

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 12 May 2022, 7pm

Via Zoom

Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Anne Skene	Findhorn and Kinloss
Jim Patterson	Burghead & Cummingston	Claire Brenton	Findhorn and Kinloss
Christine Allan	Buckie & District	Lily Mulholland	Lossiemouth
Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford	David Parker	Forres
Ernest Kopp	Cullen & Deskford	Crinan Dunbar	Innes
James Wiseman	Elgin	Steve Hickin	Keith
Graham Jarvis	Elgin		

In attendance:

Chief Inspector Simon Reid (Police Area Commander)

PI Jim Young (Taser Lead Instructor/STO Taser Lead, Police Scotland)

Debra Duke (Community Council Liaison Officer, Moray Council)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Moray Councillors were elected on 6 May 2022. Details for new councillors had not been confirmed in time to invite them to the JCC meeting.

Apologies were noted from: Mary Evans (Heldon), Marion Ross (Speyside),

2. Approval of minutes – 10 February 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising that had not been included on the agenda.

4. Treasurers Report

Nothing to report.

5. Chief Inspector report

Simon Reid introduced Jim Young to the meeting.

Jim Young was responsible for the roll out of tasers in NE Scotland the Moray area. He provided information, some background to taser use by Police Scotland and an update on what was now changing.

- Tasers were a device that induced neuromuscular incapacitation.
- They were a different and additional tactical option for officers to use to deal with violence and threats of violence.
- Tasers could be used from up to 25feet away.
- Tasers had been in use in the UK since 2003. Had been restricted to firearms officers. Since 2008 this had been changed to Specially Trained Officers (STOs) in England and Wales.

- 2016/17 Police Scotland was seeing an increase in injuries and assaults to officers.
- 2017/18 a pilot was approved in Police Scotland for STOs to carry tasers.
- Data had shown that injuries of officers and subjects had decreased as a result of tasers.
- A taser was deemed to have been used if at any point it was removed from the belt. It did not have to mean that it had been discharged.
- 85% of the time that tasers were removed from the belt they were not discharged.
- When a taser was discharged it was an automatic referral to the Police Review Commissioner.
- Tasers were a tool for officers to use with other methods to try and deescalate the situation.
- Data showed that they were also effective as a preventative tool in cases of crisis for people at risk of self-harm.
- Taser use was below average in Moray.
- Police Scotland was assessing equity of access for officers to be able to use this method.
- Even though taser use in Moray was low officer still needed to be trained and equipped.

Future:

- Taser hubs would be increased from Elgin to also include Forres and Buckie.
- There would be an increase number of STOs in Moray.

In response to questions the following points were made:

- There was a risk of injury from a taser. However, there was also a risk of injury from the use of other restraint methods, such as baton.
- The probes were most effective if they pierce skin but they can be effective through clothing.
- 500 officers could be trained in Scotland per year. It was up to each division how many officers were trained to be STOs. It was confirmed that officers volunteered for the role and required support from line manager to progress to training.
- Cost was not a barrier for training STOs. A significant financial investment had been made to make hubs at Forres and Buckie.
- It was confirmed that officers were double crewed. NE Scotland routinely used body worn cameras. This helped evidence behaviours when devices were used.
- It was confirmed that there had not been one serious medical issues related to Taser use in Scotland.
- In the UK majority of injuries unlikely to be from taser use alone. Injuries can be caused by unsupported falls. But this can occur using other restraint methods.
- It was unlikely that in a situation that a police officer would know a person's medical history be able to take that into account when dealing with the situation. However, if they were made aware then it would be considered with the overall concern being the safety of officers and others.

- It was confirmed that tasers would automatically cut off after 5 seconds. The device could be reenergised and a further discharge might be required. However, this was very rare as the first discharge normally allowed officers to control the situation. Other countries did permit tasers to have a longer discharge time and this would increase risk.

Simon Reid then provided an update on the Moray area.

