

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on 8 April 2021 at 7pm by Zoom

Present:			
Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	David Parker	Forres
Jim Patterson	Vice Chair Burghead & Cummington	Graham Murdoch	Forres
Morag Stewart	Buckie & District	Mary Evans	Heldon
Christine Allan	Buckie & District	Anita Milne	Innes
Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford	Johanna Summers	Lennox
James Wiseman	Elgin	Pringle George	Lennox
Shirley Munn	Finderne	Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth
Stuart Mccracken	Finderne	Marion Ross	Speyside
Anne Skene	Findhorn & Kinloss	Emily Reid	Speyside
Lesley Edwards	Forres	Karen Pryce-Iddon	Strathisla
Fiona Graham	Forres	Jo Lenihan	Forres (Minute Sec)

In attendance:

Jane Martin (CCLO, MC), Dawn Brodie (MC), Kerrien Grant (Moray Speyside Tourism), Laurie Piper, Moray Speyside Tourism, Cllrs: George Alexander, James Allen, Tim Eagle, Donald Gatt, Derek Ross.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from George McIntyre (Deputy Lord Lieutenant), Cllrs Allan, Edwards, Feaver, Leadbitter, Maclean, Powell, Sinclair, Shaun Moat, Stewart Black, Angus & Sarah Anderson, Billy Davidson, Steve Arkley, Jim Mackie, Tracy Whiteacker.

2. Kerrien Grant, Visit Moray Speyside (VSM). Toolkit for Community Ownership and Management of Toilet Facilities

Laurie Piper introduced the piece of work that Kerrien is working on, in recognition of fact that many communities have made steps to keeping toilets open. MC have taken decision taken to keep some open but as not a statutory responsibility will always be an issue. Need to find a sustainable, commercially viable solution to keeping toilets open for visitors and residents; discussions on this have been ongoing for 6 years. Kerrien has been looking various options to provide communities with tools to look at ownership or running of toilet estate. VSM are recruiting staff and expanding duties in anticipation of a wave of staycations which will require toilets to be open.

Kerrien outlined the Community Toiled Facilities Toolkit developed to help communities to take first steps in taking on toilets. It offers help in developing business plan and sourcing funding with a staff resource for support. Possibilities include short term lease to enable toilets to open this year possibly through CC or taking ownership from MC through CAT by organisations such as Development Trusts. MC will help with short term leases and improvements to buildings. CC's seen as catalyst to process. CSU (MC) are crucial to the work. Kerrien will forward presentation to Jane for sharing. VMS looking to hold central pot of money to help pay for community organisations to manage toilets.

Discussion took place on funding sources such as Rural Tourism Infrastructure Funds and Naturescot which Moray should be accessing but say they do not have capacity to put in bids at present, so this has fallen back on communities. Over the past year local communities have been maintaining toilet facilities which is unacceptable and unviable. The current situation with tourism infrastructure including toilets is not acceptable so together we need to find a solution and take it to MC so they can't use

lack of capacity or officer time as an excuse. GM asked if FCC ward qualified for funding from coastal fund. Dawn Brodie will investigate this and feedback.

Next steps – Letters of support to Laurie from CCs including those already managing their own community toilets. Set up sub-group of 2 or 3 people to take this forward.

3. Approval of minutes – 11 March 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting with the following amendment: No 8 – amend wording to say Cullen attended.

Proposed - Karen Price-Iddon. Seconded – Carolle Ralph

4. Matters arising

a. Campervan Stopovers

5 key locations identified are Burghead, Portknockie, Portgordon Craigellachie, Ballindalloch and 2 community projects at Cullen (crown estate land) and Findhorn (private). Funding not available until November so MC putting in temporary facilities, employing staff to clean toilets, deal with ASB, litter pick etc. They are aware of impending influx of visitors and would be putting info out to CCs for feedback. Laurie commented that application to Naturescot did not have to wait until November, it could be done in August if we're organised.

