

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 10th February 2022, 7pm

Via Zoom

Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Mary Evans	Heldon
Christine Allan	Buckie & District	Lily Mulholland	Lossiemouth
Jim Patterson	Burghead & Cummington	Kathleen Robertson	Forres
Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford	David Parker	Forres
Eddie Wallace	Elgin	James Mackie	Innes
Richard Dyce	Elgin	Paul MacPherson	Lennox
Graham Jarvis	Elgin	Pringle George	Lennox
Anne Skene	Findhorn and Kinloss	Marion Ross	Speyside
Claire Brenton	Findhorn and Kinloss	Fraser Dyer	Speyside
Shirley Munn	Finderne	George Gartly	Strathisla
		Andrea Woodhead	JCC Treasurer

In attendance:

Rhona McNicol, Community Support Officer (Moray Council),
Jennifer Montgomery, Senior Project Manager- Bus Revolution (Moray Council)
Steven Robertson, Public Transport Unit (Moray Council)
George McIntyre, Deputy Lord Lieutenant
Chief Inspector Simon Reid (Police Area Commander)
Cllr G Alexander, Cllr S Morrison, Cllr T Coull,

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. The Chairman paid tribute to Lesley Edwards who had died earlier in 2022. She had been a Forres Community Councillor and participant in JCC meetings. Apologies were noted from Carl Wright (Dyke Landward Community Council), Peter Fitch (Innes Community Council), Jim Mountford (Heldon Community Council), Shirley Firth (Portknockie Community Council), Cllr J Allan, Cllr J Divers, Cllr D Gatt, Cllr L Powell, D Ross and Cllr G Leadbitter and Debra Duke (CCLO)

2. Presentation: Jennifer Montgomery – Bus Revolution

The presentation covered what the bus revolution project was. The aims were: to increase numbers using public transport; reduce the environmental impact of transport; and decrease the number of people that faced transport barriers. People in rural areas in particular were forced to use private vehicles. Commercial bus routes for rural areas were often not financially viable. Dial M for Moray routes were limited and those buses were needed for school services.

The first phase would include purchasing 6 new electric vehicles for Dial M for Moray. This phase would be in Buckie and Speyside. A review would be carried out after 6 months. Contact details were provided for any future questions.

Questions and answers:

Do you think it will be a profitable venture?

It will start to generate revenue so ultimately yes.

Why Buckie and Speyside in phase 1?

Mapping had been carried to look at engagement, gaps in service and highest demand for a solution to public transport issues. It would not be feasible to do the whole of Moray at this stage.

Issues were raised with the bus service between Buckie and Portgordon. There was no service between 3pm and 5pm. To ensure space on the bus needed to get on the 3pm bus.

Any feedback and information about services and how timings and assets can meet demand. It was noted that the timetabling of Stagecoach services was driven commercially. This project would look at opportunities and gaps in public transport provision to see where enhancement of Dial of M for Moray could cover that. Having a system that allowed bookings to be made on the day of travel would be beneficial.

Could you confirm that bus passes would still be accepted?

No change to the over 60s travel scheme. A third of residents in Scotland hold these and actively travel by using them. The addition of under 22 year olds taking up free travel is a benefit to projects such as this as it helps remove some of the transport barriers. Also moving to more flexible payment methods would help.

How are you going to ensure that there was more than one passenger on a bus at a time if bookings are made from different areas?

The new IT data system will be able to communicate data to maximise vehicle use and enhance the service.

There is not enough advertisement of services, example of Forres to Mundole. A big improvement would be Sunday services between Forres and Findhorn.

A part of this project is to expand provision for early morning, week nights, late nights and weekends. A larger marketing strategy to promote public transport would be carried out.

How was this project being funded? Would windfarm monies be used for funding?

The project is fully funded by the Scottish Government through the growth deal project.

Scottish Government National Planning Consultation in North East/Highland does not mention integration of transport except in Aberdeen City. How does this proposal fit in with their plans or how would their plans compliment this project?

Scottish Government and Transport Scotland sign off this project. A lot of strategic aims are linked to breaking barriers related to transport. Further work could be done to break down cross council barriers.

3. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the inaugural meeting held on 11 November 2021 were approved.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Treasurer's Report

Andrea Woodhead as the Treasurer of the JCC gave a report.

Bank Balance at 10 February was £161,370.32 including a Joint Community Council grant balance of £2,1169.19. The balance is Participatory Budgeting monies (£152,529.00) and elections (£668.50).

All accounts from 2007 onwards had been scanned and digitally stored. It was noted that the accounts for 2020-21 had been returned by the auditor and submitted to CCLO.

