

## Minutes of JCC Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 7pm by Zoom

<b>Present:</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Community Council</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Community Council</b>
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Graham Murdoch	Forres
Christine Allan	Buckie & District	Lesley Edwards	Forres
Morag Stewart	Buckie & District	David Parker	Forres
Jim Patterson	Burghead & Cummingston	Paul MacPherson	Lennox
Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford	Mike Reid	Lennox
Anne Skene	Findhorn & Kinloss	Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth
Shaun Moat	Forres	Marion Ross	Speyside

### **In attendance:**

Jane Martin, Community Council Liaison Officer, Catherine Sinclair (minutes), Chief Inspector Norman Stevenson (Police Scotland), George McIntyre, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Moray, Cllr Laura Powell, Cllr Lorna Creswell, Cllr John Divers

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Karen Pryce-Iddon (Strathisla Community Council)

### **2. Chair Update**

Alastair Kennedy has taken Iain Catto's place on Energising Moray. Alastair still Chairs the LEADER Local Area Group. A three month extension has been granted for the scheme.

Alastair has been invited to sit on a national Participatory Budgeting forum.

The Community Engagement Group will meet next week.

Lennox Community Council has a new Chair, Paul MacPherson and Alastair will no longer Chair those meetings.

### **3. Approval of minutes – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Cllr J Divers had submitted apologies for the last meeting. Subject to this amendment, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting; proposed by Shaun Moat, seconded by Paul MacPherson.

### **4. Matters arising**

Jane attended the virtual Community Council Liaison Officer conference, which was very good. A review of the Community Council Scheme will take place. Community Councils in all areas of the country took part in responding to the Coronavirus pandemic and supported their communities.

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

The balance at 13<sup>th</sup> August is £162,526.71 (£40 honorarium to Minute Secretary since the last meeting)

£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

£1,906.00 Joint Community Council admin grant balance

The Investing in Communities Fund (Money for Moray grant of £153,000) issued a pro-forma to gather information from applicants about progress and outcomes. Alastair and Catherine responded to say work had been put on hold due to the pandemic but there were plans to resume soon.

### **6. Chief Inspector Norman Stevenson**

The Community Safety Report was circulated. Alastair noted the information on suicide prevention was very useful. A lot of good work is going on in Moray and Chief Inspector Stevenson expressed thanks to people in the community for being responsible and looking after themselves. The Police continue to inform and educate about Coronavirus guidance. There have been concerns about people travelling through Moray including holidaymakers. This has had quite an impact on some smaller communities.

Crime is down somewhat and the focus has shifted. There have been few break-ins to empty shops. A small group of individuals were responsible for break-ins in Buckie and they have been captured.

Work has been ongoing to prevent crime, particularly regarding road safety and acquisitive crime. Police services to support vulnerable adults and children have been available throughout the pandemic. There has not yet been a large spike in domestic abuse reports locally, but we are still at the start of the pandemic and its impacts. Chief Inspector Stevenson asked that we encourage people to seek help when needed, or speak to Police about their concerns, if appropriate. Chief Inspector Stevenson is always open to hearing about

concerns in local areas, and comments and input regarding the Community Safety Report. It should be noted that most Police are not in a position to attend meetings by video. Please do not feel Police are not attending and do get in touch with area Inspectors or the Chief Inspector if necessary.

There was thanks and positive feedback to Police who visited a lady after a visiting tradesman raised concerns about her state of mind. There was also praise for how the death of a young woman was handled by officers. The handling of a long-standing issue of anti-social behaviour was discussed and Chief Inspector Stevenson asked that brief details be emailed to him so he can follow this up.

## **7. Deputy Lord Lieutenant – George McIntyre**

Thanks to Community Councillors for allowing a member of the Lieutenancy to sit in on Joint Community Council meetings. This is part of a drive to increase connections with local organisations. There is also a new website here [lordlieutenantmoray.co.uk](http://lordlieutenantmoray.co.uk)

The role of the Lieutenancy is to co-ordinate royal visits; to co-ordinate the Honours list and Garden Party invitations (although anyone can download and submit a nomination form, it is helpful to send this to the Lord Lieutenant as well); to support The Queen's Award for Enterprise and the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (Moray has many Volunteer awards and has always been known for its volunteering commitment); and to maintain strong links with the armed forces.

George covered his background, career and volunteering in Moray, which included some time as a Lennox Community Councillor. NB the Lieutenancy of Moray does not cover the whole of the local authority area of Moray but follows old boundaries, as to all Lieutenancies across the country.

## **8. Community Council Liaison Officer Update**

Jane Martin is happy to provide more Zoom training. She delivered Chair training to Paul MacPherson, the new Chair of Lennox Community Council.

Jane shared a PowerPoint presentation to recap the findings of the Mid-term review of Community Councils and the Joint Community Council. She will circulate the PowerPoint. Community Councils are doing great work and should celebrate their successes more – this can also help with recruitment and strengthening ties/raising the profile with the community. The Joint Community Council is thought to be useful and an effective way of sharing information. Concerning feedback on what could have worked better; Jane encouraged Community Councils to bring any specific issues to her. Regarding attendance at Joint Community Council meetings, individual Community Councils need to encourage their members to attend. Some of the other suggestions have been overtaken by the Covid pandemic. Attendance at meetings by video has worked well and will continue for some time. Next steps could include member recruitment via the development of local resilience plans, training on social media, and training on roles and responsibilities. Jane asked the 17 Attendees of this meeting to provide feedback via Zoom poll and to get in touch with her if there were any additional comments or suggestions.

Are the workshops and training I organise or provide you of value, do you learn from them? 16/17 yes, 1 No

Do I respond to you in a timely manner when you have a query? 16/17 yes, 1 sometimes

Is there anything I can do differently? 16/17 no, 1 yes

Are you happy for the JCC meetings to continue on Zoom? 17/17 yes

What should the frequency of future meetings be?

Monthly: 8 votes

Two-monthly: 8 votes

Three monthly 1 vote

Would you attend a workshop on Promoting your CC on Social Media? 16/17 yes

Would you attend a workshop on Roles & Responsibilities? 14/17 yes

Nine respondents expressed interest in being on a subgroup to look at any changes to the current scheme

## **9. Community Councils Updates**

**Buckie Community Council** – There has not been a Zoom meeting yet because of technical problems. A further £25,000 of funding has been awarded from HIE to support community Covid response July to September, and is being dispersed to community groups. Buckie Area Forum and the Community Council are considering buying and sharing paid for Zoom.

A 'carry out' community lunch was provided to Hanover Housing residents by the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) group. It was well received and other lunches are planned at the AB56 venue and in Portessie. The LOIP newsletter will be published soon.

**Burghead & Cummington Community Council** – The community was saddened to hear of the death of Chris Stutchbury who was a passenger in the train derailment near Stonehaven earlier this week. He has family in Burghead and we wish to express our condolences for their loss.

The Community Council is continuing to support the community including the blessing box. Forty-three people responded to the call for volunteer mini-bus drivers. Once PVG checks have been done and PPE and disinfecting protocol finalised, they will be able to provide transport. Bookings software is being trialled which also shows routes and logs driver time. Medical appointments will be prioritised.

There have been lots of visitors and vehicles, overflowing car parks and roads in Cummington, and problems with littering and human waste. Talks are ongoing with Moray Council about re-opening the toilets.

**Cullen & Deskford Community Council** – Provided home school supplies to pupils and made a donation to equip every nursery and primary school pupil with supplies at the start of term. A successful bid has been made to update the Discover Cullen website and there are funds for businesses to help them be Covid safe, although most are organised already. There was a bit of a furore social media concerning a 'Clap for Cullen' would be gathering in the square. Social media training would be welcome, and the question was asked if it could be offered to other groups, not just Community Councils. Thanks were expressed the Moray Council Community Support Unit for their help and support.

The Community Asset Transfer of Cullen Community Centre to the Three Kings Cullen Development Trust was approved this week.

**Elgin Community Council** – Have held 2 virtual meetings although not all members are on Zoom yet. They have been looking at 3 major Planning applications and have objected to one. Plans for the Poundland building on Elgin High Street includes 17 flats, an extension and 2 shop fronts onto North Street. A lot of work will need to be done on the building, and this represents a significant investment in the town.

The Fisheries Board have been contacted regarding problems with Giant Hogweed on rivers. Work had stopped due to lockdown but has now resumed and will reach Elgin soon.

**Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council** – Last met in June as do not have a July meeting.

The £2,000 Corra Impact Fund will go to Kinloss, particularly the Southside, where most needs are arising i.e. Findhorn has allocated their half of the fund to Kinloss. Funding will be spent on meals and other support to households.

Findhorn has been extremely busy with up to 60 campervans a night in the car park. Latrines are being dug in the dunes and human waste is being left behind. Litter bins are also overflowing. Members have reported issues and tried to advise visitors, as well as carrying out litter picks. Issues should start to diminish as visitors leave but meantime, bins need to be emptied more regularly.

**Forres Community Council** – Shaun Chaired the first meeting held by Zoom. Three new members have been co-opted to bring the Community Council to full membership. The Community Council is looking into taking on the running of Grant Park toilets and have spoken with the Chair of Cullen & Deskford Community Council. They are also working with Moray Council and the Police to see how the town centre could be improved for pedestrians, cyclists and shoppers.

