crossing.

BBC In Touch are visiting next week, focussing on local authority budget cuts to grass cutting, school crossing patrols and toilets, and wish to film Community Councillors in the toilets.

A bid has been submitted to the Town Centre Fund for a heritage trail.

The Community Council met with a representative from LINK regarding the lack of access to banking in Lossiemouth. A host location for another ATM is being sought. LINK advised that they share usage statistics so making more frequent, smaller withdrawals and requesting mini-statements can help retain an ATM. Community Councillors have been invited to attend a meeting in Glasgow.

It is noted that at some point, the goodwill that generates this amount of unpaid work from volunteers will dry up.

**Speyside Community Council** – There are 6 members and recruitment is an issue. Meetings are now held in Aberlour, the most central location, rather than roving to different locations.

There is a Planning proposal to build 100 houses south of Aberlour. Although more housing is welcome, access will be a re-routed A95 and safe pedestrian and bicycle access is essential.

The Chair met with BEAR safety officers at very short notice at the road markings at the A95 junction with Craigellachie Bridge. There have been 3 accidents in recent years due to confusion over right of way. BEAR officers advised they would submit a report but mentioned public money and constraints. The Chair is contacting the MP. Give way signs at Aberlour are eroded but BEAR and Moray Council need to sort out who is dealing with this.

Moray Council were contacted about exposed cabling and have been trying to contact Open Reach about this with no response. Speyside Community Council has now contacted the MP about this.

The Community Council has applied for trees from The Woodland Trust.

Grass cutting reductions have led to some overgrown verges at junctions which is affecting drivers' visibility. Laurie Piper visited to discuss the 'Routes Through Moray' leaflet. It does not mention Rothes.

**Strathisla Community Council** – There are 6 members and recruitment is an issue.

There have been very few applicants for the £250 Beatrice micro-grants, in spite of advertising.

Keith Show is going ahead in spite of recent poor weather, and will feature massed pipe bands as part of the centenary celebrations of Strathisla Pipe Band.

## **10. AOCB**

**JCC Social media** – has reached around 9,000 people this week and had 2,100 engagements. Thanks to Shaun Moat for his work on this.

**Global Ecovillage Network** – GEN is a Scottish Charity working locally and globally with the aim of catalysing sustainable communities. The focus is not just environmental, but also economic, social and cultural sustainability. GEN has been granted LEADER funding to support organisations in Moray. Their work is not to tell organisations how to be more sustainable but to work with them to support them to achieve their goals. Some of the work will involve eco-tourism, low carbon technologies, food and farming. Groups can get in touch to arrange a free 3 hours session for their organisation, using facilitation tools, supported by GEN and tsiMORAY. Three showcase organisations will get a year of support including IT, marketing and development, as well as the chance to travel to Ecovillage organisations in Norway and Germany. One organisation will have the chance to present their project in at the Day of Sustainable Communities in Brussels in September 2020. GEN are particularly keen to hear from groups in South and East Moray.

**Registration as a data controller** – Community Councils are reminded that they are liable to pay an annual registration fee to the Information Commissioner's Office. Membership of Community Councils is voluntary but the scheme is statutory so Community Councils are treated as public bodies by the ICO, not a voluntary body. The information about the requirement to pay the fee came directly from ICO.

**Reinstatement of Community Council grant** – members are requested to continue to lobby elected members for reinstatement of the grant.

**Community Safety Report** – Jane and Inspector Stevenson have met to discuss the report and possible changes. Inspector Stevenson would like the report to be more forward looking, including prevention, and to have more input from other Community Safety Partners. The report will evolve in partnership with Community Councils.

**Rural Crime** – A presentation was given to Cairngorm National Park covering Rural Crime. It was a useful talk, covering a wide range of crime and it was suggested the speaker could be invited to the Joint Community Council in future.

**11. Date of next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019.** There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.16pm.