

DRAFT

HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2025

at Mosstowie School at 7.30 pm

Chairman	Mr J Mountford – Dallas	
Treasurer	Mr S Williams – Roseisle	
Secretary		
	Mrs M Evans – Duffus	Mr W Mustard – Fogwatt & Birnie
	Mrs D Kelly – Alves	Mr K Milne – Miltonduff
	Mr A Lyons – Roseisle	Mr C Souter – Miltonduff
	Ms S Hodder – Pluscarden	
Attendees	Councillor Bridget Mustard	Mr A Fordyce – Loanhead
	Ms H Ospazuk – Birnie resident	Ms T Fordyce – Loanhead
	Mr D Barrett – Loanhead	Mr D Kelly – Wester Kintrae
	Mr A Munro – The Level	Ms C Munro – The Level
	Ms N Beaton – Loanhead	
Apologies	Mrs L Smailes – Pluscarden	Mr W Duncan – Fogwatt & Birnie
	Mr N Sutherland – Dallas	Ms H Stewart – Roseisle
	Mr C McCarthy – Birnie	Mr A Wallis – Birnie
	Ms J Kirby – Miltonduff	Councillor Neil Cameron

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mrs L Smailes, Ms H Stewart, Mr N Sutherland, Mr C McCarthy, Mr A Wallis, Ms Jo Kirby, Mr W Duncan and Councillor Neil Cameron.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 06 May 2025 were approved.

Proposed: Mr A Lyons Seconded: Mr W Mustard

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Spynie Battery Storage: the final date for submission of our input has been postponed, probably until the 26th, though this has not yet been confirmed. The Council has indicated that it is happy that procedures were being followed.

Two submissions from concerned members of the public had been received. It is important, with submissions, to focus on the important core objections such as fire safety, noise and transportation.

Concern was expressed about the fact that the company seemed to be looking at a considerably greater output than the original 49.9 kw. It was pointed out that the company will only get approval for their actual request and that if they decide to change this then a fresh application will have to be made. It is important to make sure that the maximum output is clearly indicated in the application.

There will be other proposed sites with companies competing for approval from SSEN who will then choose which sites they need.

There was considerable discussion about the transportation problems with the roads concerned being single track with passing places. There was also concern about safety issues such as the children who attend the nearby nursery. M.connect will not allow a bus to use the road because of safety issues and it would be helpful to obtain a statement to this effect from the Council Public Transport Unit.

Any recommendations we submit and any objections made by the public will be put to the company which has to take these into account. If they fail to take account of these then permission will not be granted. Members of the public were advised to submit specific concerns in a concise format to members of the Planning Committee.

The Chairman stated that we are happy to support the members of the public.

b) Birnie Quarry: we have made a submission on this and have received a response. We are writing on behalf of the community, focusing on planning issues.

c) Speeding issues: this has not yet been taken forward but progress will be made.

4. ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Community Council Election Plans: Moray Council will have a stand at the Forres Highland Games to raise awareness of the forthcoming elections. A request for help on the stand has been received.

b) Landline switch over: there has been publicity about this so there should be an awareness of the fact that it is taking place. Concern was expressed about potential difficulties in navigating the change.

c) SEPA consultation process: SEPA is carrying out an environmental assessment. Anyone who is interested can take part. The Chairman will circulate the details.

d) Community Engagement Programme: it would be useful to have a website which could be used for all issues rather than having to navigate through a number of different ones to obtain information.

e) RTS meter switch off: SSE has been sending out letters to those affected.

5. FINANCE REPORT

No income has been received since the last meeting.

The Fisheries Project is now complete and payment will be made once costs have been confirmed.

After some discussion it was decided not to participate in Scotways.

Finance since the last meeting:

Income	£ 0
Expenditure	£ 2,747.47

Balances:

HCC	£ 3,020.20
Roths 1	£ 4,046.45
Roths 2	£22,491.80
TOTAL	£29,558.45

6. OTHER PLANNING ISSUES

a) Quarrywood Battery Storage Unit: this is the same project but the name has been changed.

b) Longmorn: this has gone to appeal.

7. A.O.C.B. to include area reports

a) The new headteacher has been appointed to Mosstowie School with the acting headteacher appointed to the post.

b) Duffus is working on its Resilience Plan.

Date, time and venue of the next meeting:

Tuesday 29 July 2025 at 7.30pm. Venue TBA

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.