



## **HELDON Community Council**

Date: 20 January 2026

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Fogwatt Community Hall

Chair: Andy Wallis

### **Attendees:**

**Community Councillors:** Andy Wallis (Chair), Willie Duncan (Vice Chair), Simon Williams (Treasurer), Lesley Lythgoe (Secretary), Neil Sutherland, Kenny Milne, Colin Souter, Colin McCarthy, Steve Valentine.

**Heldon Ward Members:** Bridget Mustard, Neil Cameron

### **Apologies:**

**Community Councillors:** Alex Lyons

**Heldon Ward Members:** John Cowe

### **Minutes:**

#### **1. Welcome**

Welcome from Chair Andy Wallis and thanks to Fogwatt Hall for hosting the Heldon Community Council Meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting Ratification**

Proposed: W Duncan

Seconded: C McCarthy

Agreed

A summary of the last meeting's minutes can be found on the Heldon Community Council Facebook page

#### **3. Declaration of Interests**

None

#### **4. Matters Arising from the Meeting of the 9 December 2025**

- a. Co-option of members from wards with vacancies  
Able to co-opt a third of our current membership which is three new members.  
Three nominations: Angus Dixon (Miltoduff), Graham Davidson (Dallas) and Hilary Stewart (Roseisle and Alves)  
All three agreed and co-opted.  
After six months co-opted members become full members.
- b. Blocked drains by Moray Archery,  
Seems resolved. C McCarthy contacted The Moray Council via their **Report It** portal. Reference available.
- c. Letter to The Moray Council requesting the return of the business case funding for the Cloddach Bridge. This is covered under planning.
- d. Notice with councillors' names, a map and our role for noticeboards

**ACTION:**

- Secretary to update notice with new councillor's names and then send out.
- All councillors to put notice in local community centres

- e. Future dates of meetings and future venues  
March 3 2026 Birnie,  
May 12 2026 Pluscarden  
June 23 2026 Dallas  
August 4 2026 tbc  
September 15 2026 tbc  
October 27 2026 tbc  
December 8 2026 tbc  
January 19 2027 tbc  
**ACTION:** All councillors to find venues for the remaining dates

## **5. Correspondence Received**

- a. Winter Support Booklet for the population of Moray.  
Posted on HCC Facebook page
- b. Volunteer event at The Inkwel Elgin on 23 January 2026 1100 – 1200  
To be attended by L Lythgoe and the Community Council Liaison Officer Debra Duke. All welcome.
- c. North East Scotland Convention of Community Councils (NESCCC)  
HCC was asked to agree a 'unified' statement to be sent to the Scottish Government. The statement raised concerns about inadequate consultation and engagement in respect of planning for renewables. HCC also invited to a

conference of Community Councils on the 17 January 2026. Similar concerns raised by Highland Community Councils at a webinar for the National Energy System Operator (NESO).

**ACTION:**

Chair to raise with JCC and ask for them to raise with NESCCC

Chair to write to NESCCC offering support for sentiment behind statement and to be kept engaged.

**d. Courier Charges**

Concern raised via the HCC Facebook page and echoed in the meeting about higher delivery charges for IV postcodes even though these are on Mainland Scotland.

**ACTION:**

Chair to ask for lived experience of this and details of which couriers via the HCC Facebook page.

Please send any information to the HeldonCC@hotmail.com email address.

Chair to write to Graham Leadbitter MP and Richard Lochhead MSP

**e. Fibre Broad Band**

Concern raised regarding slow rollout and sporadic connectivity

**ACTION:**

Chair to ask for lived experience of this via the HCC Facebook page. Please send any information to the HeldonCC@hotmail.com email address.

Chair to raise this with the JCC

Chair to write to Graham Leadbitter MP and Richard Lochhead MSP

## **6. Treasurers' Report**

Income since last meeting: £589.65

Expenditure since last meeting: £12,320.20

Bank balances:

Heldon CC: £3,244.56

Roths I: £42,686.68

Roths II: £15,771.20

Total: £61,702.44

Reminder to the Community regarding deadline for Funding Bids of the 31 January 2026.

**ACTION:**

Treasurer to include in Finance Meeting Agenda an item to consider retrospective approval for reimbursement of payment of rates made by Dallas Community Development Trust for £2083.78 in 2024.

Treasurer to confirm signatories in place.

**7. Planning**

a. Cloddach Bridge

Concern over the £120000 paid by HCC towards the Finance Business Case

**ACTION**

Chair to write to Moray Council

Secretary to keep this item on the agenda

b. Moray Flow Park

No formal consultation as yet. Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council had been invited to this meeting and awaiting a reply

**ACTION**

Chair to contact other Community Councils such as Burghead and Cummington

Secretary to keep this item on the agenda

c. Birnie Quarry

Date for Public Meeting is 16 March 2026 at 9.30 am. Venue to be confirmed. Any of the approx. 820 people who submitted an objection are invited to comment at the meeting.

**ACTION:**

Chair to put information on the HCC Facebook page

Secretary to keep this item on the agenda

d. Spynie Battery Park

No updates or consultation as yet. Not part of NESO (National Energy System Operator).

**8. Reports**

a. Local Councillor(s)

Bridget Mustard shared information on:

Capital Plan Budget on the 28 January 2026  
Council Budget on 25 February 2026  
Integrated Joint Board Budget 26 March 2026

Neil Cameron shared information on:

Library Consultation closed on the 16 January 2026. There are no libraries in the Heldon Ward.

Reminder about the **Report It** portal

## b. Community Councillors Ward Reports

Dallas

-Nothing to report

Fogwatt and Birnie Ward

- On the A941 towards Rothes, Springfield Properties have built a new housing estate on the right travelling south between Elgin and Birkinhill. Concern raised regarding people walking on the road (as the shortest route) rather than the designated footpath. Suggestion to better signpost the footpath.

- At the same location on the A941 there is a public road crossing which is not well lit. Suggestion of a lit pole at either side to allow drivers to see people waiting to cross.

Neil Cameron volunteered to take an action forward with The Moray Council and the Active Travel Strategy.

Duffus

-Nothing to report

Alves and Roseisle

-Nothing to report

Miltonduff and Spynie Ward

-Concern raised regarding sunken graves at Birnie Church New Cemetery, The graves are a health and safety hazard as they have sunken by approx. 4 inches. Neil Cameron volunteered to take an action forward with Parks and Leisure at The Moray Council.

## 9. Community Feedback

- No comments in addition to those raised. General discussion on possible projects that could be funded.

## **10. The Joint Community Council of Moray**

- The JCC is now formed
- Well attended meeting with The Moray Council CEO Karen Greaves present
- Heldon Community Council raised issue of Cloddach Bridge and asked for a brief on Infrastructure Prioritisation.
- The next meeting for the JCC is the 12 February 2026 at Elgin Town Hall in the Community Centre.

## **11. AOCB**

## **12. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 7.00pm in Birnie Public Hall, Mannochemore, Thomshill, Elgin, IV30 8GZ

Meeting ended at 8.35pm

DRAFT