

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 11 May 2023, 7pm

Lhanbryde Community Centre

Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Steve Hickin	Keith
Jim Patterson	Burghead & Cummingston	Pringle George	Lennox
Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford	Paul MacPherson	Lennox
Les Tarr	Cullen & Deskford	Louise McBride	Lossiemouth
Graham Jarvis	Elgin	Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth
Graham Murdoch	Forres	Fraser Dyer	Speyside
David Parker	Forres	Marion Ross	Speyside

In attendance:

Laura Russell (Moray Council) Locality Network Lead Officer
Kevin McDermott (Moray Council) Communities Manager
Debra Duke (Moray Council) Community Council Liaison Officer
Catherine Sinclair *Minute taker*

Moray Councillors: Graham Leadbitter, Jérémie Fernandes, Marc Macrae

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were noted from: Deputy Lord Lieutenant Joan Cowe, Chief Inspector Simon Reid, Cllr Derek Ross, Andrea Woodhead (JCC Treasurer), Mary Evans (Heldon), Lindsey Standing (Dyke and Landward)

2. Presentation

i. Locality Networks – Laura Russell

Locality Networks are information sharing groups of front-line workers, third sector organisations, and volunteers who work with Children, Young People and Families. There are around 100 members in Moray. They raise issues of concern, look at evidence, gather information about families' priorities and co-produce solutions. A Moray-wide meeting is followed by East & West area meetings to work on issues raised.

For example, families in East Moray wanted free or low-cost, outdoor activities and more nursery provision. Solutions were provided by signposting Earthtime to grant funding to provide Waddle Toddle sessions, and by Health Walks setting up family walks. Active Start sessions are being arranged which can upskill parents to run sessions themselves. A local childcare provider is being supported to find bigger premises. Laura has also worked with Carolle Ralph looking at prosocial solutions to antisocial behaviour issues in Lossiemouth.

Laura would like to encourage more two-way communication between groups including Community Councils. She will share team briefs, a contact form to raise issues, and agendas for the year. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. Meetings are themed around priorities in Moray's Children & Young People's Plan.

RESOLVED:

- Team briefs will be shared with community councils via the CCLO.
- Agendas for meetings will be shared via the CCLO.

ii. Moray Council Volunteering Policy – Kevin McDermott

The draft updated policy was shared with Moray Council volunteers and Community Councils for feedback. Nine responses were received from Community Councils, which were broadly supportive with a few comments. Feedback has been considered. This is an opportunity for questions and further comments. The aim of the policy is to look after Moray Council's own volunteers such as community responders. It also looks at how Moray Council links with Community Councils, with reference to resilience planning. It is in no way intended to control local volunteering but to support and acknowledge it. Scottish Government wants to better integrate community volunteers, including explicitly Community Councils, in resilience planning after Storm Arwen, because it recognises the speed and effectiveness with which local communities can respond.

Existing volunteers are often open to more than one type of volunteering so awareness of different opportunities can be very helpful. It was agreed that Community Councils should be celebrated during Volunteers Week.

Discussion was held on attitudes to volunteering, volunteer fatigue, capacity, support, training, and expertise. There is a balance between respecting and encouraging volunteers but also recognising when something is a statutory role. There was discussion on the numbers and visibility of Youth Workers and the need to meet young people's needs and involve them in pro social activities and volunteering.

It is difficult to map and maintain lists of volunteers in Moray but tsiMORAY has an interactive map and Morinfo has information on third sector organisations. NHS opportunities are also searchable.

3. Approval of minutes – 9 February 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. Proposed by Marion Ross, seconded by Pringle George

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Treasurers Report

Accounts information was circulated. Bank balances are:

Moray Council admin grant	£2,787	CARES Grant	£0.00
Elections	£231	Energy Fair 2022	-£367
Just Transitions (Money4Moray)	£4,758	Zero Carbon Moray	£293
SSE Community Resilience Fund	£1,221	Previous years M4M	£7,801
Miscellaneous	£50		

Alastair Kennedy recently spoke to the sponsor of the Energy Fair regarding the £367. If this is not received, it may have to be written off.

i. Approve spending for a domain name for JCC subgroup Community Energy Moray
There were no objections to approving this spending for 2 domain names for approx. £46 for one year. There are discounts for registering for longer so this should be investigated.

ii. Approve other spending as required
There were no objections to paying a small amount of expenses.

RESOLVED:

- That the accounts presented were accepted.

- To approve that the domain names for zerocarbonmoray.com and zerocarbonmoray.co.uk were renewed for another one year and to investigate costs for a longer period.

6. Chief Inspector report - Chief Inspector Simon Reid

Apologies

7. Lord Lieutenancy update

Apologies. Joan Cowe emailed to express thanks and heartfelt congratulations for the many events in Moray to celebrate the coronation and activities during The Big Help Out.

