



Findochty Community Council Minutes

Date: Monday 3rd March 2025

Time: 7pm

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Attendees -

Community Councillors: Anne Braidwood (AB), Cheryl Birtwistle (CB), Jeffrey Masterson (JF), Ron Dawson (RD), Stephen Birtwistle (SB), Paul Steel (PS)

Associate members: Paul Kerrison (PK)

Members of Public: 3

Moray Council: Cllr Warren

Community Police:

1. Welcome from Chairperson.

AB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Stuart and Cllr McLennan. AB advised the committee that she had reached out to John Gardiner but had not received any response, so she will write to advise he will be removed from the committee.

2. To receive Community Police Update.

No community police report this month, from last month's update, we are aware we should receive an update in April. It was highlighted to the committee that there have been some cases of antisocial behaviour with children causing a disturbance in the village. The advice given was to report this to either the council report it, or Crime Stoppers/police. PK will put up a post with advice on the Facebook page.

3. To approve the minutes held on 13th January 2024.

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

4. To receive Treasurers Report.

PK provided the report and advised outgoings since last meeting of £330.78.

Outgoings -

£19.50 on ink cartridges

£32.78 end caps for dog waste dispensers

£49.39 acrylic tubes for dog waste dispensers

£199.11 Andrew Slater grass cutting expenses

£30 honorarium

No income has been received.
This leaves the current balance at £6,772.74
This is made up of
Admin Grant - £1,700.29
Events Fund - £837.52
Maintenance Fund - £2,401.06
General Fund - £1,833.87

PS handed PK expense receipts for the boat work at top of village, approximately £140, this will be reflected in next month's accounts..

5. To consider Community Feedback from email and Facebook received prior to the meeting.

We received feedback from Nicola Moss in regard to our email supporting the 20mph speed reduction for the village. We are now awaiting the list of roads which will be adopted for this initiative as to whether Findochty will be included.

An email was received from a community member regarding the plans for the coming months and the grass cutting, some discussion was held, and it was agreed there is a priority to get funding to enable us to get our storage shed. PK and PS looking at quotes for the base of the shed, this will then allow us to submit an application to the Common Good Fund. PK did advise he would be happy to store the push along mower if this helped with access for mowing.

A request was received for us to discuss the refurbishment of the path between Portknockie to Findochty similarly to what has been done on the Cullen path. Also the maintenance of the benches along that path. CB advised we had previously enquired with Sustrans last year, but were advised there was no funding left available. PK to reach out to Sustrans again. It was discussed if Men's Shed could be approached regarding the benches. AB agreed to discuss with the Men's Shed.

The primary school PSG had emailed to ask if community council could support their upcoming Bingo Fundraiser. It was agreed to donate a £25 Tesco voucher as a prize. CB thanked the community council on behalf of the PSG.

Tim Smith local landscaper has been in touch to advise he would be willing to offer some help, and get involved.

6. To discuss Buckie High School Refurbishment Funding.

AB advised that she had been contacted by Peter West Chair of Buckie Community Council regarding holding a public meeting to discuss the future of Buckie High. AB advised herself and PK are meeting with Peter on Thursday. Committee member SB voiced he would have liked to be included in these discussions, as he was currently personally advocating for funding for the High School. SB expressed his disappointment at not being given more notice of the meeting on Thursday as he would not be free to attend and be included in the discussions. AB advised she was only given notice of the meeting on Friday prior to Mondays meeting. AB and PK to attend meeting on Thursday and feedback to the committee.

Discussion was held on how as a community council we could support the push for funding. It was agreed that we should be looking at the Scottish Government, and emphasis on the rights of the children not being met with the school not fit for purpose and below suitable condition.

7. To discuss Community Council Website.

PK advised our website was now up and running and had been gaining traction. PK has been updating events as he sees them. He has also optimised the website to show up on search engines.

