



Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council

**DRAFT Minutes of Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council Meeting
held on Thursday 29th January 2026 at the Culbin Room, Kinloss Church**

| Present | | Attendance | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| A Skene | Chairperson | S Kane | Kinloss Barracks |
| S Urquhart | Minute Taker | C Low | TFVCC |
| M La Tourelle | | D Anderson | Moray Council |
| S Worth | | Moray Councillors | |
| R Hutchinson | | Cllr McBain | |
| A Hart | | Cllr Van der Horn | |
| P Lewington | | | |
| S Symonds | | Members of Public | |
| W Ritchie | | One | |
| | | | |

Item 1 - Welcome

- a. **Apologies** – A Shepherd, Cllr Robertson
- b. Declaration of Interest – to be raised as and when it occurs.

Item 2 – Public Session

- a. Community Safety Report/Police Scotland Report – No new quarterly Police report has been received.
- b. D. Anderson, Senior Engineer Transportation, Moray Council, gave an insight into the types and sites of proposed EV points in Findhorn Village. There will be a consultation before any decision is made.
- c. A member of the public enquired about the FKCC response to planning application 25/01306/APP. The Chairperson responded, referring to the Findhorn Conservation Area Character Appraisal document, highlighting the guidance for solar panels.
- d. Any other competent public business / public correspondence – to be raised through agenda items.

Item 3 – Ratification of Minutes of Meeting from Thursday 27th November 2025, at the Osprey Room, James Milne Institute, Findhorn

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of Thursday 27th November 2025 were agreed as being accurate, proposed by S Worth and seconded by S Symonds.

Item 4 – Matters Arising

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It was agreed that the Playground Project at Kinloss should go ahead as soon as possible. There is a fund of approx. £36,000 available. **ACTION: S Symonds and W Ritchie agreed to take the project forward and will liaise with A Shepherd to get a detailed handover with information of what has been achieved so far and to plan next steps.**

Item 5 The Findhorn Village Conservation Company

5.1 C Low reported that TFVCC was working on maintenance and repairs on the parking site and toilet blocks so that they were ready for the new season. She also advised that they were looking at new signage to make all signage more coherent. The slip at the Church still hadn't been repaired and TFVCC were waiting for an update.

5.2 C Low informed that there would be organised bus transport to the Scottish Parliament with regards to the 'No to the Flow' debate on 18th February. More information would follow.

5.3 TFVCC had secured 98% of the funding needed to purchase Findhorn Church. C Low intimated that there would be a public meeting on 21st February in the JMI between 11.00 and 16.00 to inform how the project is progressing. C Low put in her apologies for the next meeting as she will be unable to attend.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report

6.1 S Kane reported that there was still no response from Moray Council regarding road safety issues for pupils at Kinloss Primary School. The Chair confirmed that she had written to Moray Council expressing concerns about unsafe road crossing.

6.2 S Kane also advised that Kinloss Barracks would not have so many personnel from April to October as the Troops were being deployed overseas. Welfare provision for families and children would be affected..

Item 7 Chair's Report

7.1 The Annual Village quiz will be held on 20th March in the James Milne Institute. A Skene asked for members to put their names forward so FKCC can enter a team.

7.2 The Chairperson had distributed the final draft of the Findhorn Hinterland Trust Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031. The document is currently confidential. Cllr Van der Horn, P Lewington and M La Tourelle advised that they were members of Findhorn Hinterland Trust.

Item 8 Secretary's Report/Correspondence

8.1 There had been correspondence regarding the two red phone boxes in the village. TFVCC have purchased them and suggestions were put forward as how best to use them. Defibrillator sites or winter weather equipment storage for example.

Item 9 Treasurer's Report

9.1 A Shepherd reported the amounts in the FKCC bank accounts as follows:

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Admin Grant | £2143.04 |
| Capital | £ 297.70 |
| TOTAL | £2440.74 |
| Savings fund | £36494.28 |

Item 10 Joint Community Council

10.1 The JCC met on 11th December 2025. A Skene and S Worth had attended. The next meeting will be on Thursday 12th February 2026, the venue to be confirmed.

Item 11 Moray Councillors' Report

11.1 Cllr McBain advised that the proposed new Forres High School had passed the planning stage. Moray Council had held their first full council meeting of 2026, which revealed that the budget was better than expected as extra money had been received from Scottish Government. They would now focus on making further savings over the next three years.