8. Resilience Plans update

Ross Fergus and Rhona McNicol are in contact with all Community Resilience Groups. Incomplete plans with only the name of the co-ordinator and address of the village hall are useful. Updated plans can be sent to Ross as they are developed. Support is available to help write plans – contact Debra. There are 10 Groups, 9 under Community Councils and one under Portgordon Development Trust. Prior to Storm Arwen there was one group.

9. CCLO update

Fifty Years of Community Councils – Debra is looking into branding. She suggested Community Councils could submit photos and memorabilia for a display with a launch event. She could organise leaflets and banners, and suggested Community Councils promote themselves at summer fairs and events. She also suggested a short Q&A for social e.g. “Why did you become a Community Councillor?”, “What is the best thing about it?” etc. Details of West Lothian Joint Forum of Community Councils online event were circulated. Discussion was held on other ideas such as celebrating long-serving members and having a social event for Community Councillors. This might be following the August Joint Community Council meeting, perhaps holding it on a Saturday afternoon with an event after. Colin Burch proposed that an initial budget of £200 be approved for banners which could be shared between Community Councils when attending promotional events. There were no objections. Steve Hickin requested branding to share on posters and social media.

Local Development Planning – a series of drop-in sessions are planned. The team will also attend local events such as the Maggie Fair and Dallas Gala. They can attend Community Council meetings – contact Debra to arrange. Any Community Councils interested in Local Place Plans (LPPs) can contact Debra or Emma Gordon. A complete LPP can influence the Local Development Plan (LDP). If the LDP is completed first, the LPP must conform with it.

Online Community Councillor training – Debra held a few sessions with a few attendees. She would like to hear any feedback on how best to deliver training. For example, would a 30-minute training session before a Joint Community Council meeting be useful?

Community Council meetings – please let Debra know if you would like her to attend a specific meeting, otherwise she will attend when possible. Please continue to submit minutes and any membership changes.

An upcoming Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee at Scottish Parliament, on 23 May 2023, to hear evidence about Community Councils. The witnesses include Dr Oliver Escobar, SCDC and The Improvement Service will explore how Community Councils should be structured. The chairperson of the JCC and the CCLO will also be attending. Alastair proposed that if Debra can attend, The Joint Community Council fund this. There were no objections.

RESOLVED:

- To spend up to £200 on promotional materials for community councils, such as reusable banners.
- To organise an event to celebrate 50 years of community councils, preferably on a Saturday.
- To fund expenses for the CCLO to attend the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee on 23 May 2023

10.Feedback from Sub-groups

i. Money for Moray

This year Money for Moray has secured half a million pounds of funding for Just Transition, as have Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. This is largely capital, with a small amount of revenue funding. An initial meeting in Aberdeen earlier in the month was very positive. Last year, 13 successful Moray applicants shared in a third of a million.

ii. Safer Travel Moray

Marion Ross expressed disappointment in the Police response to Community Speedwatch. They advised of the challenges, risks and training required, which the group was already aware of. Funding is more likely with Police support. Debra has spoken to the Police about the requirements for choosing sites for Speedwatch and what else can be done to support safe active travel. She will progress this, ideally with an in-person meeting.

iii. Community Energy Moray

A BenCom has been set up. Clash Gour wind farm has planning permission, subject to resolving radar issues with the MOD. They are also in talks with Berryburn Wind Farm as the extension could have the potential to provide a Moray-wide community benefit.

Zero Carbon Moray and Community Energy Moray are holding a free Energy Fair at Elgin Town Hall on 20th May with several speakers and information stalls.

iv. Transport Forum

The Forum was relaunched March 2022 with an event at the Fisherman's Hall in Buckie. There were themed discussions on local issues. The steering group met to discuss meetings, membership and to draft a constitution, and became a subgroup of the Joint Community Council. A survey about priorities and membership was circulated. Speyside Community Council also carried out a survey exercise along with attending members of the public, which was very useful.

m.connect – new Moray Council on-demand bus service bookable by phone or app. At present there is a lot of overlap with existing services and no evening or weekend services. It is not possible to make group bookings. Hopefully, these issues will resolve over time. There was some concern about barriers to booking online and about abuse of the service by people who could easily use other transport services but use m.connect for convenience.

It would be useful to see bus timetables from all providers at bus stops.

12.Community Council update

Burghead & Cummington Community Council

The main focus has been on the closure of GP surgeries in Burghead and Hopeman. There have been 3 marches to date.

Sandra McKandie from Keiran's Legacy visited. The Community Council is looking into fundraising to support Keiran's Legacy maintaining the public defibrillators.

They are investigating provision of facilities such as a freshwater shower at The Slappy. There are concerns about the frequency of dredging of Hopeman harbour. Moray Council have put a stop to the land clearance around Millie Bothy, Roseisle. Jim Patterson has stood down as Chair and Liz McKnockiter is the new Chair.

