

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on 9th July 2020 at 7pm by Zoom

| Present: | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Name | Community Council | Name | Community Council |
| Alastair Kennedy | Chair | Lesley Edwards | Forres |
| Christine Allan | Buckie & District | David Parker | Forres |
| Jim Patterson | Burghead & Cummington | Jim Mackie | Innes |
| Colin Burch | Cullen & Deskford | Steve Hickin | Keith |
| James Wiseman | Elgin | Pringle George | Lennox |
| Howard Davenport | Finderne | Paul MacPherson | Lennox |
| Anne Skene | Findhorn & Kinloss | Mike Reid | Lennox |
| Shaun Moat | Forres | Mike Mulholland | Lossiemouth |
| Graham Murdoch | Forres | Karen Pryce-Iddon | Strathisla |

In attendance:

Jane Martin, Community Council Liaison Officer, Catherine Sinclair (minutes), Denise Whitworth, Deputy Chief Executive Moray Council (7.15 – 7.45pm), Cllr Graham Leadbitter, Cllr Lorna Creswell, Cllr Theresa Coull, Cllr James Allan,

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Stewart Black, (Cullen & Deskford), Louise Marshall (Findochty), Carolle Ralph (Lossiemouth), Angela Mair (Portknockie), Cllr Frank Brown, Cllr Donald Gatt, Cllr Amy Patience, Cllr Louise Powell

2. Chair Update

Alastair attended a meeting with MPs, MOD representatives and community representatives regarding Lossie base contractors' behaviour. He does not feel we are any further ahead. See Lossiemouth Community Council update for details.

Alastair has been asked to represent Community Councils on the Moray Growth Deal

3. Approval of minutes – June 2020

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

4. Matters arising

None

5. Treasurer's Report

The balance at 9th July is £162,566.71

£153,000 is for Money for Moray (participatory budgeting)

£6,620.71 remains from previous rounds of participatory budgeting funding and is being spent down

£1,000 SSEN resilience funding (16 Community Councils have taken up the grant so far)

£1,946.00 Joint Community Council admin grant balance

6. Moray Council Updates

Leader – Graham Leadbitter

There are lot of challenges facing Moray Council. The biggest is getting ready for 100% of pupils to return to school on 12th August. It is not yet know if pupils will have to socially distance on transport. If so this would impact costs by about £1 million. School staff have done a phenomenal amount of work, working on logistics and timetabling.

A lot of work is ongoing to bring back waste services and other Council services, to support economic growth and help businesses and to work in partnership with the NHIS on Health and Social Care.

The re-instatement of car park charges is being reviewed. Since the decision was made a few weeks ago more funding has been announced. There has also been an unexpectedly strong reaction from people who are unwilling to touch ticket machines – this lack of public confidence in ticket machines, ATMs etc. will need to be addressed as things return to 'normal'.

Deputy Chief Executive Moray Council – Denise Whitworth

It is difficult to predict what the future will bring. Moray Council has to follow Government guidance and will sometimes have to wait for information. Most Moray Council staff are working from home currently, as per the guidance. Initially, Moray Council had to work on emergency responses to the pandemic, then to start opening services e.g. waste and grass cutting. It is challenging to continue the usual workload and

Coronavirus responses with finite resources and funding. The aim is to get back to a version of normal but there are likely to be some changes such as more digital delivery of services and more remote working. Announcements about social distancing and schools are expected late July – if 100% of pupils due to go back, it should mean social distancing has been removed from children of all ages. An announcement will be made to advise if staff have to socially distance from each other and pupils. For early learning, children do not have to socially distance but can be in groups of 8 with one adult. If this doesn't change, Moray won't be able to have 100% of early learning sessions available.

Q How will we capture what has been happening in the community?

A survey is being carried out with existing groups to capture what has worked well, what we might want to keep and what we could do to respond to a spike in Coronavirus. A lot of plans will need to be reviewed and adapted but many long term issues also still stand.

Q When will public toilets re-open – visitors and tourism picking up in Moray?

There will be a phased re-opening of toilets, starting on 13th July: Dunes (West), Findhorn; Cooper Park, Elgin; Victoria Street, Craigellachie; Regent Square, Keith; Tomintoul; Grant Park, Forres; Esplanade, Lossiemouth; Albert Place, Dufftown. Hand sanitisers will be placed at doors along with signage encouraging good hygiene. Toilets will be cleaned twice daily rather than once daily – this means it will not be possible to open all toilets.

