

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF
THE JOINT COMMUNITY COUNCILS OF MORAY
HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2012 at 7pm IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, ELGIN**

Present:

Buckie	James Smith Heather Innes
Elgin	Alastair Kennedy (Chair) Gordon Methven
Findhorn & Kinloss C.C.	Les Morgan
Forres	Colin Lipscomb Bob Hellyer
Innes	David MacKay Peter Bush
Keith	Charlie Lawson Ian Cattanach
Lennox	Lynn Duncan
Strathisla	Ian Ross Keith Comrie

In Attendance:

Roddy Burns, Chief Executive Councillor Allan Wright, Councillor Chris Tuke
Colin Gray, Grampian Resilience Officer

Tracey Rae, Community Council Liaison Officer (taking the Minute)

PRESENTATION BY RODDY BURNS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair opened saying he felt with there was a problem with Community Council representation on the Community Planning Board. He was concerned that within the proposed new Community Planning structure the Community Engagement Group is disconnected from the main part of the Community Planning structure. The Chair feels the Area Forums are connected to the Community Planning Board as they have representation on the board and are on the database. Community Councils have neither. The Chair feels the proposed Community Engagement Group is populated with consultees and will have no groups with expertise in engagement whereas previously there were Grampian Police, Grampian Fire and Rescue and NHS who had experience in community engagement.

Roddy provided a handout (attached). The first graph demonstrates the demand on public services along with the available money – it shows a significant gap and this will be the situation for some time. The second slide is a newspaper article from the Glasgow Herald written by John McLaren and explains the situation by way of academic commentary. The third slide shows the 4 pillars of public sector reform and confirms that the current way in which services are delivered is unsustainable and, in Roddy's opinion, is on an unprecedented scale.

Slides 5, 6 and 7 show an extract from Scottish Government and Scottish Local Government and Roddy drew the meeting's attention to the paragraph '*SOAs show how the CPP and partners will work with communities to develop their capacity to contribute to Community Planning and to their achievement of their better outcomes*'

Slide 6 also states the key national priorities

The Community Planning Board has produced a structure which shows the strategic board and a number of partnerships. This has not been finalised and is awaiting guidance from the Scottish Government. Aspects of this structure cannot be finalised and what has been distributed tonight (at JCC) is the most up to date work in progress for the Community Planning Partnership to take forward.

Roddy stressed the importance of the Community Engagement group as a lot of services will have to be delivered by the community and Community Engagement is at the heart of Community Planning.

Roddy was asked if Local Authority Officers jobs would be about teaching others to do their job. Roddy confirmed there would be a part of that.

Alastair asked how the population of the Community Engagement group was decided upon and expressed concern that the membership is now made up of those the local authority would wish to engage with, stressing that there is a difference between engaging and consulting. Roddy advised that the relationship is changing and there will be an element of consulting as well as engaging and an aspect of delivering.

Les asked if the Community Engagement Group is having meetings and, if so, will the JCC have a seat at the meeting (as opposed to individual Community Councils) and also who would Chair the meetings? Roddy confirmed the CEG will have meetings, discussions are ongoing as to who would chair – possibly the Convenor? Possibly a rotating chair? – the JCC will have a seat on this group.

Bob made the comment that he felt the Local Authority had not used Community Councils for what they are here for and if the same happens with this proposed structure it will be as weak as the previous. Roddy responded this demonstrated how the relationship has to change. It will take all interest groups if all issues are to be addressed. Roddy advised it is a broad church and should involve as many of the community who want to be involved. Roddy advised that some of the challenges are quite profound and a significant effort will be required to achieve results. Roddy

recognises that every community is different so energy and resilience has to be embraced.

David MacKay commented that he had a concern if it all fails, who picks up the cost. Roddy replied this had to be measured against risk of doing nothing. The assets that we have are strong communities, Roddy admitted there is a risk they can get it wrong and it might fail but mutual respect and mutual faith in each other would be needed. The risk of doing nothing would jeopardise the people of Moray.

In creating this structure it gives a framework to move forward. The Scottish Government expect annual reports and evidence that there has been engagement with communities.

Peter stated he was disappointed there had been no consultation feedback despite this reassurance. Roddy confirmed there is a commitment after the current budget consultation to go back to the initial Focus Groups and provide feedback.