6. Chief Inspector's report

Simon Reid thanked the JCC for the invite to the meeting. He had started in post in December 2021. Community Safety Partnership report had been circulated to all community councils at the beginning of February.

In addition to this report, the following points were made:

- Work had been undertaken alongside Moray Council in relation to driver behaviour and excessive speed.

- Road safety was a broader issue than speeding.
- An upgrade to Elgin custody cells would be undertaken.
- There were now permanent nurses at the custody suite in Elgin.

Questions and comments:

How important do you think CCTV is for the police to carry out their role? How effective is the CCTV cover in Moray?

CCTV was hugely important to the police. It was a useful preventative tool and was important to how the police respond to issues. Experienced CCTV operators were also able to monitor events and deploy officers in advance of issues. A report to Moray Council councillors would be presented soon about the future of CCTV in Moray.

What was happening with the Safer Travel initiative? A working group had been set up but no feedback recently. Could you provide an update about this?

Happy for police to continue supporting this group as this was an area of daily business and a key priority. However community councils would need to take a lead on this. The next step would be for the JCC to set something up and police representation would be on the group.

CCTV does not monitor noise and there are issues with car exhausts causing problems.

Individuals had been charged in relation to car modifications and noise. The police are aware of disruption and noise that these can cause.

7. Lord Lieutenancy update

George McIntyre, Deputy Lieutenant presented an update.

- Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations from Thursday 5 June.
- Local communities were being encouraged to organise events to be part of the celebrations/
- Beacons- although looking to carry out more floodlighting rather than open fire beacons. Would be lit at 9:45pm on 2 June
- Choirs- song for the Commonwealth (to be confirmed)
- Big Lunch- Sunday 5 June. This could be a community event or event with neighbours. Whatever is deemed appropriate for communities.
- Licences for road closures would still be required but Moray Council had waived licence fees.
- Activities would need to be discussed with emergency services.

A list of activities for the Queens Jubilee would be provided and circulated.

Community Councils were reminded that they needed to use Moray Council templates to make submissions to Moray Council.

8. Resilience Plans Update

Since the inaugural meeting of the JCC a number of community councils had approached Jim Patterson for more information about starting a resilience plan. Some communities had built their own resilience plans.

Burghead and Cummington Community Council were being supported with the process first as a test. This would ensure that the documents were fit for purpose and to take forward any points learned to other community councils.

If other community councils would like a brief on the package they could contact Jim Patterson. With the storms experienced by the area over the winter having these plans was important.

The Community Support Officer introduced herself. She had commenced employment with Moray Council in December 2021 and had been involved in community resilience plans in previous roles. For any community council that wanted support building a resilience plan this would be provided by the CSO, Jim Patterson and the CCLO.

SSEN resilience fund would open soon. The CSO would look at submitting an application for the JCC to assist with supporting community councils with their resilience plans. Individual community councils could also submit bids for funding. Funding could be requested to provide items such as generators, household grab packs or other resources to assist with community and household resilience.

If there was a need for funding within a community please contact the CSO soon for support.

Connections within the police and other services would be required. The plan was to consult with other agencies once a draft resilience plan had been prepared. Feedback from agencies would then be considered and included within the plan before a final plan would be produced.

It was noted that some community council areas, such as Lossiemouth, had been badly hit during the winter storms with power cuts for many days. A resilience plan for the community council was required rather than the ad hoc help and assistance that had been provided recently.

It was noted that landlines were being switched to digital from analogue. This would mean that in a normal power cut landlines would no longer work.

9. CCLO Update – Community Council Training

The CCLO was unable to attend the meeting due to a pre-booked holiday. The Chairman read out an update:

- 17 community councils were established after the elections in 2021.
- Accounts and constitutions had been slow to be returned. If your CC had not returned these please could these be done as soon as possible.
- The JCC had been asked to nominate one representative to the Review of the Moray Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour Strategy. Three nominations had been received- no decision confirmed.
- A survey would be circulated to ask for feedback about the induction process and future training needs.
- Please let the CCLO know if you have any requests or ideas for training.
 - There were free OU courses for community councillors available <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/skills-supportOU-CC>
- Community councillors could also join the Knowledge Hub and network online with other community councillors: <https://khub.net/scottish-public-services>

As meetings return to being in person the CCLO will start attending to meet all community councillors.

Please do not hesitate to contact the CCLO with any queries.

10. Community Council updates:

Buckie & District

Still meeting online. Need to engage police and harbourmaster. A meeting was held to discuss establishing a development trust. This was well attended and the next meeting will set up a steering committee. The locality plan is ongoing with 480 surveys returned.

