

**Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 22 May 2025, 7pm
Elgin Community Centre – home of Elgin Town Hall**

Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Steve Worth	Findhorn & Kinloss
Peter West	Buckie & District	Steve Ferris	Forres
Jim Patterson	Burghead & Cummington	Graham Murdoch	Forres
Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford	David Parker	Forres
Steven Christie	Elgin	James Mackie	Innes
Brian Irvine	Elgin	Steve Hickin	Keith
Peter Taylor	Finderne	Lily Mulholland	Lossie
Anne Skene	Findhorn & Kinloss	Marion Ross	Speyside

In attendance:

Karen Greaves, Chief Executive, Moray Council
Moray Councillors: Juli Harris, Elaine Kirby
Aimee Stephen, DYW
Sarah Barnes, Programme Manager, DYW
Inspector Neil Morrison, Police Scotland
Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire
Debra Duke (Moray Council) Community Council Liaison Officer
Catherine Sinclair, Minute taker

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone.
Apologies: Mary Evans, Heldon Community Council

2. DYW

Aimee Stephen and Sarah Barnes gave a presentation on Moray's Developing The Young Workforce, a Scottish Government organisation aiming to reduce unemployment and prepare young people, ages 3 – 24, for the workplace. Through partnership working in schools and with employers, DYW acts as a link between education and business e.g. bringing employers into classrooms, working with employers on employee needs, organising funding and upskilling for employers, holding careers fairs, charity fairs, supporting Young Philanthropy, mock interviews, CV preparation, and promoting different career pathways.

DYW also works with communities. They can help bridge gaps between schools and communities, promote volunteering opportunities to young people, and facilitate networking, including regular evening events for businesses and volunteer organisations. Working with community groups helps build young people's employability while boosting the group's visibility. DYW can help community organisations tailor volunteering opportunities for young people that fit well with the school curriculum.

DYW also runs Mentoring Young Talent for young people aged 12-25, often from a challenging background. Mentees are given training and work 1-to-1 with a young person for around an hour a week for a year.

Employers can take part in Career Ready, working 1-to-1 with 5th & 6th years once or twice a term and providing a 4-week paid employment placement.

Both Mentoring Young Talent and Career Ready can be transformative for young people.

Discussion was held on DYW provision for young people with additional support needs (ASN), particularly earlier intervention and support. DYW has specific KPIs around ASN and has recently done work with employers including identifying and upskilling employers to take on students with ASN for work experience and apprenticeships. They work with ASN staff in

schools and have acted on feedback about careers fairs to make them more accessible to students with ASN.

ACTIONS:

1. **CCLO to circulate contact details – DYW is happy to have 1-to-1 discussions**
2. **Community Councillors to tell DYW if you wish to engage with schools and how or if they are interested in mentoring**
3. **Community Councillors can speak to DYW about potential collaborations on funded projects for Moray**
4. **Community Councils to consider joining the schools asks database to see requests about talks, charity fairs etc.**

3. Karen Greaves, Chief Executive, Moray Council

Karen started her career in Aberdeenshire, working for Grampian Regional Council. Latterly she has worked for Orkney Islands Council and in business. She intends to visit all Moray Community Councils individually. She has worked closely with Community Councils and community groups in the past, particularly during Covid. She feels there needs to be strong partnership with local authorities and good engagement from them. There are challenges ahead in Moray, particularly with funding of local government services, but also opportunities with several big developments coming up. Karen feels it is essential that communities benefit from local developments, especially now with fewer sources of funding and reduced income from fundraising.

4. Approval of minutes – 13 February 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February were confirmed as a correct record. Proposed by Brian Irvine, seconded by Steve Ferris.

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Police Update – Inspector Neil Morrison

Apologies from Chief Inspector who is unable to attend.

Police Community Council reports – a little feedback has been received about the new layout and frequency, some positive, some negative, but most Community Councils have not given any feedback.

ACTION: The Chair suggested Community Councils add the Police Report as an agenda item and provide feedback re new Police Report

A new, Moray-wide Proactive Unit is being set up to deal with acquisitive crime such as drugs, organised crime, housebreaking, car theft etc. This will provide more staff in Moray to deal with acquisitive crime cases which do not require CID involvement.

There was a discussion on parking issues. Inspector Morrison will add issues to patrol plans where feasible but, because parking scores low on the threat, risk, and harm matrix, it is difficult to have officers free to attend parking issues as they happen. Elgin Community Council is lobbying for parking offences to be decriminalised so that wardens could deal with them if funding allows.