Alastair stated he didn't mind who chaired the group but the previous chair was 'parachuted in' – there were proposals to strengthen the role of Community Councils but he didn't see it happening with the proposed structure with, again, no real link to the Community Planning Board. Roddy reiterated his assurance that the reality is Community Engagement is a fundamental part of Community Planning – there is clear evidence of that.

Alastair was concerned that, although there was an Engagement group in existence, there was no consultation, even with the Community Engagement Group on this structure and requested information on what happened to the previous Engagement group. Roddy advised the Chair was at the meeting but Alastair confirmed he was not representing JCC.

Roddy requested the meeting move Item 5 "Emergency Response – the role of the Community Council" to this point of the Agenda given the relevance to the subject matter.

Roddy introduced Mr Colin Gray the Co-ordinator of Emergency Planning for the Grampian Region area.

5. EMERGENCY RESPONSE – THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mr Colin Gray introduced himself and advised he works for Category 1 responders (Local Authorities, Police, Fire service, Ambulance service, SEPA, Coastguard and NHS) to respond and recover from Emergencies. He reports to the Chief Constable who manages the Partnership.

Colin advised there is a strong relationship network in this area and can ensure the appropriate bodies are round the table dependent on the 'disruptive challenge'

Colin encouraged the members to give some thought on preparing themselves and their communities for any disruptive challenges to compliment, not replace Emergency Services.

Colin advised that the Army has in the past assisted in emergencies but they charge for this assistance.

Colin said there remains a concern that by assisting in an emergency you may be held liable. However, he confirmed if you are doing something in tandem with an Emergency Service you will be covered.

Prior to this meeting Colin circulated a copy of Yetholm Community Council Resilient Communities Plan and offered his assistance in developing plans although this remains the Community Council's responsibility. The Community Plan does not require to be as extensive as this and may just include, for example, details of priority roads being gritted

David MacKay advised that Neighbourhood Watch Scotland is currently trialling an Emergency Contact system whereby everyone with a particular postcode can be advised of an emergency within 10 minutes. David will provide further details of this to Community Councils.

Colin confirmed it may not necessarily be the Community Council that takes this forward but the knowledge they have should be incorporated.

Les said he has discussed this with his Community Council and felt it was an 'uphill struggle' to form one of their own and the commitment from Findhorn and Kinloss CC was to continue to be vigilant and check on their communities without the beurocracy of producing their own plan. Colin welcomed their input but advised that when a plan is compiled it will, in time, be available online at 'Ready Grampian' with a spot for each community where a plan exists. This could be linked from the Community Council website.

Colin also suggested that community Police may be part of the development of a plan.

Gordon felt that the population of Elgin makes a community plan unrealistic. Colin suggested that for larger settlements there may be more engagement with third sector e.g. Red Cross who have a large number of volunteers.

Colin closed by advising that if Community Councils wanted one of his team or the Local Authority Emergency Planning Team to attend their meetings they would be happy to do that.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Donald Cameron, Lennox Community Council and Dyke Landward Community Council.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 9TH AUGUST 2012

Budget Presentation from Councillor Wright – The increased demand is for council services, particularly care of the elderly. Not increased demand for resources’

Page 4 – Findhorn & Kinloss, should be ‘full occupancy of the *married quarters*’

With these amendments the Minute was proposed by Peter Bush and seconded by Bob Hellyer as being a true record of proceedings.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP – REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All members are encouraged to read over this Report.

6 REPORTS

- a) No further information
- b) Treasurer’s Report There was £540 in the account prior to paying backdated travel expenses. The Treasurer requested permission to transfer any remaining monies to the Special Project account. All agreed with this course of action. Colin will forward a request to CCLO for 2012 / 13 grant monies.
- c) CCLO Report – Tracey advised there have been 25 enquiries since the previous JCC meeting – 22 of these have been resolved within the agreed customer service standard with the other 3 only recently received.

Grant cheques for the period October to March have been issued but only a small number of Community Councils have confirmed receipt of this cheque. Tracey requested that all do so asap and that accounts are provided to Tracey.

Review of Scheme The Moray Council Scheme for Community Councils is due for review, commencing Spring 2013. A report will be prepared shortly to be heard at a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee which will outline the Consultation timetable and framework for the review of the Scheme and outline arrangements for the election. In advance of this, to enable the review process, Democratic Services will shortly be formally asking Community Councils their views on any issues / amendments they may wish to be considered relative to the Community Council Scheme review. This includes all aspects of the scheme including

boundaries, membership, supporting documentation such as constitution, standing orders and code of conduct.

