

Innes Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Lhanbryde Community Centre

On Tuesday 11th February, 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

1. Sederunt: , T Christie (Chair) S. Anderson (Vice Chair), DG. Mackay (Sec.)
C. Dunbar, P. Fitch, J. Mackie, A.Fettes, Kenny Henderson
2. In attendance: T. Cattenach, Clr. M. Macrae, Clr S Morrison, Glan Price &
Chris Perkins, F. Mackie
3. Apologies: David Mackay left the meeting early and James Mackie took the
Minute.
4. Public Session: Nothing to report
5. Police report. D Mackay said none received since October. Chair
commented that ICC had not had any police officer in attendance for some
considerable time. Felt that there were issues on crimes and other
matters that could have an impact on ICC area. Suggested that a letter
be sent to the local Commanding Officer requesting police presence at
future ICC meetings. J Macke said that there was a shortage of police
officers in the area, partially caused by the fact that police officers now
attended every incident/report in pairs. That practice effectively reduces
the police manhours available in the community.
6. Council: Clr Macrae and Morrison gave brief coverage of budget discussions
taking place within the Council. The increase in National Insurance tax will
cost the Moray Council approximately £5 million. The Scottish
Government will contribute 60% to that cost, the balance having to come
out of Council's current budget. A question asked about the possibility
of the Council introducing a tourist tax. The meeting informed not being
discussed within the Council as yet. If it were to be introduced would be
2027 at the earliest as agreements to be made and legislation put in place.
Questions were asked about the situation with the St Giles Centre.
Councillor Macrae said that they could not say much at the moment. It was
discussed in a private session of the Council. The Council had been aware
of problems as far back as 2022 and had been taking steps to recover
outstanding money. However, as the Council were still looking to take

further legal action and there was a possibility of a police investigation, Councillors could make no further comment meantime.

7. Minutes of the last Meeting: 3rd December, 2024
8. The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record; Proposed by : Peter Fitch and seconded by Kenny Henderson.
9. Matters arising from , Kenny Henderson not mentioned as attending.
#9. Council consultation on budget proposals at St Giles Church did not go ahead due to a lack of numbers of the public. #11 The Resilience group had applied for funding through TSI/Money for Moray PB exercise under the name of GKCA. The application was unsuccessful. F Mackie and A Fettes said been little or no communication from N Sanderson for some considerable time. N Sanderson is away until April. Not sure if Speymouth CRG had applied to ICC for the cost of printing the leaflet. Treasurer to check and see if paid out. There will be no action from Resilience Group until N Sanderson returns. #12 J Mackie reported that the Scottish Flood Forum now had a mobile display unit which would be touring Scotland giving advice directly to property owners on how to protect their properties from flooding. ##13 J Mackie reported on a meeting he had with Ann Davidson and that would be detailed later on the agenda. ##16Beaches J. Mackie advised work had started on coastal erosion experimental work at Kingston. Gravel being carted from Speybay Golf Course which was not within an SSSI area. Thought that strange as a decision had been made that gravel in Portgordon Harbour could not be used as it was "contaminated" because outside a SSSI area.
10. Minutes of Special Meeting of 21st January, 2025, re Marypark. J Mackie reminded the meeting of a Special Meeting called on Zoom to discuss plans for a hydrogen production plant at Marypark near Ballindalloch. Minute had been circulated earlier. As Marypark was on the full agenda for that evening full discussion would be held then. Chair asked that copies of the minutes be circulated to those who had not attended the meeting. C Dunbar proposed and T Christie seconded adoption.
11. Correspondence. Most circulated beforehand. The chair said he would attend a public event regarding Blackhill Windfarm.
12. Treasurer's report. C Dunbar, Treasurer said been no transactions since the last report.
13. Climate Café. J Mackie reported he had correspondence and a meeting with Ann Davison. Suggestions are still under discussion regarding

Marypark and will be discussed under the appropriate section of the agenda.

14. Tiendland. Nothing further is happening. Noted that the actual proposed site was immediately over the boundary from ICC in the Speyside Community Council area. J Mackie suggested he could write up a note on observations if ICC decided to make a submission on lodging of a planning application. J Mackie informed the meeting that he had attended a number of online webinars all concerning various aspects of renewable energy and the involvement of communities. The Government putting a push on community ownership in windfarms. Either purchase of a turbine or taking a shareholding in the whole project. Discussion on how that would work and what type of organisation would be required to obtain a shareholding. C Dunbar, reminded the meeting that several years previous ICC and other Community Councils had signed an MOU to set up an organisation to help with the process in Moray. As a result, Community Energy Moray was formed and chaired by Alastair Kennedy, Chair of JCC. That organisation could be used by ICC and others if they considered a stake in any wind turbine development.
15. Pylons. T Christie Chair informed the meeting that the final line of the pylons seemed to have been reached. . The proposed development will comprise a new double-circuit steel structure 400kV overhead line (OHL), approximately 192km in length at an average height of 57 meters. The span lengths between towers would vary depending on topography and altitude but would be approximately 350 meters apart J Mackie had circulated information as to the dimensions of the new pylons. Foot print would be 144 square metres and there would be 9 pylons over two mile stretches.
16. Community Benefits. No update.
17. Hydrogen plant proposal for Marypark. A very robust debate followed. J Mackie gave an update on what actions he had instigated and discussions he had with other organisations. Cllr Macrae said that indications were that a planning application would be submitted shortly by the developers. J Mackie detailed further research he had carried out, all of which pointed towards serious concerns of damage to the overall environment of the Spey Valley and through those concerns a possible impact on economic activity. Reported on meeting with Ann Davidson of TSI Climate Change group. They were willing to organise, run and host a public meeting in Speyside. They could invite government and Council spokespersons, elected members and politicians as well as the public and community organisations. The meeting would be a public meeting at which the developer would expand on their plans, provide missing information, and be open to questioning by those present. A meeting would not be a campaign against the plan but a simple

meeting for the community to understand and get more information from which they could make up their minds as to how they felt about the plans if they went ahead. C Dunbar said that should not be the responsibility of the communities to push for environmental studies but the Government and Moray Council should be carrying out such studies now. Councillor Macrae supported by Councillor Morrison explained that Moray Council could not trigger any investigation/research into any project until such times as a planning application had been lodged. Councillors were very restricted as to what they could do or say publicly. If they indicated that they may be or may not be in favour of any planning application, it could be treated as showing "a vested interest" and prevent them from taking part in any discussion during Council deliberations on the subject. J Mackie informed the meeting that at his request, Richard Lochhead, MSP had asked the responsible Minister in the Scottish Government if any environmental impact studies had been commissioned on hydrogen production plants. The minister declined to give any answer due to the fact that a planning application was due for submission to Moray Council. However, the Minister did confirm that the developer had received government grants towards the development. J. Mackie detailed the contact he had had with Speyside Community Council and indirectly with Glenlivet Community Association. Both were in favour of a public meeting but not before any planning application had been submitted to Council. Before leaving the meeting, D Mackay said that J Mackie had done a lot of research into the whole subject. Said that if the proposed plant did get approval and went ahead it could have serious implications for the River Spey which could impact flooding at Garmouth. Indicated that there was not a Community Council for the area of the proposed development and Innes Community Council, although it could record a letter of observation once planning consent had been applied for, probably could not organise such a public meeting. However, he suggested that the Speymouth Environmental Partnership, not being a statutory body, would have a wider remit on such matters and therefore could be the sponsor of such a meeting. Agreed that J Mackie and T Christie, Chair would look at options available and come back to ICC with suggestions.

18. Offshore Community Benefits. J Mackie reported that the Scottish Government was reviewing the Good Practice Principles for onshore and offshore renewable energy, which seeks to ensure that guidance helps communities and developers get the best from community benefits. The consultation opened on 19th December, 2024 and closes on 11 April, 2025. The consultation paper can be found at <https://consult.gov.scot/offshore-wind-directorate/community-benefits-net-zero-energy->

Mackie handed round a map produced as part of the consultation showing licensed/proposed offshore wind farms. There was one marked to the southeast of Orkney and another five in the outer Moray Firth. He suggested that questions should be asked about any possible alteration to tidal currents in the Moray Firth because of these structures and what if any impact there would be on coastal erosion at Kingston.

19. Consultation on changes to National speed limits. The current consultation asking for public comments on the suggestion that 60 mph national speed limit force should be dropped to 50 mph and a national speed limit of 40 mph for LGV should be raised to 50 mph. Consensus that alteration in 60 mph speed limit would achieve nothing other than longer journey times and greater frustration. J Mackie reported on his visit to an exhibition in Keith. Organised by civil servants. Seemed that minds had already been made up in government. Noted that on the public consultation list of questions identifying various comments on each question. No column for the public to mark "no change" to some of the questions. Instead, a column that said, "don't know". Over all it would give a false result to consultation.
20. Raw Sewage in Garmouth. Complaints have been coming in about raw sewage in the small burn that runs alongside the public hall and discharges into the Black Burn. This has been an ongoing complaint and appears only to happen after heavy rain. SWT has been contacted. Their latest response is that they think the problem was work done by a contractor in South Road where concrete was accidentally dropped in the sewer. The suspicion is that sewage may be coming from a private septic tank at the rear of Church Street or Lemonfield Crescent.
21. Kingston Beach. J Mackie reported that work had started at the Kingston Public Park the previous day. Noted that gravel was being taken by tipper trucks from Spey Bay Golf Course and tipped along the edge of the eroded park edge before being placed by machines. The area to be protected is part of a SSSI area and the reason for the works was to protect the SSSI from non-SSSI material being exposed from the previous cement works, thus contaminating the SSSI area. Noted that previous suggestion that eroded gravel presumably from Kingston/Spey Bay Beach and washed into Portgordon Harbour could not be used for the replenishing works at Kingston because it was "contaminated" and from outside the SSSI area of the coastline. The area from which the gravel is being used is a stockpile on Spey Bay Golf Course and well outside an SSSI area.
22. Traffic Management in Garmouth viz The Cross, Wyndies and Spey Street footpath. Noted that Garmouth is a very old village. Streets were not built to accommodate modern traffic sizes and numbers. Village has a 20

mph speed limit in those areas which is generally but not always adhered to. The contractor for the works at Kingston had notified the secretary about the use of tipper lorries and that consideration would be given as to how and when they would travel through the village. The aim was to have them run in tandem and be mindful of school times at Mosstodloch.

23.AOCB J Mackie gave an update on Petition 2118 which had attracted 96 signatures. C Dunbar reported that the River Lossie Angling Association was concerned about the state of the footbridge across the River Lossie at Kirkhill. They would like any information that could identify when the bridge was first built and by whom so that the ownership thus repairs could be effected.

24.The meeting closed and the Chair thanked everybody for attending.

25.Next Meeting 7 30 pm Tuesday, 4th March 2025, at Lhanbryde Centre.