Q. Can cones placed in Forres High Street be reviewed? They seem to be causing reduced footfall. Could parking restrictions be reviewed to allow e.g. 20 minute parking on the High Street?

Moray Council can look again at any temporary arrangements that aren't working. Denise Whitworth will ask Nicola Moss to get in touch with Graham Murdoch. It will be more complicated to change parking restrictions.

Q. Outdoor seating restrictions are being lifted elsewhere. Can we expect to see outdoor seating in Moray?

That depends on traders. Moray Council are receiving applications to do things in different ways.

Q. If there was to be a spike in Coronavirus cases, how quickly can we react to an incident? Would a lockdown be Moray wide or more localised?

It would depend on the size and nature of the issue. Responses will be informed and sophisticated and look at how cases have spread and where contacts have been. If a small area is affected, it should be a small area that is quarantined. If there is an increase in cases, it could also lead to a step back in easing of restrictions nationally.

Cllr Theresa Coull

Elected members have largely been working from home and meeting virtually. Business across Moray can answer a survey to give views and explain what kind of help they need. See

<https://newsroom.moray.gov.uk/news/council-support-for-businesses-re-opening-to-customers>

Cllr Lorna Creswell

The survey to capture what has worked well is being carried out via Moray Council Locality Management Groups e.g. for Forres contact Susan Reid or Jackie McLaren tsiMORAY. Cllr Creswell has seen a report collating views of parents, carers and children and how Coronavirus has affected them, which made for interesting reading.

Cllr James Allan

Moray Council Licensing department has been very supportive and has been giving advice to businesses e.g. allowing temporary use of council land for beer gardens.

Nicola Moss came to Lossie to review the traffic cones and some have since been removed. They were affecting businesses with customers unable to park nearby. Cones were also used to vandalise cars and shop windows.

7. Community Council Liaison Officer Update

Area Consultations

The first phase of consultation on the recovery period in Moray has been carried out. The next phase will be via small group video meetings by areas, then possibly a bigger forum. Jane will meet with Community Councils.

Virtual CCLO conference

About 30 CCLOs attended via Zoom. There is a move to update the model scheme for community councils to cover use of social media as well as Coronavirus. It will go out for consultation. Jane has been asked to be involved because of Moray's policies etc. Moray Community Councils are held in high regard nationally.

Zoom training

Jane's training for Community Councils was well received. She can offer more groups training sessions or one-to-one training if preferred.

Resilience Planning

Jane will make a start when back from annual leave and hopes Ready Scotland will help with this. The Scottish Flood Forum is keen to help with resilience planning. She proposes that bespoke plans cover each Community Council area, with details for areas within Community Councils according to need. Community Councils do not necessarily have to action the plans but will hold them. So much good partnership working has happened in each area, it would be good to keep and build on this. Comments were made that it would be useful to see good examples of plans and when does a plan become an obligation.

8. Community Councils Updates

Buckie Community Council – hasn't had further Zoom meetings but meet at a socially distant photo opportunity. They are spending the first tranche of HIE funding and will get the 2nd tranche later. A grant from the Food Fund was given to Buckie Kindness Group and the Edintore Wind Farm Community Benefit grant was given to the Salvation Army.

LOIP meetings have been taking place via Zoom and it is hoped a Community Council meeting can take place soon. The recent HMIE report on education in Buckie was very favourable.

Burghead & Cummington Community Council – is providing ongoing support with groups to manage food deliveries, delivering prescriptions etc. Burghead and Cummington have joined forces with Hopeman to use their Press & Journal Minibus along with Duffus and Roseisle. It is planned to use it for visits to medical centres, as it is a 4 hour round trip by bus from Burghead to Lossiemouth via Elgin. There are plans to increase transportation in this group of villages e.g. with electric bikes, scooters and cars in future.

Cullen & Deskford Community Council – after delivery 5,500 during lockdown, meals are now being wound down as other support is put in place. Funding was secured from Asda to support free school meals but there have been no takers so funding will have to be returned.

There has been concern about touring vans saying overnight in the harbour. It has not been possible to get clarity if this is allowed yet from the Police.

Elgin Community Council – most members are still shielding but are working to attract funding and support partnership work. Members are looking in to meeting on Zoom. It feels the right time to start to change focus away from meals delivery and develop new plans.

Planning consultations re Findrassie and Spynie housing developments are live.