Burghead and Cummingston

Now meeting in person at the community hall as this has enough space for social distancing. Main focus had been the consultation on the closure of the doctors' surgeries in Burghead and Hopeman. A report about this would be presented to the IJB at the end of March 2022. The Clavie went well. A sub group was working on plans to celebrate the Queens Jubilee and 13 people had said they were interested in working on a resilience plan.

Cullen and Deskford

Requested confirmation that it was ok to hold meetings in person. It was confirmed that this was the case if that was the choice of the community council.

A person who wished to stand for election at Moray Council elections in May had expressed an interest in attending a community council meeting. It was confirmed that anyone could attend a meeting as they were public meetings. Public contributions to the meeting would depend on the chair of the meeting and matters being discussed.

The community council was interested in resilience planning. Other matters were the Logie Park revamp and repair of the Mercat Cross. An event for the local elections in May was also being planned.

Elgin

The community council were looking at planting trees on ground at the back of the Wards, adjacent to the railway line. Work had been carried out on parking in the town centre and feedback received had been positive. A pilot for traffic free areas at schools was being assessed and feedback would be provided at a later date. Nature Scot had asked for details of the management system for gulls. Still clarifying with its members when the community council would resume in person meetings.

Finderne

A new chairperson had been elected at the inaugural meeting. Resilience planning was in progress. Big issue was road safety. Householders had been written to in order to give up a small portion of land for a pavement. Some had not responded to communications. An offer of funding had been received for speed indicator devices. The community council had stopped objecting to windfarms as they felt that there was such a drive to expand them that they would just happen anyway. Broadband service was due to be upgraded soon as issues related to the rurality of the area continue.

Findhorn and Kinloss

A big issue was parking in Findhorn along Bay Road. Letters of complaint received about buses and lorries having to mount pavements to pass parked cars and campervans. The community council wanted to take a proactive approach to this issue but not sure how they could do this. They were going to meet with various groups about planting trees for the Queens Canopy. Two tree planting events would be held: one with Kinloss with primary school children; and one with the community. Membership of the community council was currently 8 and a new co-optee for the next meeting. First in person meeting for two years on 24 February.

Forres

Looking forward to meeting in person next week. Resilience planning had started and Jim Patterson had spoken with some of the community councillors. Recent storms had brought this higher on the priority list. Looking at how to put lights around the tower for the Queens Jubilee. And looking at places for tree planting. Like everywhere have issues with narrow streets and modern transport.

Heldon and Laich

Still meeting online partly due to the distance for travelling and the winter weather. Ongoing problems with roads: bridge and overhanging trees. The area was very large and with scattered communities but the group worked well together. Jubilee events were being organised by the communities within the community council area.

Innes:

Community council still has 6 members, could have 10. Held one public meeting since elections, last one was online again. Have had some difficulties finding halls with availability for the meeting dates. The community council had been involved in pre planning application consultation for the Mosstodloch development site. A drone had been purchased between Lennox and Innes and was being used to evidence river and beach changes. The community council said that they did not have good communications with Moray Council officers in relation to problems with the river.

Lennox

Jubilee events were being arranged. Concerns for residents about the increases to energy bills. Starting to get previous plans and actions in place since the elections in 2021.

Lossiemouth

Issues with the parking at the new high school were raised. There were a few disabled parking spaces near the entrances but most of the parking was quite a distance from the building. An application had been made to Money for Moray for play equipment. The community council had been busy providing support and assistance during the winter storms.

Speyside

Busy with responses to major planning applications: maltings in Rothes; and forestry in Glen of Rothes. Other consultations were on the go too. Asked if any community councils were having a presentation about the Town Centre Improvement Plan? Officers had offered to attend community council meetings to make a presentation.

Strathisla

No update.

11. AOCB

Update from Moray councillors in attendance:

Councillor Warren:

Recently elected older persons champion. If community councils had anything to share that would be helpful. One thing to ensure was making older persons aware that funding was available for things such as smoke alarms. Consultation dates for the learning estate strategy had now been released. Encouraged all to attend. It was important that feedback was gathered to ensure that the learning estate buildings were well utilised by communities.

Councillor Coull:

Council budget would be set at the council meeting on 22 February. Town centre consultation was online, encouraged all to read and respond. Keith community council had requested a presentation and this would be held at their next meeting. CCTV replacement would be discussed at full council. Moray Council funded the CCTV equipment and the police funded the cost of running the, On 29 August there would be a Ride the north cycle event starting and finishing in Cooper Park, Elgin. This would be a benefit for tourism.

In response to a question Councillor Coull would pass on request for more paper copies of consultation documents.

12. Date of next meetings 12 May 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed.