



HELDON Community Council

Date: 9 December 2025

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Mosstowie Primary School

Chair: Willie Duncan/Andy Wallis

Minutes:

Attendees:

Community Councillors- Neil Sutherland; Colin McCarthy; Willie Duncan (Vice Chair); Andy Wallis (Chair); Lesley Lythgoe (Secretary); Simon Williams (Treasurer); Kenny Milne; Steve Valentine

Bridget Mustard (Heldon Ward member, Moray Council)

Apologies: Community Councillors- Alex Lyons; Colin Souter
Heldon Ward Members- Neil Cameron; John Cowe

1. Welcome

Welcome from Vice Chair Willie Duncan.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting Ratification

Proposed: Colin McCarthy

Seconded: Neil Sutherland

Agreed

3. Declaration of Interests

Andy Wallis noted his sporting lease with James Jones which was relevant to the discussion regarding Castlehill Felling.

4. Matters Arising from the Inaugural Meeting of the 28 October 2025

a. Election of Chair Person

Andy Wallis nominated.

Proposed: Simon Williams

Seconded: Colin McCarthy

Agreed

Andy Wallis was the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

b. Honorarium to Office Holders

Chair and Secretary to submit expenses if needed.

Resolved: To be reviewed after 6 months.

Treasurer Honorarium of £400

Proposed: Andy Wallis

Seconded: Neil Sutherland

Agreed

c. Adoption of Constitution

No change to standard constitution but noted that constitution can be changed in the future if needed.

Proposed: Neil Sutherland

Seconded: Colin McCarthy

Note:

ACTION:

Constitution to be signed by Chair and two other members.

Secretary to send to Deputy Returning Officer, Moray Council Headquarters, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX.

d. Co-option of Additional Members

Heldon Community Council has 10 councillors out of a possible 18 councillors. There is interest in co-option from the 9B Fogwatt and Birnie Ward. They currently have their full complement of 4 councillors. The 9C Duffus Ward also have their full complement of 2 councillors.

Councillors and members of the public would first look to find members to be co-opted in the wards with empty spaces:

9A Dallas has 1 space (out of 2 places)

9D Roseisle and Alves has 3 spaces (out of 4 places)

9E Miltonduff and Spynie has 4 spaces (out of 6 places)

Then look to co-opt members in the wards which have their full complement.

ACTION: Co-option of members from wards with vacancies to be discussed at next meeting

5. **Correspondence Received**

a. The Moray Council Biodiversity Strategy Consultation

ACTION:

Information to be posted on the [Facebook page](#).

All welcome to complete the online consultation.

Completion date for the online consultation is 4 January 2026

b. Strathisla Community Council: Beaully - Peterhead 400kV OHL Section 37 application. This mainly affects the Fogwatt, Birnie and Dallas areas.

Heldon Community Council is not currently a consultee of this application.

ACTION:

Heldon Community Council to raise awareness of this proposal via the [Facebook page](#).

c. Felling at Castle Hill Woods outside Thomshill

Angus Dixon from James Jones volunteered to speak to the Community Council and the Public. Members of the Public had the opportunity to raise their concerns and requested a circular path be maintained. Members of the Public also noted that the Distillery will be more visible once the trees had been felled and requested consideration to leave a screening layer of trees.

It was noted it was difficult to leave trees at the edge of the Wood as this leaves these trees vulnerable to wind blow.

Plan to plant broadleaf trees in the next 2 or 3 years. A mix of planting.

The other half of the wood was replanted 8 or 9 years ago.

ACTION:

Chair to write a formal letter to James Jones and the Forestry Commission detailing concerns about retention of a path, consideration of screening and time for replanting.

d. Spirit of Adventure Festival - 29 November 2025 in Roseisle Village Hall

A successful event which raised £1000. Heldon Community Council are keen to raise awareness of Community Projects. Details of projects and activities can be sent to the email address HeldonCC@hotmail.com

6. **Treasurers' Report**

Simon Williams (Treasurer) led the meeting through the Treasurer's Report.