- The Community Safety Partnership report had been circulated to all community councils.
- The replacement CCTV would be funded and replaced by end of July.
- Police would support resilience planning in Moray.
- Road safety- routine and targeted presence to detect and deter issues.
- An officer will support the JCC road safety group and will attend the next JCC. The work needed to be led by community councillors.
- Roads policing team were working on a new drivers' scheme. Employers can pay for young people, 17-25, to attend the course.

In response to questions:

- Would see if a police representative could attend Cullen and Deskford's next meeting as they would be discussing speeding issues within Seatown.
- If community councils want police attendance at their meetings send a meeting invite to the local Inspector who could allocate an attendee.

6. Lord Lieutenancy update

Apologies from the Lord Lieutenant had been received.

7. Resilience Plans update

JP gave a brief update.

- Community councils who had requested information had been supported.
- A number of community councils and the JCC had submitted applications to the SSER resilient communities' fund, closing date 13 May 2022.
- Resilience planning documents had been shared with communities in Aberdeenshire.

It was acknowledged that it would be useful if Aberdeenshire was using similar documents, particularly for those communities that had a border with Aberdeenshire.

8. CCLO update

i. Report from induction/training survey

Report had been circulated. Generally the induction and inaugural meetings had been well received. As there had been a change in staff in the same week as the election this was positive. Learning points had been noted about the structure of the presentation for the next election. Hopefully future inaugural meetings would be able to be held in person.

ii. Training programme- proposed topics and dates

The CCLO outlined some of the training requirements that had been listed in the survey. There had not been a large number requesting any particular topics except for secretarial and planning. The CCLO asked what community councillors thought

about sessions for those undertaking office holder duties to share their experiences and ideas.

Community Councillor James Wiseman said that he would also be happy to provide information or training to those who needed it for taking minutes. He had previously taken minutes for Elgin CC.

Agreed:

- To arrange a planning training session for end of June 2022.
- CCLO to look at dates for minute taking/secretarial and finance training
- To circulate dates once these had been organised.

9. Community Council policies- to consider new policies and reviews of policies. (policies to be circulated)

i. Complaints policy- to be reviewed; establish working group to work on review.

Community councillors asked what legal support would be available to a community council or community councillors were complained about.

A point to be clarified and added to the policy would be if legal action was taken against a community council or community councillor what should an appointed JCC panel do?

Agreed:

- A working group would be established with 3 community councillors and the CCLO to review the policy and bring it back to the JCC for approval.
- CCLO to check what legal support is available for community councils/councillors through insurance policy or other.

ii. Social Media guidance/policy- guidance for community councils to use and amend.

The draft policy circulated had tried to address social media usage by the CC. It outlined what the CC would use social media for and how it would manage its online accounts. It did not go into lots of detail about personal use of social media, but did remind community councillors that they needed to be mindful of the code of conduct when using social media in a personal capacity and as a community councillor.

Agreed:

- Community Councillors requested more time to look at the policy to determine if it was a policy that their community councils wished to use.
- Community councillors requested guidance for personal use of social media.

iii. Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy- to be reviewed/discussed.

It was suggested that the policy should have a clearer reporting process to enable concerns to be passed on.

Community councillors requested more time to consider this.

10. Safer Travel Moray – sub group- to confirm membership and arrange meetings.

This work would be supported by the police but needed to be community led.

Agreed:

CCLO to email all community councils asking for volunteers to work on this group.

11. Zero carbon Moray

i. To establish a sub group.

Energising Communities working group had started meeting in 2019 and Community Energy Moray had been established as a ben com.

Recently a group had started to meet to discuss next steps relating to community energy and fuel poverty. Membership was made up of community councillors and other persons with relevant interest and experience. Fiona from Rural Network was also supporting the group.

There were lots of issues to consider. There were to be no new gas connections to residential properties from 2024 and no new gas boilers from 2030.