Discussion took place and several Community Councillors highlighting the urgency with the impending easing of Covid travel restrictions. Sites must be on existing parking areas to avoid need for additional planning permission, but this is causing concerns in some communities. Carolle suggested this should be addressed by toilet sub-group as integral to this discussion. Dawn will take this forward while Jane away.

b. Broadband – Shirley Munn - Finnerne Trust have been trying to get dates and extension to voucher system from BT. At moment, all eligible for up to £5000 grant but if taken you cannot get on free of charge system. Leave this on agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report - No change from last month

6. CI Norman Stevenson (apologies)

Anne gave update from focus group which had reps from 14 CCs. This was followed up with smaller focus group - Nicola Moss (MC), Jane, Norman, Anne. Main concerns:

- Signage – constraints on this due to visibility and demographics of roads. Community can purchase own signs - don't need planning permission but need MC roads department approval
- Speed activated signs more effective if temporary not permanent. MC rolling programme for this.
- MC target minor roads as higher % of accidents.
- Speed – 50% increase in speeding tickets in Moray in last 12 months. Contact police if identify specific area and they will monitor
- Community not allowed to use speed guns in Scotland

Suggestion that MC, CCs and Police meet quarterly to discuss community needs. Norman to write a brief on key priorities of education, enforcement, social media, and infrastructure. Anne recommended that the focus group needs representation from

across Moray (E, W, N, S, Central) but representation from every CC would be too many. Awaiting report from Norman and further meeting. Jane to send out invitation to CCs. Keep on agenda of JCC.

Joanna – Lennox. Highlighted national/international '20s Plenty' campaign which has many benefits for communities. This would probably be mandatory across communities in future. Recommended to look at website.

7. George McIntyre – Deputy Lord Lieutenant - Apologies

8. Community Council Liaison Officer Update

- a. Resilience Plans
Keith, Cullen, Deskford have had a meeting and moving forward.
- b. Community Council Promotions for elections
Setting up sub-group after general election to start preparations for elections.
- c. Elgin City Centre Masterplan for consultation
Re-iterate that this is for residents across Moray not just Elgin. Out for consultation for 12 weeks. The virtual exhibition doesn't always work on different machines, but a PDF version explains it.
- d. Open University – free CC training
Look at email re Open University training as huge number of courses available which are free and certified.
- e. Environmental services want to create wildflower areas across Moray - 8 per year over next 3 years. Briefing paper to be sent out by Jane for nominations for suitable places. Responses back to Jane.

Update from Anita – working with CSU on Moray transport forum. Anita has been asked to be Community rep on project board for Moray Growth Deal transport project. Drawing up brief for area forum chairs, CCs and Nicola Moss and will keep informed.

9. Community Councils Updates

Buckie – Moving to MS Teams so can engage with Police, MC and NHS. Meeting to discuss community poll, results and funding avenues. One member sitting on SSE. Liaising with other groups to participate in litter picks. Local planning issue at old railway station in Portessie. Letter of appreciation from Lord Lieutenancy for Covid response. Meeting with MC on progression of LOIP.

Burghead – Only concern is where campervan park is going but will let committee know Steven Cooper is going to liaise.

Cullen – Not supporting anyone with meals as all have something in place. Links toilets being supported. Speed surveys – request for Seatown and main street for August-October. EVC – final installation due 26 April. 3 Kings Cullen Assn have funding for post-covid strategy. Wellbeing survey with MWH used Royal Mail for leaflet drop but had issue. Dawn commented this was tried in New Elgin with issues – Dawn will find out and feedback. Defib to be fitted in Linkmill.

Elgin – Stagecoach – realignment of fare structure now cheaper to get from Keith to Elgin but weekly ticket gone up markedly. Consultations on Elgin Town Centre masterplan and traffic in town centre. Looking at areas for wildflower meadows and verges and progressing development trust and website.

Finderne – Ongoing problems with broadband, speeding issues and windfarm development road access.

Findhorn – Motorhome stopovers – managed by Findhorn Village Conservation Co. Nearing completion of 21 campervan site near west beach with a booking system. Concerned it won't be ready for end of month as MC being very slow in making decisions. CC wants clear communication from Moray Strategy Group on plans for handling influx of people and traffic. Short term lease taken out toilet block and CAT applied for. Runway at Kinloss now decommissioned Kinloss Barracks have a cash machine at Barracks outside the wire. Kinloss primary – crossing patrollers removed but concern about speeding traffic. Raised with MC to get traffic survey done.

Dawn will investigate who is on Moray Strategy Group and will feed back.

Forres – Talk by Douglas Ross. This month Laurie Piper from VMS. Dog poo issue being addressed by one of community councillors and Forres Gazette. Chair has resigned and Fiona Graham and David Parker stepping up.

Heldon – Foss bridge closed due to damage and the diversion was not satisfactory. Repairs not being done until 2025 but informed these would now be starting in August. Broadband is a major issue especially around Pluscarden.

Innes – Speeding - David Mackay happy to sit on subgroup. Concern over MC planning application website - conditions do not stay up for very long so CC cannot monitor compliance. Working in partnership with Lennox re River Spey. Set up crowdfunding for survey from bridge at Fochabers to mouth of Spey.

Lennox – Helping Innes with funding for drone for Spey flooding. Traffic lights have been fixed. Portgordon – HIE Grant spent on EVC point by village hall, better signage in village, and community garden. Harbour Trust transitioning to Portgordon Community Development Trust to bring all groups together into one group. Village zoom consultation for feasibility study for hub at harbour. Spey Bay – still problem with potholes on road belonging to Crown estate. Not enough space for parking at Spey Bay. Centre still closed so toilets not open. Dallachie war memorial repaired – short remembrance service on Sunday 25th April for Anzac Day. Looking for funding to update guiding on memorial. Beatrice panel –£20,000 for Spey Fest, £5000 for cricket club, £5000 to Fochabers scout group. Larger grants announced in June.

Lossiemouth – Involved in covid work. Last meals delivered last week but apparent that many people still very isolated. Re-assessing next week and working with social work. Did 8000 community leaflet drop which made £800. In 4th different building and moving to new one thanks to Councillors. Vaccine centre still being supported. Community testing is moving around Moray and CCs should encourage communities to do this – picked up several positive cases in Lossie. Tourism – worried about months ahead and think it will be a lot worse this year. If MC communicated better with communities would help – council staff are great on the front line but need more strategic level consultation. New school and community centre opening next week.

Speyside – Report from Emily who attended first day of Scottish Rural Parliament youth led session. Emily chose mental health as her topic. A video on each topic was made and Emily will try and arrange for these to be available. They were watched by the Children and YP Commissioner, Minister Marie Todd and Members of Scottish Youth Parliament. Thanks to Emily

Marion attended 2 sessions of Scottish Rural parliament. Rural transport - highlighted rural transport policy must include car use and vital that communities are involved in new transport initiatives to ensure they will use it. Apps for summoning bus might not always be safe – vulnerable if not waiting near home. Community lead tourism – too many communities' activities rely on a few volunteers which isn't sustainable. Zoom about resilience plan and meeting HSCM for updates. Aberlour drain cover work to start on 3 May

Strathisla – Commiserations to Ron Sheppard's family. Speeding group – Karen would like to be involved. Keith and Strathisla larder is still going – at least 40 people fed every Thursday. New member in October who is going to help to check Defibs. New website coming online.

10. Elected Members update

Tim Eagle – picked up quite a lot of points to take forward especially around tourism and infrastructure. Not a lot going on as pre-election period. Debating how best to use modernisation and improvement programme money (£7 million). Education is key priority, but community support will be important so anticipate discussion with CCs. Moray Growth Deal – some slight delays on digital health and aviation academy.

11. Consultation

P&J headline on Lossie bridge said 60% opted for one site and it was decided to put in another. This does not give incentive to communities to consult. Communities are tired of being asked their views and then being ignored. With all the consultations coming up we need to get it right. Cllr Eagle stated community engagement is vital, and Councillors and CSU will feed this back to MC. Cllr Ross commented that we need a joined up approach to the current issues/consultation.

12. AOCB

GM – raising awareness of energy charge on bottled gas which is vital for heating and cooking in rural areas. LPG Argus tax was £2.85 in October and is now £11 – backdoor tax. Raised with Douglas Ross – if set by Europe this is too high a hike.

13. Date of next meeting – 13 May 2021 at 7pm.

Thanks to elected members and all attendees. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 09.15 pm