Finderne Community Council – Community Council meetings have continued by telephone conference and regular activities are continuing – reviewing Planning applications, dealing with concerns about speeding, keeping an eye on the multitude of local wind farm applications, which are of concern. Finderne Development Trust is managing the Coronavirus response.

Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council – has met recently with a full agenda and is continuing the work outlined at the last Joint Community Council meeting. Two new members have been recruited from Kinloss, bringing the total to 9 members. One of the new Kinloss members has been co-ordinating meals in Kinloss and knows the community very well.

Forres Community Council – Shaun Moat is the new Chair and thanked Graham Hilditch, the outgoing Chair for his 13 years of service. Meetings will resume by Zoom next week. Three co-options mean the Community Council has full membership. Members are working with Forres Area Community Trust on the Coronavirus response – Lesley has been particularly involved with this.

Members are looking into Scottish Town Partnership Funding to see how they can best support local businesses.

There is concern about the growing numbers of travellers at Forres Enterprise Park and David is preparing a letter regarding this.

Forres Men's Shed has moved into premises at Mundole and has had a few Zoom meetings. They have a Facebook page and have shared lots of information.

Innes Community Council – all are still shielding and focussing on communications, sharing information and looking for funding opportunities. The Community Council is supporting the community larder in Mosstodloch with food and face masks. The larder is now seeing people who have been made redundant and are looking for help. Mental health support as well as financial support will be important. Moray Food Plus and Lhanbryde Community Centre are looking to reduce the number of meals being delivered and avoid dependency.

Jim attended the Scottish Flood Forum national conference by video and found it very interesting.

Keith Community Council – has not met as not all members are online. They are looking into ways to get people online or using phones to attend virtual meetings. In partnership with Moray Food Plus, 550-600 food packages were delivered between March and June. This stopped on 1st July and a community larder opened. Jane Martin and Rhona Patterson dealt with funding applications, have provided laptops and iPads to pupils and vulnerable households. The Loft Youth project is also supporting local families. Partnership Coronavirus work between Keith and Strathisla Community Councils is ongoing. Local people are making face masks which are available at the community larder.

Lennox Community Council – In the last 2 months £2,500 of funding has been handed out, including to Fochabers larder. The larder saw 21 families in one day. They are also seeing people who have been recently laid off and are dealing with a lot of stress and mental health pressures. Hot meals will be stopping at the end of July. The Portgordon Coronavirus Response Group has set up a pantry. They have also been shopping, collecting prescriptions etc. and have started a gardening group to brighten up Portgordon. Members of the community are making face masks. The Lampie Hoose and Fochabers Men's Shed have also been supported. Beatrice Wind Farm Panel has been doing some great work to get funding to communities quickly.

Lossiemouth Community Council – The Coronavirus response is busier than ever, serving 300 meals a week and seeing more and more families all the time. Volunteers are working 4-5 days a week. There are plenty supplies and funding available just now. Fiona Birse, Lossiemouth Development Trust officer sources funding and passes it to Lossiemouth Community Council who getting shopping and wholesales supplies. This is working well and smoothly.

Mike, Alastair and other community leaders attended a meeting about the base contractors. Douglas Ross MP arranged the meeting and invited Jeremy Quinn, MP (Minister for Defence Procurement). He listened to concerns then advised that the work was of national importance and commended contractors for carrying out virus testing. Workers have been left to find their own accommodation and behave responsibly in the community. There is no robust system in place to protect the community from Coronavirus. It was requested that contractors do not return home to towns in England each weekend because of the risk. It is felt a response to the request is unlikely and concerns have not been addressed.

Strathisla Community Council – The first Community Council meeting will be on 5th of August. It is hoped a new member will be co-opted from Grange, an area that has not been represented for some time. Eight defibrillators have been secured and will be installed by a local person. Work has been ongoing on the Coronavirus response including food parcel delivery and the Keith larder etc. Two families are still financially insecure and needing support and many people are planning to continue to shield for longer. Volunteers have decided to continue providing support until the end of August.

9. Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and input. The pandemic has shown the value of Community Councils and the work being carried out by them and other community groups is amazing.

10. AOCB

Jane took a poll of this meeting. 100% attending found the meeting informative, 3 people had suggestions for how things could be done differently and 11 people had comments to make. Jane asked those with comments and suggestions to email her so she could refine and improve meetings.

11. Date of next meeting – Thursday 13th August 2020 at 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm