



*The City and  
Royal Burgh of  
Elgin  
Community Council*

**Minute of a meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**7pm at Elgin Community Centre**

Sederunt: **See attachment A**

**Alastair welcome all present to the last meeting of 2025, and indicted that there would be a social event on conclusion of the meeting.**

ITEM	CONTENT	ACTIONS
<b>Guests</b> <b>Johnathan Heald (drone operator)</b>	Jonathan has come along to present the findings of a recent drone survey above Elgin Academy to establish gull numbers on the roof, this was carried out on our behalf. We should bear in mind that this survey was carried out on 16 <sup>th</sup> September, out with the expected breeding period for gulls. An organised flight plan covered 5 areas of the roof from a height of 100ft, from this we can see that there are 26 confirmed nests and 11 probable, from this we can deduct that there are 37 pairs of gulls on the roof space. We spoke about future surveys which could be done subject to permissions, weather and light conditions. Area's in focus would include the 'gull corridor' from Edgar Road through Ashgrove and onto Pinefield. Elgin Town Centre is another area which is on the list. We thanked Jonathan for his very in depth report, and for taking the time to carry out the survey. We also agreed to meet any expenses which Jonathan may incur for carrying out future surveys, the information from which could be presented at our seminar on the subject on 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026.	
<b>1.Previous Minutes</b>	Proposed: <b>Graham Jarvis</b> Seconder: <b>Brian Irvine</b>	

<b>11<sup>th</sup> November</b>		
<b>2. Matters Arising</b>	Alison has agreed to represent the CC on the Cooper Park regeneration group. A meeting of the Seagull Seminar planning group is to be held on Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November.	
<b>3. Finance</b>	The account is healthy; all expenditure has been paid. Steve to contact the external groups for who we hold accounts to make them aware that a new treasurer has been appointed.	<b>Steve B</b>
<b>5. Planning</b>	No new planning applications which raise any concern. James reiterated what he explained at the previous meeting, that although Leiths have mitigated against all objections to the Dykeside application – not all questions have been answered, it will be up to the planning committee to determine the outcome of this application.	
<b>Licensing</b>	Concerns expressed regarding a proposed new three business development on Riverside Road, Elgin. These relate to litter and traffic congestion, it is felt that the area is a notorious litter hotspot due to existing fast food premises, and the lack of suitable rubbish bins. Steve to write to licensing expressing our concerns.	<b>Steve</b>
<b>6. Levelling Up</b>	Nothing new to add	<b>Graham</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Board</b>	The investment plan has been submitted – hopeful of a quick turnover.	<b>Alastair (Brian)</b>
<b>Cooper Park</b>	£100k is earmarked to be spent on the children's play area.	<b>Alison</b>
<b>7. Elgin Christmas lights.</b>	The lights were switched on during what the organisers determine was a successful event. There was very little litter generated during the day, possibly as there were no food vendors present. The group are to hold a formal washing up event next week to discuss what did/didn't work and possible changes for next year.	
<b>8. Resilience</b>	Brian informed us that Kelly Palmer (MC) is organising practice exercises for resilience groups, there are to be free first aid courses offered and membership of the resilience group is not exclusive to just CC members. Resilience bulletin n° 2 has been published – Steve will add to the Facebook page.	
<b>9. Elected Members</b>	The Councillors gave us a rundown of what has been discussed / taken place since our last meeting. These include but are not exclusive to.	

	<p><b>Housing:</b> main headline that home owners are to be consulted if nearby council properties are to be modified.</p> <p><b>Audit Committee</b></p> <p><b>Education:</b> transformation staff to look into incidents of staff illness</p> <p><b>Corporate planning Partnership:</b> wildfires, unauthorised encampments</p> <p><b>Beach Brae Inoculation Centre:</b> lining of carpark unlikely</p> <p><b>Planning: (next week)</b> -Super pylons, Elgin High extension (likely to be deferred to full council) revised plan which would see the size of some classrooms reduced to create more rooms. Investment in school estate</p> <p>Councillors to meet with Andy Meiklham on Saturday to discuss local issues.</p>	
<b>12. AOCB</b>	<p><b>Ron:</b> concerns raised regarding campervan trial and voluntary payment scheme.</p> <p><b>Brian:</b> bushes, shrubs and trees – overgrown and forcing pedestrians towards the edge of footpaths = Asda along Edgar Road boundary and private residence's on junction of Wittet Drive / Mayne Farm Road and top of Sandy Road left side next to roundabout.</p> <p><b>Allan:</b> Elgin underpass = steps slippy due to leaves and handrail loose.</p>	
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY @ 7pm, ELGIN COMMUNITY CENTRE</b>	

## **Correspondence**

Dear Colleague

In light of the recent Gull Summit in Inverness hosted by the Minister of Agriculture and Connectivity, Mr Fairlie. NatureScot are organising a series of People and Gull Roundtable events around the country to allow concerns to be raised at a local level and allow discussions to take place to work towards developing area-based management.

We have planned an event for the area around Eyemouth; to be held at the Ban-Car hotel on the **13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**, we recognise your involvement with this ongoing concern, and we would like to invite you to attend.

The address for the day is as follows:

**Ban Car Hotel**  
**Main Road**  
**Lonmay**  
**Fraserburgh**  
**AB43 8RL**

Please see attached the planned agenda for the day.

Refreshments will be available on arrival from 0930, and lunch will be supplied. If you could please **RSVP** to [Licensing@nature.scot](mailto:Licensing@nature.scot) with any dietary requirements that would be great. Look forward to seeing you there.

All the best  
Donald Fraser

**Donald Fraser | Head of Wildlife Management**  
NatureScot | Great Glen House | Inverness | IV3 8NW | 01463 725365 | 07990 561963  
nature.scot | @nature\_scot | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

Proposed Time	Presentation
1000- 10:05	Intro
10:05- 10:45	<p>People and gulls – Understanding our collective experience - <i>A chance for people to tell their stories, voice issues they have experienced and how they have effectively managed these issues</i></p> <p><i>Effectively the pressure valve to allow feelings to be expressed, looking to identify common tensions as well as highlighting where those issues have been worked through.</i></p>
10:45 - 11:20	<p>State of Gulls - Understanding Gull Decline - <i>Time for species experts to discuss population, Data on specific species, any differentials between cliff breeding, urban, inland non-urban colonies. How these used in modelling. Plans for further work/surveys.</i></p>
11:20- 11:40	<p>Managing wildlife and people - <i>chance for NatureScot to detail NatureScot's responsibility, approach and application of the law across their responsibilities and species. Where their gull licencing policy has come from, what policy is aiming to achieve and myth busting.</i></p>
11:40- 12:00	Panel Questions
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 – 12:50	Intro to breakout session
12:50- 14:30 (including 10 min feedback)	<p>Breakout Session - Development of collaborative Gull Management - <i>x groups to discuss the three topics with an aim to develop effective gull management, utilising every tool in the toolbox.</i></p>
14:30- 14:45	<p>Moving Forward and living with Gulls - <i>General round up, key points of where can do better, underline the conservation status of gulls, need to find a way forward which is not the status quo but develops good, coordinated action using multiple tools (of which licensing remains important). Availability of the £100k to help facilitate. Outline of report back to Minister of willingness for joint working.</i></p>

# A

## Attendance record

Meeting date **9<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

NAME	ATTENDING	APOLOGIES
Alan Bell	✓	
Alastair Kennedy <b>Chair</b>	✓	
Alison Stockley	✓	
Anne Mitchell	✓	
David Chapman		✓
Douglas Clark	✓	
Diane Burgess	✓	
Graham Jarvis	✓	
James Wiseman	✓	
Olusegun Adebayo	✓	
Ron Cameron	✓	
Samuel Zizighi	✓	
Steve Christie <b>Secretary</b>	✓	
Amber Dunbar Cllr Moray Council		✓
Elaine Kirby Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Jereme Fernades Cllr Moray Council	✓	
John Divers Cllr Moray Council + Avril	✓	
Peter Bloomfield Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Sandy Keith Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Debra Duke <b>CCLO Moray Council</b>		
Mark Crowley, Sophie Dinak-Martin <b>Community Wardens</b>		
David P&J	✓	
Sean Angus Press		
Douglas Clark	✓	
Jonathan Heald	✓	



*Attachment* **B**

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**Finance Report**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>03/12/2025</b>	<b>£6,522.84</b>
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**Expenditure**

Elgin Town Hall – venue hire	£0,132.00
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<b><u>Expenditure total</u></b>	<b><u>£0,132.00</u></b>
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**Income**

<b><u>Income total</u></b>	<b><u>£ZERO</u></b>
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<b>Account Balance on 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>£6,386.59</b>
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Prepared by Steve Christie 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026