

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF
THE JOINT COMMUNITY COUNCILS OF MORAY
HELD ON THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2012 at 7pm IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, ELGIN**

Present:

Buckie CC	Gordon Cowie James Smith
Burghead & Cummington CC	Alastair Mackenzie Chris Tuke
Dyke and Landward	Karen Hamilton
Elgin CC	Gordon Methven Alastair Kennedy (Chair)
Findhorn & Kinloss C.C.	Les Morgan
Forres C.C.	Bob Hellyer Colin Lipscomb
Innes	Alan Bodman
Lennox C.C.	Margo Howe
Lossiemouth CC	Helen McIntosh Carolle Ralph
Strathisla	Ian Ross Keith Comrie

In Attendance:

Graham Jarvis from Education and Social Care, Richard Hartland, Director of Environmental Services, Gary Hunt from the Moray Gig, Tracey Rae, Community Council Liaison Officer, Hilary Mott, (taking the Minutes);

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Apologies were received from Jane Martin and Donald Cameron.
Alastair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Richard Hartland and Graham Jarvis.

PRESENTATION (1)

Gary Hunt from the Moray Gig, a registered charity from Findhorn, advised the JCC that he had been invited to take part in the Queens Pageant on the River Thames as

part of the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 3rd June. He would use the event as an opportunity to promote Moray in as many ways as possible and asked for any suggestions for this promotion. The whisky/distillery trade was put forward. He asked for contact details of CCs so that he can e-mail out any further information.

PRESENTATION (2)

Graham Jarvis provided an in depth view of the transitional changes taking place within the re-structure of the merged Education, Children and Families and Community Care Departments. He outlined the proposed realignment of departments, changes for staff requirements and proposed savings. The full structure would be put before the Full Council sometime in Feb/March for approval. There was currently a consultation available on the Your Moray web site and encouraged people to take part.

There followed a brief question and answer session.

PRESENTATION (3)

Richard Hartland attended the meeting in order to answer some of the many questions that had been put to him since his arrival at the Moray Council. He explained that he would like to see improvements in the Planning Department which would require a cultural change. He discussed the on-line planning tool which is a national system and difficult to change. There needed to be clarification regarding deadlines with some flexibility allowed. He clarified "redaction" on the website, why it was necessary and that there was an "Enforcement Charter" available on the website. He would welcome questions regarding his department at any time and would return to the JCC in the future if requested.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

After a couple of minor amendments, the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Les Morgan reported that The Scottish Government had now stopped funding the ASCC. E-mails were circulating promoting an alternative networking organisation.

4. Reports

Community Planning Update

The JCC is represented on the Community Engagement Group. An Engagement Manual has been produced. Community Councils and other groups will be invited to

the Community Engagement Seminar on **Thursday 15th March at Moray College 6pm – 9pm** to help finalise the Manual.

Attendance from ALL Community Councils is strongly encouraged as they engage with their communities on a regular basis.

CALO Report

Findochty & District CC first round of elections closed at the end of November and the Inaugural was held in early December. All seats were filled in the first round of the process.

Innes CC reestablished in November – the Inaugural was held on 17th November but, unfortunately one member resigned taking the amount of members below the minimum required to remain established.

All vacant seats were advertised in January and 3 further members were elected unopposed. This brings the membership to 7 and the Inaugural meeting will take place on 16th February.

The CALO National Conference will be 14th March. If any one has any good news stories to showcase their CC on the day, please let Tracey know. The Scottish Government has set up a “Short Life Group” to help strengthen Community Councils. Tracey has had her hours increased, re-affirming a commitment to the Community Councils.

Treasurers Report

The current balance is £394.88 plus £300 has been set aside for the CALO Conference should it be required.

5. JCC Sub Group Update

The aim of the sub group is to consider how to better communicate with the Community Planning Board and partners in the future. Currently the CCs feel they have been side-lined. A letter was sent to all the Community Planning Partners to gather their thoughts on Community Councils in the Community Planning process and these responses will be considered at a sub-group meeting on 15th March.

6. Information Sharing Session

Buckie

Pigeons are becoming a pest especially around Haldanes Supermarket.

Burghead & Cummingston

There was no January meeting. There are continuing issues with Planning regarding wind turbines

Dyke Landward

There was no meeting held in December. Continuing with the Literacy Award for Primary Schools and young adults.

Findhorn & Kinloss

RAF memorabilia is moving into the church. A residents group have been advised that, following re-assessment of the grass cutting service, costs is now £500 per annum. They cannot afford this. If other Community groups are experiencing a similar problem please forward information to Alastair and he can co-ordinate a response to the relevant Department. A donation of £250 has been given to the Moray Gig for local promotion.

Forres

Continuous operational matters.

Elgin

The Community Fayre is ongoing. The Youth Member continues to develop the website. Environment commitment to a Fair Trade stall is ongoing. There was a meeting regarding the Western Distributor Road. Comments were taken for feedback. Mary Scanlon will be attending the next meeting.

Innes

Recently re-established, the inaugural meeting is to be held within the next couple of weeks

Lennox

The by-pass has opened ahead of schedule and within budget. The Dallachy Footpath has been approved by the Crown Estate.

Lossiemouth

Vandalism is causing lots of damage including £3000 worth to the public toilets. Dog fouling is also on the increase. 2 public sessions are to be held to remind people of the green dog walker scheme. Litter bins are overflowing – this has been raised with The Moray Council. There has been damage to the bus shelter but there is no budget for repairs. Regarding the coastal path to Hopeman, could offenders doing community pay back be used as a means of maintenance? European fish fund is to fund the repairs to the memorial to those lost at sea.

Strathisla

Reflective signs have been erected at the Holcroft Road. An invitation was sent by the Lord Lieutenant for a Jubilee Celebration suggesting planting a tree with a plaque. A committee of 10 has been established to decide on how to spend the monies from the wind farm development.

7. AOCB

The Brown Muir Wind farm consultation has triggered debate on wind farms in Scotland. The JCC was approached to host a debate on wind farms in Moray in general. It was overwhelmingly agreed that the JCC would lead this event following the Developers consultation.

There had been a good response to the issues around Grant Lodge.

Places were available for Planning Scotland.

Elaine Brown (NHS) would like to attend the next meeting to discuss engagement.

Alastair is to approach other CC's regarding attendance of the JCC.

9. Date of next meeting

10th May at 7.00pm in the Council Chambers.