8. To discuss Community Council Resilience.

PK updated us on the work of the resilience team. The plan has been Submitted to Moray Council for consideration and approval but no feedback received yet. The plan is now on version 2 with some amendments having been updated. PK advised that the grab bag had now been purchased via the council procurement. A request for funding for 6 walkie talkies was still in progress. The resilience group are holding a Community Resilience Consultation on 11th April, with various people attending including Debra Duke, a representative from SSEN and if possible, a unit from the fire station. The theme of the day will be – Scenario of a power outage. The group are sourcing display boards from Debra Duke to display approximately 6 large posters. PK advised they required some funding in order to have posters printed, possibly other promotional materials, and refreshments for the day. A £200 budget was approved for expenses for the event.

9. To discuss maintenance of The White Mannie.

PK advised he had contacted a specialist statue renovation company from Rothes. They provided a quotation to strip and repaint, remove and repair broken render and suggested painting of the base so it looked tidy. The price for this was £3000 plus vat.

It was agreed that this was a costly repair option, for which we would need to secure external funding. It was suggested to contact the Lord-Lieutenant Andrew Simpson regarding any possible funding streams. Committee member SB suggested it would be beneficial to obtain some further quotes: it was agreed PS will reach out to local companies for further quotes.

10. Reports

a. To note reports from Local Councillors

Apologies were received from Cllr Stuart and Cllr McLennan.

Cllr Stuart gave an update via email:

- Budget at council was approved.
- Buckie Community High - all 3 ward councillors jointly are seeking a meeting with Interim CEO to discuss what has unfolded regarding lack of funding and what is next. Need to focus on place and communities.

Cllr McLennan also emailed his updates:

- Speeding and 20mph zones: Cllr Warren and I to bring forward motion for Findochty to be 20mph.
- 23 Feb I posted update on surface dressings on roads, including Findochty. Council teams now looking at it.
- Buckie High- many enquiries to me. I continue to push for progress on this important matter.
- Budget- my inputs can be seen via the council public broadcast, including mention of the above.
- Street lighting Findochty - issues have been raised about street lighting. I raised this with officers and have the following response: "lanterns in Findochty are supplied by a manufacturer in which we have experienced lantern failures. Work is progressing to have all these lantern types replaced under warranty and at no cost to the Council. We are just awaiting confirmation from the supplier to advise when replacement works will start."

Cllr Warren updated the group:

- She is pushing for the repair to street lighting, but as Cllr McLennan advised the repair is awaiting manufacturer warranty.
- Cllr Warren advised there have been no updates following the Learning Estate Review working group at the end of last year.
- Harbour fees set to increase by up to 5%.

b. To note report from Town Hall

PK met with the Town Hall for a test of the generator which went well, and an area for storage of the grab bag was identified. No further updates.

c. To note reports from Community Council Sub groups

● **Harbour Advisory Group**

No updates.

● **Christmas Lights**

AGM was held 19th February at the Men's Shed.

● **Maintenance/Gardening**

PS advised he had completed the edging for the boat display. Men's Shed is to paint the boat ready for us. No strimming required at present. CB advised that the insurance had given approval for the shed. Quote for concrete base to be obtained before proceeding with Common Good Fund application.

● **Defibrillator**

RD advised that on monthly inspection the battery is now at 2 bars, so will require replacement soon.

11. AOCB - To discuss any other matter not raised elsewhere on the agenda that can be added as agenda items for future meetings.

Discussion on securing the dog waste dispensers, approval to use jubilee clips if these will work better.

AB advised that they are awaiting a quote for outside painting of the toilets; they will then submit the bid for refurbishment funding. AB has also sourced sanitary products to be supplied in the toilets.

PK has reported the continual running from the flush in the toilet and 2 lights not operational. JF reported that the ladies toilet is no longer flushing well; AB will email Sharon from the waste team at Moray Council.

Date, time and venue of next meeting

Monday 7th April at 7pm in Findochty Town Hall

Meeting closed at 20.38.