Cullen and Deskford Community Council

Having guest speakers at meetings is working well. A recent discussion with the Moray Council Self Directed Support team was very interesting, and the Coastguard is due to attend the next meeting.

The school is establishing a twin town. They have had some issues with broadband, which the Community Council has taken up.

The plans for the playpark have stalled for now as only one business seems to be available to fit equipment in this area.

Colin has been chasing Scottish Water over road repairs.

Over 40 people still attend the now monthly community lunches.

Elgin Community Council

There have been problems with parking. Traffic seems to be increasing on the pedestrianised areas of the town centre.

Moray Council and Police visited to advise that up to 51 young, male asylum seekers, primarily from Eritrea and Iran will be housed in the Eight Acres hotel over the coming weeks under Home Office instruction. The local authority and health service do not receive additional funding to care for them. The men cannot work but can volunteer and receive £9 per week for discretionary spending. They are welcome of course, but there are concerns for how they will be supported, especially considering the trauma they will have faced. Elgin Community Council has recently received a briefing about support and community integration.

Elgin Red Cross has an appeal for suitable clothing for young men.

Forres Community Council

Forres Community Council plan to leaflet the community.

There was a great coronation event at the Town Hall.

David is stepping down as Chair and a new Vice Chair will also be appointed.

Keith Community Council

Two Community Councillors and dearly missed, stalwart community volunteers, Sandy Dixon and Dave Carson passed away this year.

Blackhillock II will potentially be sited near the school, nursery, care home and cemetery. It is sited in Strathisla Community Council's area but is only 100 yards from the boundary of Keith Community Council. Residents and Community Councillors feel it is in the wrong place, and that the name is misleading, implying it would be sited adjacent to Blackhillock I. Drum Farm Battery Park is also larger than was expected and enquiries have been made about safety protocols. Planning information for this was felt to be poor.

Lennox Community Council

An application is to be submitted to Beatrice Wind Farm Community Benefit fund to refresh the gilding on Dallachy War Memorial.

Community Councillors are pleased that Moira Morrison, who has taken on the minutes secretary role, will be co-opted at the next meeting.

Paul MacPherson has attended Community Resilience meetings and is to be a co-ordinator. Work has started on repairs to Portgordon harbour walls and ladders.

Work is underway on the pipeline that will carry maltings effluent out to sea.

Portgordon Village Hall will be closed for 2 weeks for rewiring and fitting low energy lighting and air source heating.

The former Lennox pub is now wind and watertight and being cleaned.

Milne's High School students litter picked the High Street.
There are chronic speeding problems on Ordiquish Road and more generally in Fochabers.

Lossiemouth Community Council

There are problems with anti-social behaviour from large groups of children and young people. The Community Council has been working with Moray Council and Aberlour Youth Trust which is helping, but it has been extremely challenging work. Individual Police officers have been brilliant, but there are not enough officers, and they are under a lot of stress. A Friday night pop-up Youth Café has been run with funding from tsiMORAY. The Community Council is also looking after the public toilets and gardens, and have been litter picking with different community groups. They plan to clean and paint the harbour wall. They continue to collect donations for Ukraine and thank other areas for their support. A useful and constructive meeting was held with Moray Council Roads Department. The weekly soup and sweet continues with around 90 attendees including some taking their lunch away. tsiMORAY health and wellbeing funded has provided a small amount of money for a cook. Payment is by donation. There have been meetings to promote coastal tourism. Lossie has been supporting the protests about GP surgery closures in Burghead and Hopeman.

Speyside Community Council:

Speyside has been inundated with major Planning applications and will be impacted by the proposed bio-digester at Longmorn, in Heldon CC area. They responded to Scottish Government's draft Energy & Just Transition Plan, which was a long, complicated process. For promotion, Speyside Community Council sponsored an issue of The Rothesian magazine and a hanging basket. They would like to reinstate the dilapidated Rothes pavilion, which is listed, and to replace a bridge over Rothes burn. These will require advice, consent, and funding. The severe flash flooding in Aberlour has highlighted the need for Resilience Planning. Thanks to Moray Council Roads staff for clearing silt and drains. There were concerns that nobody from Moray Council was there to assess welfare needs.

13. AOCB

Further discussion was held on the unreliability of bus transport and antisocial behaviour at bus stations, both of which discourage people from using public transport. Laura Russell met with the new Stagecoach manager and Police, and they are aware of problems, are trying to police them, and are looking to develop solutions. She will feedback after her next meeting. Concerns can be forwarded to Alastair Kennedy who will forward them to the new Stagecoach manager who attended the last ECC meeting.

14. Closing remark

Thanks to all those who attended.
Date of next meeting – 10 August 2023. Venue TBC