There was discussion on people being afraid to take the bus into Elgin Bus Station. Patrols are still attending at weekends, but Inspector Morrison will feed this information back.

There was discussion on a lack of response to repeated enquiries for advice from Police.

Inspector Morrison will provide a named contact who will contact Cullen Community Council.

There was discussion on a lack of response to a complaint to Police Headquarters around a child protection issue. There is currently a long backlog due to staffing issues.

7. Lord Lieutenancy update

Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire

The following points apply to Moray and Banffshire Lieutenancies

Thanks to Community Councils and Moray Council for their work on VE day celebrations, which were well attended.

VJ 80 day is on 15 August. It is important not to forget the forgotten army, who served in the far east. The day will be nationally recognised, and it would be good to see events in Moray, such as attending war memorials and other acts of remembrance. Please let the lieutenancies know if you are holding any events locally.

Honours system: Please nominate any individual you feel goes above and beyond for their community to the Lieutenancies so they can investigate and make a case for an honour to be awarded.

8. Community Council updates

Buckie Community Council

- Eleven of 12 Community Council seats have now been filled, the most recent through the Buckpool Harbour Group becoming a Community Council subgroup.
- Active recruitment is still ongoing, with an emphasis on explaining to people the benefits of being a Community Councillor in terms of support for their local campaigns or interests.

Burghead and Cummington Community Council

Two new members from Cummington have joined the Community Council. A successful VE day celebration was held.

Cullen & Deskford Community Council

- The Royal visit from Princess Anne on April 9 went very well.
- The Community Council now has a website, thanks to Les Tarr. Deskford Hall is also using it as a portal.
- In conjunction with Jill Sowden, Moray Council Community Development Worker, there will be a volunteering fair in Cullen on Sunday 5 June 11am to 1pm. Seafield Hotel kindly offered their venue free of charge.
- Cullen Community Centre is now running a 'by donation' community café.
- The latest issue of the Cullen Connected newsletter is out. It is 24 pages long showing good community interest and engagement. It features a sculpture based on the winning entry of the Community Council hosted primary school competition to illustrate "If Cullen Skink was a thing, what would it look like?" The 3-D model will be on display in the Cullen tourist office.

ACTION: Colin to email Cullen Connected to the CCLO for circulation

Elgin Community Council

- Parking and gulls continue to be issues of concern. An unsatisfactory response was received from NatureScot re gulls.
- Work is ongoing on Elgin Town Board.
- Planning applications include responding to a proposed quarry in Birnie, as traffic issues from this would impact Elgin.
- Work on resilience planning is ongoing with Brian making updates to the plan.
- A positive meeting was held with NHS staff who provided a lot of useful information.

Finderne Community Council

- Of the current 5 Community Councillors, 3 intend to retire and 1 new person may be available part-time. It is challenging to find Community Councillors in a population of around 1,000 which has several active community groups and organisations.

- Brockloch affordable housing development in Rafford was approved last week. It has been controversial, but the Planning department has addressed all matters raised. The Community Council worked closely with Finderne Development Trust on this.
- Resilience kit has been received and distributed to halls. The Community Council is struggling to get permission to use OS mapping in their plan. The risk of wildfires is of concern in Finderne.
- The Local Place Plan has been submitted.
- The Community Council has asked Moray Council to consider reviewing a road and reducing the speed limit to 30mph as it now enters a built-up area. The Community Council has decided it cannot insure its donated speed monitors.
- After a complaint about lack of Moray Councillor attendance at meetings, 3 came to the last meeting and have said they will continue to attend.
- Califer Viewpoint has been proposed as a potential motorhome site to almost universal unhappiness. This was discussed with Moray Councillors.
- A complainant asking for help with anti-social behaviour was successfully signposted to the Moray Council website.

Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council

- There are two well-established resilience groups, one in Findhorn village and one at the Ecopark. There is not one in Kinloss.
- All households have received resilience information, including the contact for their zone. Through funding available to Community Councils, both resilience groups received funding for equipment.
- Thanks to some good co-operation a 'blue light' route through the Ecovillage to Findhorn will be made available in the event of the B9011 road being closed.
- There is still no solution to the withdrawal of the bus service, which particularly affects base families in Kinloss who often rely on it. The MOD have raised money but are still short of the amount required to create a minimal service. Work is still ongoing with Moray Council to try and establish a regular, timetabled M-Connect service.

Forres Community Council

- The Local Place Plan is almost complete.
- The first meeting of the Culture & Heritage management group has been held. They are now seeking a project development manager so work on the built environment can commence.
- Six grab bags of health & safety kit have been procured as part of the resilience plan. A company has agreed to provide 2 radios to trial to assess coverage, with a view to buying 7 radios if suitable.
- The town map boards have updated information.
- More than 150 people attended a Community Council meeting to discuss the possible closure of Forres House due to the Sports & Leisure review. The meeting went well and was productive. Feedback is awaited from the Moray Council workshops.
- The public consultation about the proposed site for a new Forres Academy is about to start. The chosen site has proved controversial.
- The nationally important Falconer Museum collection has been in storage for several years since the museum shut. Volunteers are looking for additional Trustees to take a business plan forward to re-open on a short-term basis with a view to building the museum back up to its previous status as a 5-star tourist attraction.
- Forres Baptist Church would like to buy the Common Good land it sits on. It is felt that not enough information has been provided to answer the consultation. The sale would put £180,000 into the Common Good Fund however it is interest on this that is dispersed, not the capital sum. If the building was to be empty, that will create a liability for the fund. Forres Community Council have written to Moray Council to ask the consultation is halted until more balanced and detailed information is available.

Innes Community Council

- A red duster is raised on Kingston beach on the Sunday nearest 3 September to honour and remember the sacrifices of the Merchant Navy. In the last two years there has been vandalism including theft of the flagpole, flag, and pulley. It is currently only possible to put the flag up with an elevated working platform.
- A FOI request was submitted to statutory bodies regarding River Spey flooding. Speymouth River Group submitted a petition to Scottish Government for a complete review of flooding costs. A FOI to SEPA regarding sources of data revealed the data is based on flooding in the central belt using data from 3 English river basins. Work is ongoing with other coastal Community Councils on this matter.
- Innes and Speyside Community Councils have been working closely on the proposed hydrogen plant site at Marypark, Aberlour. There have been over 180 objections so far. It is proposed 5,000 litres of water a day could be removed from boreholes without affecting the river. The Spey is already the most abstracted river in Scotland and drone footage taken by Jim shows current low river levels. This site is not identified on Moray Council's report on potential hydrogen plant sites. Scottish Government has an expectation that hydrogen plants will be coastal so they can take advantage of renewable energy from offshore wind farms. Energy from this site would be offset rather than directly renewable. Jim is willing to film drone footage for other Community Council consultations or projects if required.
- DTAS has funding for employing a project co-ordinator short term to support development of community projects that have a viable business plan.

Keith Community Council

- There will be two resignations and one retirement at election. The remaining Community Councillors intend to stand.
- Union Bridge repairs have dominated meetings for the last year. Amey have not communicated reasons for delays well. It took several months to find a contractor able and willing to take on the work. Further delays were due to sightings of otters, a rare bird and a second gas leak in Keith. Traffic control should be removed 10 July and works should close 25 July, one year and 4 days after they opened.
- A request for support with a Housing issue was received. This was discussed with Moray Councillors, one of whom was already aware of it.

Lossiemouth Community Council

- Coastal erosion is a major concern, particularly affecting the West Beach car park. There is a community engagement drop-in session tonight with several agencies attending. The Christmas tree project is working well with sand now halfway up each tree. A thousand marram grass plants were planted with help from local schoolchildren. This is also working and will be repeated.
- The VE day celebrations were well attended and 90 people attended a VE day lunch.
- There is now a banking hub in Lossiemouth, open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.
- An M-Connect route now connects Lossie to Burghead via Duffus and Hopeman. The Community Council has written to the M-Connect manager to ask the route within Lossiemouth is improved.
- The new mural on the harbour wall cost just over £2,000 and has generated a lot of interest, with over a million hits on the website and an increase in tourism.
- The annual litter picks have been organised.
- There is a subgroup dealing with the motorhomes consultation. It is felt the survey was weighted. Proposals for Lossiemouth would use 5 car parking spaces with parking already under pressure.

Speyside Community Council

- The Community Council advertised for people to attend a meeting to express their views about the proposed hydrogen plant at Marypark. It was well-attended, including by people outside the Community Council area. Outfit Moray, Glenlivet fisheries and other river users also attended. Those present wished the Community Council to submit an objection, which has been done.
- A response was submitted to the guidelines on good practice on Community Benefit.
- A request to extend the maltings planning application to 2030 was received. The Community Council asked if Environmental Impact Assessments would need to be updated and this is to be investigated.
- The Community Council will again sponsor flowers, tubs, and baskets at a cost of £30 to each of the 8 communities and village council.
- More resilience kit has been purchased and dispersed. Marion delivered free period products to the 8 communities.
- A £378 donation given to the Community Council for a youth project has been donated to fundraising for the playpark.
- The online Democracy in Planning event was very good.

9. Treasurers Report

i. Receive Quarterly Report

The report covering 11/03/2025 – 15/05/25 was circulated. The opening balance was £9,120.83. £8.50 of expenses (bank charges) were paid out, £500 of admin grant income was received, and the closing balance is £9,612.33

10. Resilience Plans update

Per individual Community Council updates.

11. Training

i. Looking ahead to induction

See also circulated elections subgroup report. In 2021 induction took place online due to Covid. Would Community Councillors prefer induction and inauguration to be together or separate? Should they be 1-to-1 with each Community Council or in groups?

ACTION: Provide feedback to CCLO re times and places for induction

12. CCLO update

The CCLO has circulated and printed Community Council health checks. They are quite lengthy documents but please complete as far as possible as they will be helpful to update the handbook and training plans. These can be submitted electronically or on paper, ideally by the end of August.

ACTION: Community Councils to complete and submit health check

The CCLO will attend a CCLO event in Stirling, the first in-person national meeting since Covid.

She asked if there were any issues for her to take to the event.

There has been no further information from the Strengthening Community Councils event that Debra and Alastair attended, and no updates about West Lothian's proposed national Community Council body.

The second phase of consultation on the amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils starts next week.

13. Feedback from Sub-groups

i. Election subgroup

A report with appendices was circulated with marketing suggestions to be considered. The CCLO will be focussing on areas where there are no or at-risk Community Councils. There will be some Moray-wide promotion, and each Community Council is also responsible for promotion in their area. Volunteers will be needed to attend events and to cover the 3 areas

which do not currently have Community Councils – Dufftown & District, Glenlivet, and Hopeman & Covesea. Discussion was held on some of the marketing suggestions. It was proposed that the Joint Community Council pay for the Spotlight advert. There were no objections. Marketing materials will feature the existing “Be At The Heart of Your Community” logo and the generic Community Council email plus a link to Moray Council’s Community Council webpage. Leaflets could be specific to each area or generic with the individual Community Council contact details on the reverse. Posters will also be available. Attendance at events was discussed.

ACTIONS:

1. **JCC to fund the cost of the Spotlight advert, September edition, in 4 of the magazines that cover all of Moray. CCLO to arrange this.**
2. **Community Councillors to let CCLO know if they can volunteer to help at any events or are willing to appear in a PR video about Community Councils**
3. **CCLO to ask if posters could be displayed in M Connect buses and Big Blue Bus**
4. **CCLO to attend Moray Pathways Volunteer marketplace 3 June in Elgin**
5. **Volunteer required to attend Moray Pathways Volunteer marketplace in Forres 6 June**
6. **Steve Ferris to request stall at Forres Highland Games – Anne Skene can attend**
7. **CCLO to contact Hopeman Gala re stall and will attend Cabrach picnic – this is the same day as Cullen Sea School Harbour Gala**
8. **CCLO to enquire about cost of stall at Strathspey Highland Games**
9. **CCLO to add Finderne Development Trust to marketing list**
10. **CCLO to ask if Mark Hindley would add information to Forres Local Website**
11. **CCLO to investigate Tomintoul and Dufftown Highland Games and Tea in the Park (Glenlivet) and ask if The Cabrach Trust might be willing to pay for a stall**
12. **Alastair to speak to David MacKay of the Press & Journal about an article**

ii. **Money for Moray – c/f to next meeting**

iii. **Community Energy Moray – c/f to next meeting**

iv. **Transport Forum - c/f to next meeting**

v. **Admin Grant Subgroup – c/f to next meeting**

14. Feedback from Groups Community Councillors appointed to:

i. **Moray Community Safety Strategic Group – c/f to next meeting**

ii. **Moray Nature Network Steering Group – c/f to next meeting**

iii. **Road Safety Champions – c/f to next meeting**

15. Closing remark

The Chair thanked Karen Greaves for attending and thanked Catherine for the minutes.

16. AOCB

None

17. Date of next meeting 15 August 2025 (venue to be confirmed)