

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF
THE JOINT COMMUNITY COUNCILS OF MORAY
HELD ON THURSDAY 10th MAY at 7pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
ELGIN**

Present:

Buckie C.C.	James Smith Heather Innes
Elgin C.C.	Gordon Methven Alastair Kennedy (Chair)
Findhorn & Kinloss C.C.	Les Morgan
Innes	Alan Bodman
Lennox C.C.	Donald Cameron
Strathisla	Ian Ross

In Attendance:

Tracey Rae, C.C. Liaison Officer, Mike Rogers, Scottish Orienteering Association, Jim Grant, Head of Development Services and Hilary Mott, (taking the Minutes)

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Alastair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Jim Grant Head of Development Services and Mike Rodgers Moray Orienteering Organisation.

Apologies were received from Helen McIntosh, Marc Macrae, Keith Comrie, Forres C.C. and Burghead and Cummington C.C.

PRESENTATIONS

Mike Rogers gave a presentation regarding the forthcoming National Orienteering 2013 event and the World Championship Orienteering 2015 both taking place in and around Forres. Both events hope to attract in excess of 4000 people. Mike encouraged the Community Councils to consider promotion of the event and methods of welcoming participants to Moray.

Jim Grant then gave a short presentation outlining, amongst other issues, the current position regarding Community Wardens. Some had left and were presently being replaced. It is hoped that they will integrate well with the communities. Jim would also send out a questionnaire for individual C.C.s for comment.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Alastair attended the recent (and last) ASCC conference and a report was circulated.

Apologies were offered regarding the attendance of other CC's. Some had rescheduled their meetings because of the elections the previous week.

Wind Farm Event – The Planning of a Windfarm Discussion Event had started but during the early planning stages it was evident that this was a far more wide and complex area than originally anticipated. The meeting agreed to delay progressing this meeting until further background research has been carried out.

Two new policies are currently being written for the Moray Council regarding future development of wind-farms and community benefits and it is hoped the proposed meeting will feed into these.

There were concerns regarding the distribution of any monies and it is believed the wind energy industry is keen to engage with local communities. Alastair suggested that there may be the possibility of setting up a trust to handle any community benefit. The industry was generally offering in the region of £1500 per megawatt installed.

Currently many refused wind-farm planning applications were going to appeal and then being approved by the Scottish Government. Supplementary national guidance on the development of wind-farms would be issued soon by the Scottish Government.

Strathisla had not received any payment to date of the £73,000 they had expected to receive by this time. However, it appears that such funding is on a voluntary basis.

4. Reports

Community Planning Update

There was currently a Community Engagement initiative surrounding South Lesmurdie This is following the Better Community Engagement Project that had been completely unsuccessful previously. Due to this initiative it was now possible that someone from that area could join the local Community Council.

CCLO Report

An approach has been made from a part of Finderne ward to join Heldon Community Council. Discussions are taking place with Democratic Services regarding a suitable consultation.

The Community Support Unit's (CSU) website was to be launched the following day and Tracey encouraged Community Councillors to visit it.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting so no update was provided.

5. JCC Sub Group

Community Councils have no clear links with Community Planning. There were currently proposals for a change to the Community Planning structure. The position of the Community Councils was to remain the same. There were comments regarding the Area Forums which are supposedly accountable to the Community Planning Partnership but have no proper governance in place. Following remarks made at the last Community Planning Board meeting there was a suggestion that Roddy Burns has issues regarding the Governance of Community Councils. Alastair read a proposed letter as a response to these remarks, and which all agreed should be sent to Mr Burns.

6 Information Sharing Session

Buckie

Currently concentrating on the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. The eyesore that was Haldane's supermarket is now in the process of being demolished.

Findhorn & Kinloss

Plans are well under way for the arrival of the Army personnel. Councillor Creswell is involved and offering support for Kinloss. Invitations had been sent to meet the new Army Co-ordinator who is keen to work with the community

Innes

Innes are having an enhanced induction. Office Bearers will be appointed at their next meeting.

Lennox

A new notice board has been erected on the square. A community meeting has been held between Transport Scotland, the Moray Council and Milne Construction regarding the future upkeep of Fochabers High Street as it is no longer considered the major trunk road. Some helpful plans have been proposed. A consultation is underway regarding the Institute Building. The public have been encouraged to complete the consultation.

Margo Howe has now been elected as a councillor.

Elgin

A Community Fair is planned for 22nd September at the T.A. Hall. Planning approval is being sought for an expansion of the St Giles Shopping Centre and the Planning Committee has commented favourably on the application. Litter and ASB are ongoing issues so Elgin CC has formed a new partnership with other organisations. This is called Strategic Partnership for Improving the City of Elgin (SPICE). Partners include Elgin BID, both Elgin area forums, Grampian Police, and both secondary schools. Local elected members attend. This partnership is intended to take a more strategic approach to issues such as litter, ASB and taxi signage for the improvement of the environment across the city. The Community Council was appalled at further recent damage to gravestones. A motion of support for Elgin to become a Fair Trade city has been passed by the Moray Council.

Strathisla

Experiencing issues regarding Wind Farm planning approvals/objections that are then being overturned by Government. Currently experiencing bouts of rural metal thefts, including gates, vehicles and diesel. In the absence of Speyside Community council advice is being sought with regards to an application by Macallan's for a Biomass Plant at their Distillery. Although it would be offering 40 new jobs, this was to be compared with the wood burning boiler to create electricity, a switch from oil and there would be an increase in heavy traffic delivering wood supplies. However, any emissions are controlled by SEPA.

7 AOCB

Helen MacMillan will attend the LLF (Local Licensing Forum) on behalf of JCC. Possible issues for discussion may be passed on via Tracey.

Looking for a volunteer to take part in a new Rural Parliament in Scotland. Contact details are available if you require them.

Clarification was requested to distinguish between the roles of Councillors Wright and Cree as Leader of the Administration Group and Convenor.

A volunteer was asked for to attend the Moray Local Access Forum.

Congratulations were offered to Margo Howe, Carole Ralph, Chris Tuke and Anne Skene, all of whom have been elected to the Council.

8 Date of next meeting

9th August 2012 at 6.30pm in the Council Chambers. An invitation has been sent to Richard Lochhead and Elaine Brown.