If anyone else wanted to be part of the group please contact the JCC Chairperson or the CCLO.

ii. Zero Carbon/Fuel Poverty event (to be confirmed)

- The sub group was working towards an event in Elgin Town Hall on Saturday 25 June.
- This would be open to the public to attend.
- Other more local events would be held after this.
- The event in Elgin would have stands and information from various organisations about renewable energy, training and advice.

12. Community Council update – 2 minute update from each CC

Burghead and Cummington Community Council

- Still awaiting outcome regarding doctors' surgeries.
- A community councillor was leading a group to organise jubilee events in Burghead.
- Cummington were also organising events.
- The Resilience Planning group was working well with about 14 participants. At the community amenities day the resilience group would have a stall to raise awareness of the plans and see if anyone would volunteer to help or providing skills or equipment.
- At the Moray Transport Forum the issue of transport along the coast to Lossiemouth was raised. If people used public transport it would take 4 hours to get from Burghead to Lossiemouth and return. A dial-a-ride bus was now being provided during 9:30am to 2:30pm Monday to Friday for the coastal villages to access Lossiemouth. It was a three month trial and needed to be used to be considered viable for the future.
- There was still no police attendance at meetings.

Cullen and Deskford Community Council:

- Unfortunately the CC now only had 5 members after a resignation.
- Still working to try and get Moray Council to maintain one public toilet facility in the area.
- There was a speeding issue within the Seatown area of Cullen. This had been raised with Moray Council. Some would like a 20mph zone here.
- Still meeting via Zoom. Hope to resume in person meetings soon.
- Two of the defibrillators had recently been taken but not used. Two will also need replacing soon as they are 10 years old.

Elgin Community Council:

- A hustings was held for the local elections. All candidates had said that they were committed to attending community council meetings if elected.
- Again no police presence at CC meetings.
- Nature Scot had been contacted about seagull issues in the town.
- Parking issues in Elgin had been raised with MSPs, no acknowledgement yet.
- CC not holding any jubilee events as the Rotary were organising an event for Elgin.

Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council:

- Jubilee events would be held over four days and it was a full programme with lots of involvement from different groups within the villages.
- Membership was at 9 and hoped to be able to fill the remaining vacancy soon.
- The Engineer Regiment had carried out community tree planting in April.
- Moray Council officers would attend the May meeting to discuss options for roadside parking along the Bay.
- Dead birds in Findhorn Bay had been reported to Defra due to bird flu.
- Kinloss community consultation would be ongoing over the summer.

Keith Community Council:

- Currently have 8 community councillors but have struggled to get a quorum at a couple of meetings.
- Added a meeting to the timetable to have 10 meetings per year.
- Parking on Mid Street was a problem again with traders using the spaces.
- Notification had been received from Bear that footpaths along the A96 would be resurfaced.

Forres Community Council:

- A hustings had been held for the local council elections.
- Will be appointing a new chairperson as the current office holder was elected to Moray Council
- A request was made to Elgin CC to keep Forres CC up to date with meeting with Nature Scot as Forres also had problems with seagulls.
- Four days of jubilee events had been planned for the town.
- Had discussions with Moray Council about traffic calming measures for the High Street but no progress to date.
- It was confirmed that the elections mailshot for the community council elections in 2021 was being looked into.

Innes Community Council :

- A beacon would be lit for the jubilee at Kingston.
- Flooding issues with the River Spey were ongoing.
- The CC will also contact the police regarding reports and attendance at meetings.

Lossiemouth Community Council:

- A bring your own picnic had been arranged for Sunday 5 June for the jubilee.
- Funding for the soup and sweet had been secured.
- The new bridge to East beach would open on 31 May.
- A request was made to Elgin CC to keep Lossiemouth CC up to date with meeting with Nature Scot as Lossiemouth also had problems with seagulls.
- The CC was supporting a Ukraine appeal and collecting backpacks for children.

13. Closing remark

The chairperson thanked all for attending. The aim would be for the next meeting to be in person, venue to be confirmed.

14. AOCB

None

Date of next meeting – 11 August 2022