



Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council

Minutes of Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council Meeting held on Thursday 31 October 2024 at Osprey Room, JMI, Findhorn

Present		Attendance	
A Skene	Interim minute taker	C Low	TFVCC
S Dominey			
A Shepherd	Treasurer		
S Worth	Interim Chairperson	Moray Councillors	
		Cllr K Robertson	
		Cllr P McBain	
		Members of Public	

Item 1 - Welcome

- a. Apologies – D Anderson, R Hutchinson, M La Tourelle, Cllr Van der Horn
- b. Declaration of Interest – to be raised as and when it occurs.

Item 2 – Public Session

- a. Community Safety Report/Police Scotland Report – There was no report in October. In future, due to lack of resources, a report will be provided every three months and sent to the Joint Community Council for circulation to individual Community Councils.
- b. Any other competent public business / public correspondence – two items:
 - 1) L Cameron, Community Support Officer publicised an opportunity for members of the public to attend an in-person workshop on Tuesday 12th November to discuss the 2025/2026 budget priorities and present ideas to members of the Councils senior management team who are working towards making savings of £12.7m over the next two years. Sessions will be at 2-5 and 6-9 in St Giles Church, Elgin.
 - 2) J Caddy from the Hinterland Trust provided information about the dune restoration project commencing on 11th November. The project is an essential part of the Trust's conservation work, helping to regenerate the dunes and restore its nationally important biodiversity. A selected area of dense gorse will be converted to bare sand to ensure survival of rare wildlife species. The work will take place 11-15 November and heavy machinery will be used. The firebreak footpath, heading northwest to Findhorn village will be closed for around 5 days to ensure public safety. Passers-by are asked to keep a safe distance of at least 20m from any machinery and to share with others why this work is happening and its importance to local nature recovery.

Item 3 – Ratification of Minutes of Meeting from Thursday 26th September 2024, in Culbin Room, Kinloss Church

3.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as being accurate, proposed by A Shepherd and seconded by S Dominey.

Item 4 – Matters Arising from 26th September 2024

4.1 (2.b.1) Remembrance Sunday – Request from Findhorn Coastal Rowing Club to lay a wreath. All FKCC members agreed to support this. **Action: A Skene to write to C Weller to confirm that the community council support the laying of a wreath by the Findhorn Coastal Rowing Club and the salute by rowers to represent the users of the bay and those on the water. COMPLETED**

4.2 (2b.2) Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils online survey open until 23 October 2024. Action: FKCC members to review Scheme of Establishment and complete survey. PARTIAL

9.1 A Shepherd reported that the changes to the signatories for the account are complete, following assistance from the bank. **ACTION: A Shepherd to seek removal of historic signatories. ONGOING**

14.2 D Anderson asked the Moray Councillors if the road repair works are not due to start until October, will they be completed prior to Remembrance Sunday? **ACTION: Cllr McBain to speak to Council officers to confirm timing of works and any impact on the Remembrance Service. COMPLETED (Work to begin after the Remembrance Ceremony, weather permitting completed by the end of 2024)**

Item 5 The Findhorn Village Conservation Company

5.1 Local Place plan Presentation on Monday 28th October at the JMI: around 50 residents attended the presentation of the draft LPP given by the consultant from Collective Architecture who took residents through a presentation of the information gathered from the consultations held over the year. The main aspects identified from the Consultation were: Transport and Access; Enhancing Coastal Resilience; Protection of natural assets; Harnessing natural energy; Balancing tourism, residents and enterprise; Conserving and enhancing the area's identity and character; Building sustainable and affordable housing and exploring work opportunities.

It was well received with main queries around how to maintain the character of village whilst providing housing. There may be opportunities to look at existing vacant properties which could be leased/bought, then rented out at affordable rates.

An explanation of next steps was provided together with the need for an action plan that is supported by the wider village, including identifying those with particular skills that would enhance working groups.

5.2 South Toilet Block: closed for the winter. Signage will be on doors to advise of nearest toilets.

5.3 A maintenance plan for the winter is being developed to address the small jobs that need to be kept on top of: posts and rails, weeding, potholes, general tidying up.

5.4 The motorhomes stopover is not as busy but ticking over. Bookings are coming in for the New Year period.

5.5 A new parking sign for the East Car Park has been put up by Moray Council at the entrance to the village. However, it has limited visibility due to overhanging trees and another sign. The issue has been raised with Moray Council.

5.6 The East car park has been busy, which is helping to reduce traffic coming through the village but doesn't appear to be impacting visitors using the local businesses.

5.7 An Autumn Gathering was held at the Armstrong Garages during the afternoon of 26th October. It was a successful and enjoyable event with good attendance.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report

S Kane sent a brief report and confirmed that a more comprehensive report would follow in November.

6.1 Thanks was extended to S Worth for his input towards the upcoming remembrance services. There will be representatives from the Regiment at both Kinloss and Findhorn to lay wreaths.

6.2 The hedge obscuring the traffic calming lights at Kinloss school has been cut back.

Item 7 Chair's Report

7.1 A Skene reported that she had been away most of the month but had attended the local LPP and Autumn Gathering events. Notes elsewhere in the minutes.

Item 8 Secretary's Report/Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence has been dealt with through other items.

Item 9 Treasurer's Report

9.1 A Shepherd reported that the annual accounts had been submitted, audited and approved.

9.2 The Administration grant of £368.44 had been received. The administrative account balance is £1401.20 and the capital account balance is currently £37,725.42 of which £36,234.86 is the fund held on behalf of the Southside community.

9.3 It was agreed to pay the auditor £40.00, same fee as last year.

Item 10 Joint Community Council

10.1 The next meeting will be on 14th November 2024, the venue has yet to be confirmed.

Item 11 Moray Councilors' Report

Cllr Van der Horn sent the following report:

11.1 A tender is out for repair works to the bay road with an anticipated award date of mid-November. The outcome of this will be a complete scheme.

11.2 Enquiries have been made about responsibility for repairs to the sea wall near the beach huts but a response has not been received.

11.3 It's important that people use the m.connect service as requests v capacity needs to be logged and measured.

11.4 Cllr Robertson reported that the Moray Council had passed the Jo Cox civility pledge to demonstrate that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour and promote positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct by all persons in public service and members of the wider public.

11.5 Cllr Robertson also reported that she had attended the Highlands and Islands (H&I) Convention in Shetland. Moray has similar issues to H&I regarding housing, transport, health, broadband roll-out, IT systems in schools. She also reported that she attends the monthly COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) meetings in Edinburgh where Scottish Government policy is debated and other negotiations take place e.g. on pay deals. The Council is looking to develop a Moray wide policy on the use of mobile phones in schools. There is much debate about how much responsibility lies with parents, schools, pupils, for example, some pupils need phones in schools for particular reasons. The big focus at Moray Council is on the Budget debate. There is a funding gap of £12.7m. The Budget will be set towards the end of February.

11.6 Cllr Robertson reported that meetings and discussions are taking place between the RAF, 39 Engineers and Moray Council to find a way forward for the Findhorn/Kinloss Bus service:

11.7 Cllr McBain reported that he was kept busy with constituency work, including Local Place Plans and committee work, especially on issues which come to Planning and the Review Board. He explained how Appeals worked and the Review Board process.

Item 12 Park Ecovillage, Findhorn Report (PEF)

M La Tourelle sent a report:

12.1 She had attended a meeting about the Finderne Community Bus. For the time being there is no scope for extending the service to the Findhorn Kinloss area. The service will need to run for six months and be evaluated at the end of that period. However, a further meeting is planned for 12th November to explore other possibilities.

12.2 PEF Emergency Resilience Plan: There have been three meetings with coordinators and reps to finesse the plan. The plan is now complete and ready for signature. It will be submitted to Moray Council at the beginning of November.

12.3 Local Place Plan (LPP): PEF leads met with Moray Council on 23rd October to discuss the draft plan. The plan needs to be modified. The NFA is holding an LPP Community event on 4th November to assess the Community response to the draft plan and specific aspects such as housing. There is a recognition that neighbouring communities have similar issues and challenges so more link-up between communities is to be encouraged.

12.4 S Dominey reported that the Community Benefit Society (BenCom), Ecovillage Findhorn (EF) is progressing with the Stage 1 buyout. The EF AGM will be held on 11th November when a new board will be elected. The BenCom (EF) has applied for charitable status.

12.5 The Community Birthday is in November and there are celebrations organised.

Item 13 Resilience Planning

13.1 The Findhorn Village Community Resilience Group (CRG) has been working away in the background getting ready for winter. The Just Transition Participatory Budgeting funding application for a state of the art battery storage system for the Village Centre (the primary 'safe place' in an emergency) was approved and from the 7th of November the public will be able to vote for the project - village residents, relatives and friends of the village are all kindly asked to vote online when voting opens - details to be shared via various online and social media channels in due course.

13.2 A number of CRG members from the village and the Park Ecovillage will be attending the 3rd annual Moray Community Resilience event in Fochabers on the 7th of November, when the Moray Council will provide updates on the latest emergency planning activities. Three members of the FKCC will attend this event.

13.3 For anyone interested in supporting the CRG we're always looking for members in all parts of the village who would be willing to volunteer/help out before, during and after emergency events - whether it's checking in on an elderly neighbour or being able to use a chainsaw, any support is extremely useful!

Please contact Rupert Hutchinson at: findhornvillageresilience@gmail.com for more information.

Item 14 Coastal Erosion

14.1 Erosion continues at the embankment alongside the B9011 Bay Road, Findhorn. There is ongoing, regular monitoring of the embankment and road. Works are anticipated to be undertaken towards the end of the year. See PARA 11.1.

Item 15 Planning

15.1 The following planning application has been submitted and was discussed:

24/01513/APP: Renovation and Alterations to cottage at 24 Findhorn, IV36 3YE. No Objections.

Item 16. Any Other Competent Business

- a) Recruitment to FKCC – there are three vacancies on the community council to be filled. Members encouraged to spread the word and interested persons to contact the FKCC.
- b) Remembrance Sunday – S Worth reported that organisation of the events was up to date. The Kinloss ceremony has been rescheduled to 9.15am which gives more time for representatives to travel from Kinloss to Findhorn. On behalf of the FKCC, A Shepherd and S Worth will lay a wreath at the Kinloss and Findhorn War Memorials. The Orders of Service are on the Findhorn and Kinloss FKCC noticeboards.
- c) The Pavilion at Kinloss has been badly vandalised. The anti- social behaviour has been reported to the police but because it is not owned by any party it cannot be investigated as a crime. It was agreed to report to the Community Safety Officer (CSO) at Moray Council. **ACTION: Cllr Robertson to inform the CSO at Moray Council**

Item 17 Forthcoming Community Events

17.1 The following forthcoming events were shared:

- Universal Hall promotions can be seen on website www.universalhall.co.uk
- Kinloss Abbey talk at Kinloss Church, 7pm Friday 8th November. All welcome
- Remembrance Ceremonies, Sunday 10th November: Kinloss Abbey War Memorial 9.15am; Findhorn War Memorial 9.45am
- In-person workshops for members of the public to discuss the 2025/2026 Moray Council Budget. Tuesday 12th November 2-5pm and 6-9pm in St Giles Church, Elgin.

Item 18 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 28th November 2024, 7.00pm at the Culbin Room, Kinloss Church, Kinloss