11.2 Cllr Van der Horn advised that Moray had only been allocated 4% of the Just Transition money for Scotland. The local MPs and MSPs are campaigning for more money to come to Moray. The Council approved six key projects which will be funded from the Just Transition Fund. Details are on the Moray Council website.

11.3 Cllr Van der Horn discussed the current bus routes to Kinloss and Findhorn and advised that 'Hail and Ride' was legal, but it was dependent on the driver feeling it was safe to stop. It was noted that it was impossible to get into Forres before 11.30am. It was also noted that 6-month trial of the 32 bus was due to end soon. Stagecoach are introducing a £2.00 maximum single fare across Moray from January.

11.4 Cllr Van Der Horn asked if the TFVCC owned the land that the Beach Huts were on and, also about the erosion of the land in front of them. C Low said technically they did but that they weren't responsible for anti-erosion measures in that area.

Item 12 Park Ecovillage, Findhorn Report (PEVF)

12.1 M La Tourelle reported that two members of the Community had rented the Ecovillage café for 15 days over the festive season to ensure it remained open. Food and events were organised and it had been a great success. It may happen again this year.

12.2 P Lewington reported that the Findhorn Foundation Trust are in discussion with other organisations in the Ecovillage about the transfer of assets.

12.3 M La Tourelle advised of upcoming events. The Universal Hall Film Season has started and a series of Celtic Wisdom talks are held on Tuesdays. Check the PEVF website and Rainbow Bridge publication for more details.

Item 13 Resilience Planning

13.1 R Hutchinson reported that there had been a good team of volunteers who worked to clear the snow from the pavements during the bad weather. Extra gritting made the pavements safer. Cllr McBain will see if there could be more salt bins placed in the village to make gritting easier. Funds are needed to acquire more equipment and resources to kit out the resilience group. R Hutchinson will apply to the Berry Burn Community Fund for grant funding.

13.2 M La Tourelle said the Ecovillage resilience planning was advancing and that she is working on a leaflet on Emergency Procedures for park residents. Cllr Van der Horn suggested that FKCC and the PEVF collaborate so that plans would cover the whole FKCC area. Plans would include Assembly Points and identifying vulnerable people. It was felt that meetings between FKCC, TFVCC and PEVF would be beneficial to all the communities.

13.3 M La Tourelle reported that 12 trees had come down in the Park during the last storm. A tree survey has now been completed and a felling programme started.

13.4 M La Tourelle reported that she had given a presentation on resilience at a Global Ecovillage Network conference.

Item 14 Flow Park

14.1 The topic will be on the agenda at the JCC meeting on 12th February.

Item 15 Planning

15.1 There have been 5 planning applications submitted for the FKCC area which were discussed.

- **25/01628/APP** Construct an off-grid dwelling including a wind turbine tool shed, bin/bike store, shepherds hut and landscaping for food growing and wildlife areas at 620, North Whins, the Park, Findhorn. No issues with this application.
- **25/01650/APP** Proposed two storey extension at 11, Kinloss Park, Kinloss. Application has been withdrawn.
- **25/01690/APP** Alter and extend dwelling house and install air source heat pump at 147, Findhorn. No issues with this application.
- **25/01702/APP** Proposed service area at rear of Bakehouse Market at 91 – 92 Findhorn. More information required and to be researched further.
- **25/01652/APP** Alter and extend dwellinghouse at Innesmhor, Findhorn. No issues with this application.

Item 16. Any Other Competent Business

16.1

- a) P Lewington reported that the Education Circle in the Ecovillage is working on a new programme starting in April. It wants to call its core programme, Experiencing Findhorn. Prior to the FKCC meeting P Lewington met with a couple of key village residents to sound them out about the proposed name. At the FKCC meeting members were of the opinion that the name needed to be qualified in some way, e.g. Experiencing Ecovillage Findhorn. P Lewington agreed to take this feedback to the Education Circle and to advise that there should be positive collaboration between the communities.
- b) Dark Sky International Community Status. R Hutchinson proposed that Dark Sky Status should be pursued for Findhorn village and beach which are in an ideal position and meet relevant criteria. He requested that the application come from FKCC as it was a legal entity. This was agreed. **Action: R Hutchison to investigate this.**

Item 17 Forthcoming Community Events

- 17.1**
- a. Universal Hall events, including the new Film Season, can be seen on website www.universalhall.co.uk
 - b. Kinloss Gardening Club meet on first Monday of every month at 2.00 pm at The Abbey Inn, Kinloss.

Item 18 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 26th February 2026 at 7.00pm in the Osprey Room, JMI, Findhorn