

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on 13th February 2020

Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

Present:			
Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Graham Murdoch	Forres
Christine Allan	Buckie & District	Jim Mountford	Heldon
Morag Stewart	Buckie & District	Jim Mackie	Innes
Jim Patterson	Burghead & Cummington	Peter Fitch	Innes
Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford	Mike Reid	Lennox
Eddie Wallace	Elgin	Paul MacPherson	Lennox
David Chapman	Elgin	Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth
Pat Patterson	Elgin	Mike Mulholland	Lossiemouth
Dian Anderson	Findhorn & Kinloss	Marion Ross	Speyside
Louise Marshall	Findochty	Kelly Spark	Speyside
David Parker	Forres	John Bond	Speyside
Graham Murdoch	Forres		

In attendance:

Cllr Leadbitter, Jane Martin, Community Council Liaison Officer, Catherine Sinclair (minutes), Bruce Milne, Grampian Fire & Rescue service

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Ann Mitchell (Buckie & District), Billy Davidson (Burghead & Cummington), Stewart Black, (Cullen & Deskford), Tom Lewis (Dyke Landward), Anne Skene (Findhorn & Kinloss), Lesley Edwards, Shaun Moat, Graham Hilditch (Forres), Willie Duncan (Heldon), Steve Hickin (Keith), Christine Lester, Pringle George (Lennox), Karen Pryce-Iddon (Strathisla), Finnerne Community Council, Cllrs Alexander, Brown, Coull, Cowe, Divers, Edwards, Gatt, Laing, Morrison & Powell and Chief Inspector Norman Stevenson.

2. Presentations: Bruce Milne, Grampian Fire & Rescue Service

Moray Fire & Rescue Plan, a 3 year strategy, is being consulted on until March. The Plan aligns to the Scottish Strategic Plan but must also be fit for the local area. Jane will circulate forms by email. Community Councils are asked to complete them and return to Jane.

Home Fire Safety Visits are available to anyone, although priority is given to vulnerable people, older people or those with mobility issues. People may be referred via support bodies and also through the local knowledge and connections of fire officers. There has been some resistance to visits or stigma associated with them. Although this is reducing, there are still hard to reach areas and people so Community Councillors are asked to promote these visits generally, particularly in Dufftown, Tomintoul and Aberlour. These are advice, not enforcement visits.

There is one full time service in Moray, based in Elgin and other stations are 'retained' i.e. fire officers have other day jobs and carry a pager. Gordonstoun has a voluntary service.

There has been a recent campaign to recruit retained officers but there are still shortages in Cullen, Rothes, Aberlour and Dufftown. Forres has good numbers but a cohort will likely retire around the same time. Anyone who is interested can arrange a visit to a fire station, find out more about the job and get help with the application process.

Fire service performance in Moray is good. Minutes of performance meetings are available for review.

Q&A

Where can the locations of fire hydrants be found? This is useful for developing resilience plans, as well as for directing officers from outside the area attending incidents.

Scottish Water is responsible for hydrants and updates their map annually.

ACTION: Bruce will share contact details with Jane for circulation

Should the fire service lobby for heat and smoke alarms to be fitted when new homes are constructed?
Fire Safety and Enforcement officers monitor and enforce this. Due to an upcoming change in the legislation, private homeowners will also have to have linked heat and smoke alarms. This will be monitored via Home Reports, which are produced when homes are sold.

Is there a plan in place for officer welfare and resilience during big incidents? Would it be useful to know about available village halls etc.?

Yes, there is a plan. Anything communities can provide as a resource is welcome and can be added to the Community Asset Register which includes e.g. boats and vehicles as well as buildings. Contact person is Gordon McDonald, Moray Council Resilience officer.

Fire service resources can now be called in from anywhere in Scotland to manage incidents and provide cover. Incidents and coverage are monitored from the central office in Dundee. Staff welfare is taken care of during big incidents, including adequate rest. Mobile units are available to provide rest and refreshments.

A pilot at a residential unit for adults with learning difficulties is being proposed whereby 24 hour staff cover will be withdrawn and CCTV is used overnight. Would the fire service have concerns about this?

Fire Safety Enforcement Officers advise on such matters and advise on legal compliance.

Bruce will meet with Jane to see how the Fire Service can best keep Community Councils updated on progress on recruitment, fire safety visits and the results of the consultation.

3. Approval of minutes - November 2019

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting; proposed by Jim Patterson, seconded by Mike Mulholland.

4. Matters arising

Item 6: The Joint Community Council has offered to hold the CARES grant for Energising Communities. This body operates independently of the Joint Community Council and has a broader membership than only Community Councillors. The Community Councillors that sit on Energising Communities will update the Joint Community Council on progress.

Item 7: Jane will be attending the next CCLO network meeting and will present on Moray Community Council policies. If anyone would like other matters brought up at the meeting, they can email Jane. The Joint Community Council will pay for her travel as previously agreed and she is sharing accommodation with Aberdeenshire staff.

VE Day: is on May 8th and there is an aim to have a piper at every war memorial at 3pm. Several Community Councils have arranged this. Lossiemouth Community Council is also having a tea dance, Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council are having a street party and possible parade in honour of service animals. Businesses in Buckie are holding a street party.

Speeding: Communities can apply to Moray Council to have a sign fitted. A survey is carried out and if national criteria are met, a sign is installed. In some situations, for good technical reasons, signs are proven not to make a difference.

In some cases where criteria are not met, a community may feel safer if a sign could be installed. Feeling safer is a good outcome in itself, but budget spending cannot be justified in these cases, so Moray Council has been exploring ways to support these requests. One option is for communities to buy vehicle activated signs which display the speed limit to speeding drivers. These cost £3,500 + VAT and require a power supply. Moray Council Roads would advise on placement, site safety and suitability, and install the signs. By show of hands, several Community Councils expressed interest and others will discuss with their members. There was discussion on using solar powered signs that are more mobile. Trunk roads fall under the remit of Transport Scotland.

Cullen Community Council spoken with Police over speed concerns and the Police plan to come to Seatown in spring to assess issues with speeding there.

Police attendance at Community Council meetings: Several Community Councils reported attendance has increased recently. Some reported it had not or that they did not particularly expect or need Police attendance. Lossiemouth Community Council reported Police are very responsive on Twitter and had requested Police be more active on Facebook.

5. Treasurer's Report

The balance at 10th February is £9,449.01.

Of this £1,780.00 is JCC grant funds and £7,669.01 are grant funds

6. Community Councils Term – Where are we?

Three groups discussed what has worked well and what could have been better over the last two years, what changes they would like to see and what their plans for the next 2 years are. This covered Community Councils and the Joint Community Council.

7. Break for refreshments (20 mins)

8. Group discussions

The groups reported their discussions. Jane will collate this information and it will be discussed at the May Joint Community Council meeting. It may be that a working group is set up to take ideas forward. If anything else comes to mind meantime, Community Councillors are welcome to email Jane.

9. Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

10. AOCB

The Joint Community Council applied for funding on behalf of Money 4 Moray for participatory budgeting and are about to be awarded £153,000, subject to compliance. Two signatories are required to log into the Scottish Government HARP (Housing and Regeneration Programmes) database to accept the grant and report on spend etc. Alastair proposed himself and Catherine. There were no objections.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Leadbitter for attending the meeting. Would the Chief Executive also like to attend? Cllr Leadbitter will pass on this feedback.

11. Date of next meeting 14th May 2020. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.