Income: £ 0.00

Expenditure: £ 3,523.16

Bank balances:

Heldon: £ 3,150.91

Roths I: £ 51,915.28

Roths II: £ 18,366.80

Total: £73,432.99

The finances have been signed off this year by Moira Duncan.

Proposed: Andy Wallis

Seconded: Neil Sutherland

Agreed

The Treasurer also detailed the process for applying for grants and gave examples of grants already obtained.

ACTION:

Chair and Treasurer to coordinate to create a Facebook post which gives a summary about applying for grants and timelines. Also to include examples of past projects.

7. Reports

a. Community Councillors Ward Reports

Dallas- Overhanging Trees. Work is taking place on the A96 between Lhanbryde and Nairn from 15 December 2025 until 16 January 2026 by Amey for Transport Scotland to cut back trees see [link](#).

General concern over manhole covers (see [link](#) to The Moray Council online Transport reporting tool) and seagulls (already raised by Elgin Community Council)

Fogwatt and Birnie- Blocked drains by Moray Archery (to)

ACTION: Colin McCarthy to seek a resolution through the Moray Council online Transport reporting tool (see [link](#))

Duffus – Nothing to report

Alves and Roseisle – Nothing to report

Miltoduff and Spynie- Nothing to report

General concern about the Moray Flow Park at Findhorn. This is not open to consultation yet.

ACTION: Secretary to include the Moray Flow Park as a Standing Item on the Agenda under Planning.

b. Local Councillor(s)

Bridget Mustard reported that the budget would be later this year, mid-February to March time. Overspend by the Integrated Joint Health Board has implications for Service Transformation.

The Library paper was agreed and has resulted in some libraries having their hours cut.

8. Planning

AD (anaerobic digestion) Plant at Longmorn. The Heldon Community Council received a letter from Acorn Bioenergy asking if we required further information. The AD Plant at Longmorn proposal was rejected by Scottish Ministers. Acorn Bioenergy have lodged an appeal at the Court of Session. It was felt that Heldon Community Council would not request further information at this stage.

ACTION: Chair to write to Acorn Bioenergy thanking them for their email. Declining the need for further information as there is no change from the HCC perspective.

Cloddach Bridge

The 1.5 million offered by the UK Government in 2023 (to be matched by The Moray Council) has been withdrawn.

The Heldon Community Council provided £120k in funding from the wind farm account to pay for a business case model and will now seek to reclaim this funding. In addition, there is a concern from the Heldon Community Council and general public about the road system resilience with bridges out of order. Important to keep campaigning and raising awareness with Local and National Authorities.

ACTIONS:

Chair and Colin Souter to write to The Moray Council requesting the return of the business case funding.

Chair to take this issue to the JCC meeting

Secretary to include Cloddach Bridge as a Standing Item in Planning on the Agenda.

9. Community Feedback

- No comments in addition to those already stated for Castle Hill Felling and for planning especially the Cloddach Bridge.

10. The Joint Community Council of Moray

-Next meeting is on the 11 December 2025 at 7.00pm at the Lhanbryde Community Centre. This is a public meeting. All welcome.

ACTION: Report back from the Councillors who attended the meeting.

11. AOCB

Facebook Group for Heldon Community Council

Please [link](#) and share especially for Community Centres, community activities and projects.

Community Engagement- Display information about the Heldon Community Council on Community Noticeboards.

ACTION: Secretary to create a notice with councillors' names, a map and our role for noticeboards.

Venue for Heldon Community Council Meetings to be varied to increase engagement with the community.

ACTION: All councillors to make contact with their local community centres to ascertain availability for meetings. Feed this information back via the shared email address HeldonCC@hotmail.com

12.Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 7.00pm in Fogwatt Community Hall, Fogwatt, IV30 8SL

Meeting ended at 8.20pm

DRAFT