

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

Present:

Forres	Colin Lipscomb Bob Hellyer
Elgin C.C.	Gordon Methven James Wiseman Alastair Kennedy (Chair)
Findhorn & Kinloss C.C.	Les Morgan
Innes	Peter Bush
Lennox C.C.	Donald Cameron
Strathisla	Ian Ross
Keith CC	Charles Lawson Ian Cattanach

In Attendance:

Councillor Allan Wright, Councillor Chris Tuke
Tracey Rae, C.C. Liaison Officer,
Hilary Mott, (taking the Minutes)

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Apologies were received from Helen McIntosh.

Alastair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Councillor Allan Wright who was giving a presentation on the current/future Budget/Finance situation.

PRESENTATION

The Council is looking at the next five years budgets and looking at the projections from the Scottish Government. Demand for resources is increasing and resources are reduced. Savings and efficiencies are required for an estimated saving of £30 million over the next 4½ – 5 years. Continued efficiency/savings would not deliver all

the current requirements. Full consultations would take place in the late autumn looking at priorities to each community. There is to be legislation regarding community empowerment, including the increase in Asset Transfer.

There will be Focus Group meetings including young people, Community Councils, Area Forums and other groups including older people. Advice is to be sought on the consultation process later, regarding service provision and economic savings. By February 2013 council efficiencies would help to make the cuts less severe.

There followed a brief question and answer session.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

Apologies were offered from Forres CC regarding the attendance at JCC because the meeting clashed with their own meeting and they were unable to reschedule.

4. Reports

Community Planning Update

The South Lesmurdie event had been most successful. There was nothing else to update since the previous meeting. The next meetings were to be held after the holidays.

AK met with Roddy Burns over concerns regarding some Area Forums working outwith their constitutions. Roddy's response had been that "there is room for all" but there needs to be proper governance. However, that responsibility lies with the Community Planning board.

There is a proposed new Community Planning Structure which will go before the Community Planning board. AK raised concerns on how the Community Engagement Group would tie in to the Board and was unhappy that this part of the proposed structure remains isolated as before. Roddy stated that this part of the structure is still a work in progress. Roddy suggested looking at East Renfrew and West Dumbarton to compare their structures and how community groups feed into the Community Planning Partnership. The structure would be explained in full at the next JCC.

CCLO Report

Lennox and Lossiemouth have new chairs and Findochty has a new secretary. Innes CC now has office bearers in place.

Regarding Wind Farms, meetings have been held with Highland as part of an information gathering exercise.

The 6 monthly grants should be issued before the next meeting.

There is a review of the Community Council Scheme prior to the new term of office starting in October 2013. Community Councils will be invited to consult as part of this review.

Treasurers Report

The current balance is £564.88 with the annual grant being payable in October..

5. Finnerne Consultation

There is to be a consultation regarding Finnerne. A public meeting will be held in Rafford on 21 August. Community Councils were encouraged to complete the Consultation via survey monkey before 24 August.

6. Community Councils and Emergency Planning

Following the Community Council Working Group, details of Voluntary Emergency Responders Guide (VERG) Scotland. Documentary advice on the roles of Community Councils is listed in the document. Possibly requires a talk to the JCC by the author, AK to contact. Concerns were raised regarding the fact that there is no training in order to comply. Copies of the document are available at the end of the meeting.

7. Wind Farm Event

A policy is out for consultation by the Moray Council Planning Department with public exhibitions from 2.30 – 8.30 at various locations including Aberlour 04/09/2012, Elgin 05/09/2012, Keith 06/09/2012 and Forres 10/09/2012.

Les Morgan said that those members of Findhorn and Kinloss who had read the document thought it was an excellent piece of work. Furthermore, it negated the need for the JCC to organise the meeting that had been proposed to discuss the subject to feed into the consultation.

There is a 6 question survey regarding the Brownmuir site which could be considered for the draft policy. The results would produce an opportunity to amend the draft policy and to then use the points raised to argue against the Brownmuir site. Responses received to the Brownmuir consultation to feed into the draft policy.

8 Information Sharing Session

Forres

Forres are welcoming the Army to Kinloss. There was to be an address to the local people on 6 September.

Findhorn & Kinloss

The National news had picked up on the arrival of the Army to what will now be called Kinloss Barracks. All were delighted and it appeared that there will be full occupancy of the barracks.

Innes

The new council was now formed and were concentrating heavily on the main issues: a proposed wind farm at Kingston Beach and the Gypsy/Travellers at Doohill.

Lennox

The new chair had been elected as the previous chair had now left. The Moray Council and Transport Scotland are looking to improve the Square in Fochabers with regard to traffic calming and refurbishment of the fountain. There was no news regarding the Fochabers Institute. Business in Fochabers had improved since the by-pass and they were considering a Farmers Market.

Elgin

Various issues were still ongoing including the Community Fair, Brownmuir Wind Farm and Wittet Drive and the Western Distributer Road. Untidy roundabouts on the A96 were an issue. They are the responsibility of BEAR Scotland and there was possible funding coming from BEAR.. Members of Elgin Community Council were working towards Elgin becoming a Fair Trade City which would then be expanded across Moray so that Moray then becomes a Fair Trade area.

Strathisla

The reporter had upheld the recommended refusal for a wind turbine. There was a tree planting for the Queen's Jubilee. The local Councillor had been invited to Balmoral for tea. There would be no meeting next month. Finally, money had been received from the Turbine construction.

Lossiemouth

A new chair had been appointed. Celebrations were being planned for the Homecoming of Heather Stanning. Lossiemouth is involved in an orienteering event which will start in Lossiemouth Forest in 2013. Thanks were offered to Carolle Ralph for her contributions as a Community Council prior to her election as a Moray Councillor

Burghead and Cummingston

No meeting was held in July. No further update was available.

Keith

The recent 'Haud ER Gaun' gala had been very successful. Keith are participating in a 'Keith's still listening' event in September

7 AOCB

The Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill is currently out for consultation. . It is important to be familiar with the contents of the Bill. An "Easy Read" version is available.

Broad Band – HIE decision for the 4 towns to receive high speed broadband – there was no update. AK to chase.

8 Date of next meeting

8th November 2012 in the Council Chambers.

An invitation will be sent to Roddy Burns.

Addendum to Special JCC Meeting Held on 2nd August 2012

Comments from Meg Deasley, Docherty Consulting Ltd

Thank you for forwarding the minutes from the JCC meeting. I passed these on to the team and they had a few amendments that they feel better reflect their responses at the meeting. I have listed these below, and hope that you will find them acceptable. If so, could you please circulate to the full circulation list as amendments? I have underlined changes in the text included below to so they are hopefully clear.

- Page 1 – Tom Healy (mis-spelling)
- Page 2 – turbine height is up to 126 metres rather than 125 metres.
- Page 2 – response to ‘Why 19 turbines’ should read:
Tom explained it had taken the duration of the Environmental Impact Assessment to reach the figure of 19 and this represented a good balance of minimising the environmental impact whilst maximising the use of the wind resource.
- Page 2 – The presentation advised that ... the second to last sentence in this paragraph should read: *Dr Butler confirmed there would be limited long-term employment as the development is low maintenance.*
- Page 2 – Last paragraph, ‘Andy stressed that ...’ should read: *Andy stressed that RPS do not engage in PR exercises and a selection was done in consultation with SNH, who are a statutory body, and views were agreed that were deemed representative.*
- Page 3 – Response to second question, “RPS does not have a consultation standard”, should read: *No consultation standard exists in relation to properties at set distances from proposed wind farms – the Environmental Impact Assessment is clearly defined.*
- Page 3 – First paragraph, beginning ‘It was noted that a single householder...’
The third sentence in this paragraph should read: *Unfortunately this was considered to not be possible due to software licensing issues although Consultants would consider any individual requests.*
- Page 3 – Third full paragraph, should refer to ‘Dr Butler’.
- Page 3 – Second to last paragraph, “SEPA have placed conditions” should read: *Andy advised that SEPA has requested that certain conditions be attached to any grant of consent with a holding objection regarding private water supply.*
- Page 6 – Third full paragraph, should read: *Tom also confirmed there had been meetings with Ministry of Defence who, at the moment, have issued a suspensive planning condition on the basis of the scheme of mitigation proposed in the planning application.*