**Keith Community Council** – Will have their first meeting in September. It will be in person with social distancing. The Keith Covid Response Group is still working well and is now running a community larder, offering food and packs of household essentials. They are planning a takeaway 'soup and sweet' which they hope will encourage some older folk to come out of their homes and start rebuilding their confidence. Strathisla Community Council is part of the response group and is working hard alongside other volunteers to continue to provide support.

**Lennox Community Council** – Is continuing to work on how best to respond to the evolving situation with the coronavirus pandemic. There are plans to pay to upgrade Zoom and to hold full Community Council meetings. Portgordon Community Harbour Group has received a grant of £41,000 from HIE and are working on allocating the funds to community groups responding to coronavirus.

**Lossiemouth Community Council** – Is as busy as ever providing Covid support to the community and working through the HIE funds. They are still supplying fresh food and vouchers etc. to vulnerable households. They are working on reducing meals to isolated and vulnerable people but feel the social contact is so crucial, particularly for housebound residents, that continuing to support them in this way is justified. They are hoping to develop a 'Meals on Wheels' offering. They are also looking at setting up support for people who have become unemployed as a result of Covid. They are already seeing people in distress due to job losses. This could become a Moray-wide project if there is interest.

There are concerns about a lack of social distancing in some pubs, particularly amongst young people. This has been a delicate situation to deal with. Concerns were also raised about older school pupils not social

distancing. Lossiemouth Community Council phoned the school for advice so they could feed back about the concerns raised. There have also been problems with overflowing bins and campervans and other visitors leaving human waste.

**Speyside Community Council** – The £2,000 Corra Foundation Impact Fund has been split between 3 organisations and the £18,000 grant from HIE was split between Rothes, Craigellachie and Aberlour. Aberlour Community Association applied and the Community Council is acting as the anchor organisation, holding the fund in their bank account. The £1,000 SEN resilience fund is being used to purchase 2 laptops for care home residents to stay connected to their families, and funding from Connecting Scotland will purchase 2 iPads.

The Mackessack Park Path upgrade is almost complete. The contractor has almost finished the work and trees have been planted with schoolchildren involved. A plaque and bench will be installed to thank all those who have helped on the project. Working is ongoing with Global Ecovillage Network who helped produce a logo for the path and is now working on a logo for the Community Council. An online meeting with the graphic designer is planned to work on a leaflet and update social media.

Clash Gour and Rothes III windfarm Planning Applications have generated a lot of work, with over 200 emails received, many with attachments including legal documents. It is difficult to keep up with the amount of work, particularly as both wind farms have 2 options and both are subject to a public enquiry. Jane noted that Planning Aid Scotland can provide support and she will arrange contact.

Members held one meeting outdoors and plan to arrange Zoom training to have virtual meetings in future.

**Cllr Powell** – Keith and Cullen elected members are covering different parts of the ward during the pandemic, with Cllr Powell covering the coastal area, Cllr Coull the Keith area and Cllr Gatt both areas. It was noted that once Strathisla Community Council was confident with Zoom, elected members would be invited to virtual Community Council meetings.

**Cllr Creswell** – Moray Frith Credit Union has been very busy and held an excellent Zoom meeting with Buckie representatives, including some of the LOIP group. There are plans to open a branch in Buckie and there are plans to visit the proposed premises soon. An 80 year-old volunteer completed an 80 mile walk to raise money for Moray Emergency Relief Fund.

On a recent visit to the beach at Cullen, Cllr Creswell was delighted to see the community operated toilets being so well looked after. She expressed thanks that people were practising good social distancing on the busy beach and generally looking after themselves and others.

**Cllr Divers** – The Council has been recessed and the Emergency Cabinet continues to meet. The last meeting was on 13<sup>th</sup> August and a webcast is available. Reintroduction of car park charges has been postponed to October, subject to review. There is recognition that bins need to be emptied more frequently in tourist areas. Being unable not to use re-useable cups at this time is also contributing to the problem of increased litter. Councillors have agreed to take use funds from reserves to take on extra staff to deal with increased litter. Extra funding will also to be used to keep open eight toilets that were to be offered to communities to take on or to be closed. They will remain open till September 2021 with a view to meeting with communities about the toilets once it is safe to do so.

Almost half a million pounds has been moved from reserves to the budget to meet Covid related costs until Moray Council learns what is happening in terms of Scottish and UK Government funding.

As of 2<sup>nd</sup> September, committees will resume but there will be 2 larger committees, rather than the 6 previously sitting. Committee meetings will be held virtually and will be webcast.

## **10. Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. It was agreed to meet again next month and decide then if meetings should continue on a monthly or 2 monthly basis. Suggestions for Agenda items and speakers are welcome. Virtual meetings are likely to continue for some time, perhaps with the possibility of a 'Saturday social' meeting with workshops etc.

## **11. AOCB**

None

## **12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm