

**Lossiemouth Community Council
Minutes of Meeting 19 January 2026 on zoom**

Date: Monday 19 January 2026

Time: 19:00

Location: Zoom

Chair: Carolle Ralph

Attendees: Carolle Ralph, Lily Mulholland, Gina McNicoll Peter White, Marian Evans, Maureen Halkett, Louise McBride, Dave Walker, John Cowe, Neil Cameron, Bridget Mustard, Alison Read, Andrea Dowds

Apologies: Kristi Lunt James Allan,

Agenda:

1- Police Update:

No police representative present. No issues raised.

RAF Update:

Andrea said the new station commander had been appointed and would commence in July 2026.

The Vehicle reception centre on Drainie road is no longer in use but the site may be used in the future for other purposes.

The first two weeks of March will see a lot of activity and increased security on the base as exercises take place. The public will be kept updated.

There has been a pause in civil servant recruitment which has had implications for staffing on the base.

Families day will be 20 July this year.

Minutes of 17 November 2025 Meeting and matters arising

The last meeting minute was taken by Debra Duke and was the inaugural meeting of the LCC, as we did not have a meeting in December, there is a need for the constitution to be adopted and signed. Carolle asked members to read the constitution and let her know if there were any issues and thereafter it will be signed by office bearers and returned to Debra.

West Beach Car Park

Carolle and Gina are meeting on Wednesday with MKA the company appointed by the LCDT to carry out an assessment of the car park and feedback to the community. The Trust applied for £2000 from the Coastal Communities Fund to commission this work.

There will be a full stakeholder meeting on 3 February which we will also attend.

Coastal Communities Adaptation Group

Gina and Carolle attended this group on behalf of our community. This group is set to come up with an online resource for communities to plan and act locally across Scotland and is funded by the Scottish Government and Moray Council. There will be several more meetings with Verture the organization tasked with moving this forward.

Sand Dune Restoration Project

Our pile of trees is growing by the day at Gregory Place car park. We have several hundred already and the Moray Council load has not yet arrived.

Carolle and Gina meeting tomorrow with Will from MC and Fergie from RAF Lossie to confirm the next steps of the project.

We are hoping to start phase 2 in February depending on the weather, tides and availability of volunteers, equipment etc.

The focus will be on East beach in the first instance. We need to have a meeting with the Moray Golf Club representatives before planning west beach work.

Lossie high school are keen to get involved this year and we need to find a role they can play in the project.

Louise has obtained funding from the Eco Youth Grant to assist in the project and we have the funds from HIEF over two years which will assist us moving forward.

Library Users Group Update

Neil advised the meeting that the consultation about the proposed new opening hours finished on 15 January. The feedback will go to elected members in the first instance, there will then be a meeting of the user group on 24 February. If approved the new hours will start on 30 March 2026.

This time last year our library was under threat and we are delighted that such a hard fought campaign demonstrated the wishes of the community to not only keep it open but indeed to have a few extra hours Lossie. Lily commented that there are still many older people who do not use the facility due to parking issues. This remains a long standing issue in our community and inevitably influences numbers attending the library and the pool.

Play park

Gina advised the meeting that the play park re development on Commerce Street is coming on in leaps and bounds. She has asked for a 20 MPH speed limit on the street as it is envisaged that the park will be very well used particularly when it opens.

We are uncertain if that will happen bearing in mind it has been two years since we had discussions with the roads department about traffic calming measures at the Coop on Queen Street but as yet nothing has happened.

Work on the cemetery gates has at last commenced after some years of campaigning.

Christmas events

Very successful once again but it was agreed that full discussion on this subject and planning for 2026 would go to a separate meeting.

St Gerardine's church

Carolle was invited to the now closed church last Saturday as two members of the kirk session had advised that there are several artefacts of historical significance to Lossie that need to be moved ideally before the end of this month before the sale of the church can go ahead.

These items are The pillar from Kinneddar kirk, circa 1600, the Gordon plaque from Drainie Kirk, the Stotfield disaster Plaque and the mosaic commemorating the Stotfield disaster. The two stone artefacts are big and would require a stone mason to move them.

Carolle commented that these items should ideally remain somewhere in our community but that the church board had approached various organization locally who did not have the space for these. There is a meeting of the board on Thursday night. John commented that

Burghead had had the same problem and that the CoS should be asked to pay for the removal of these items. Perhaps we could find somewhere to store the items until a suitable place could be found to have them on view. It was noted that the original Lossie library might be a suitable venue but is still being used to house Moray Council records.

Year ahead plans

A meeting will be held when Marian comes home in February to plan for the year ahead events.

Group Updates

LCDT

Alison advised the meeting that Kate had accepted a job with TSI Moray, she will be staying on for a few months on a zero hours contract. Kate will be a big miss to the Development Trust in her fundraising role. She has recently applied for several funds from DTAS and for £95000 to SSSEN and the Crown estates to build on the outcomes of the MKA consultation. The work of the Growing group continues, Lily asked if the planters could be removed asap from the store as we have fencing etc to go in there for the dune restoration work.

Community Hub/2-3 group

Louise advised the meeting of several groups starting this week which is exciting for the community. Art and well being, bumps and bundles, mental health peer support groups amongst others. Food recovery has been extended to 4 days a week.

Men's Shed

Exciting moves ahead as the group look to move to the area beside the greenkeeper's sheds at the Moray Golf Club. Permissions are being sought and Dave will keep us posted of developments.

Councillors update

Councillor Cowe congratulated the community council on all the work we do over the course of the year. His comments were noted and very much appreciated.

Councillor Cameron advised the meeting of **The Sports Centre User Group**, we were unaware of such a group whose remit is to look at the usage of the pool, gym, etc. It's next meeting is on 27 January at 4pm. Carolle will try to go and Marian will represent us when she returns.

Councillor Mustard advised the group of the upcoming budget which is later than usual.

Concerns have been expressed about the draft business rates notices which have been sent to each business in the town. Many will now be above the threshold for relief. This is not set by local government but nationally but has implications for the town. Carolle asked if councillors could find out would relief be forthcoming from Moray Council. Maureen said local businesses were worried and that this would put huge stress on them.

Community Councillor Matters

Maureen informed us that the Lossiemouth Skatepark Initiative had had several successful events and suggested that a banner could be sponsored by the LCC to raise awareness of the work of the group and need for support. Also said concerns had been expressed about the state of a house on the square which appears to be derelict.

Peter advised that the St James's church was to be renamed the Laich of Moray Parish Church of Scotland Lossiemouth and that it has now merged with the Duffus and Hopeman areas.

Lossie High have invited us to their Shaping Success Business Breakfast on 27 January, one of us will attend.

Treasurer's Update:

Gina reported that we did very well on the raffle at our Christmas events and made £792 profit. We are very grateful to the Town Hall Committee who did not charge us for the use of the hall for the two days. We spent more money this year on the Christmas lights for the square.

The grant from Moray Council has gone up by only £2.35 every 6 months. It has remained the same for 16 years now. We receive an admin grant of £1097.90 per annum!

Discussion about whether or not we change banks in view of the charges but agreed that we should stay with Bank of Scotland meantime.

Fantastic profit from Maureen's idea of selling calendars for the gardening group. The total profit is £900 and we expect that Lossie will have a fine display of flowers in view of this super boost.

Current total in the bank is £26,121 and there will be the grant from HIEF of £15000 to be added.

Planning Issues: Nothing this month.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 16 February 7pm on zoom

Malcolm from Active Travel Route will be in attendance.