It is likely that a response will be asked for by mid January 2013, further information about this will follow to Community Councils Secretaries in due course.

Tellmescotland.gov.uk (PINs) Portable Information Network This is Scotland's national public information notices portal (PINs) allowing public notices across Scotland to be published in a single online location for the first time. It's a national initiative endorsed and supported by the Scottish Government.

7. SUPPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN JCC AND CSU

A Draft Support Agreement was circulated with the Agenda papers. Tracey asked those in attendance to consider the items noted and to let her know if they were in agreement with the identified priorities and to feedback to her. Tracey also advised that an evaluation of the service provided by the CCLO would be sent out soon and encouraged everyone to participate in this.

8. MORAY COUNCIL PRIORITIES CONSULTATION

Alastair provided the dates for the forthcoming Workshops and encouraged all Community Councillors to attend. Pre-registration is required and can be done online or by contacting 01343 563396.

Les advised that, as a member of the Citizens Panel, he received a survey on the budget priorities and was disappointed with the quality of the data produced.

Bob informed the meeting that he attended the Forres Roadshow and questioned the figures provided by Accountancy which, he felt, were obviously wrong due to Common Good income.

9. MORAY LOCAL PLAN MIR EVENT

JCC are co-hosting an event with the Economic Development Department to highlight the Main Issues contained in the forthcoming Local Plan review. This event is on **Wednesday 12th December, Laichmoray Hotel, Elgin from 7pm – 9.30**. Alastair encouraged all Community Councils to attend.

Alastair proposed that JCC pay for refreshments at this event which was seconded by Bob Hellyer.

10. FINDERENE CONSULTATION / FUTURE PROMOTION

Bob advised that he attended the Open Meeting in Rafford to consider the Finnerne Community Council area. Bob was disappointed that he was not allowed to ask questions and felt an ideal opportunity to register an interest in forming a Community Council was missed. He confirmed very good presentations on the night but no feedback at the end of the night.

Les Morgan was also in attendance and also felt disappointed that there was no feedback and the opportunity to register to become a Community Councillor was missed.

JCC all felt disappointed at the lack of feedback following the Committee meeting to consider this issue.

Alastair asked JCC to consider a promotion campaign given the end of this term of office is in September 2013. This is to be an Agenda item for the February meeting.

11. INFORMATION SHARING

Buckie

James advised that the money made available from Tesco has not yet been used and they continue to encourage local Elected Members to consider road improvements etc. James confirmed that Buckie continue to have good police representation at their meetings.

Burghead & Cummingston

Although there were no Community Councillors present from this area, Councillor Tuke reported there were no major issues but there has been 2 new co-options. He also reported the formation of a Badminton Club and Tennis Club in the village.

Elgin

Gordon reported that the recent Community Fair was a successful event, attracting around 20 different organisations to promote themselves.

Elgin continue to work with the local Taxi drivers to standardise the service.

The base of Ladyhill has been greatly enhanced. Anne Glover and her team were thanked for their hard work to improve this area.

Elgin is now due to become a Fairtrade City and they are looking to extend this to the whole of Moray.

Findhorn & Kinloss

Community Councillors at F&K were delighted that all 4 Ward Councillors were in attendance at the recent meeting.

Les reported that the Army are settling well and a recent 'Fresher's Fair' was held in the Gymnasium where any local sports or hobby groups could go along and demonstrate what is available from their group.

Les has been advised that the Army will carry out a Remembrance tribute along the same lines as RAF Kinloss has in the past.

Les informed the JCC that their CC discussed producing an Emergency Plan at their recent meeting and they all felt it was a nice idea but will get by on what they currently do. Les felt, following the presentation tonight, he would like to look at formalising this situation.

Forres

Colin advised that Forres in Bloom has received another Gold Award. The flood alleviation is continuing well. The repaving of the High Street 2nd stage is now complete (from Anderson's Primary to the Town Hall). Colin advised that Redco Milne plans for Common Good land have resurfaced.

Bob advised that they are starting to make progress regarding the Common Good fund.

Innes

David reported that Bear Scotland have commenced with the restitution of the A96 through Mosstodloch. He reported good police attendance at their meetings and good dialogue with this service.

David advised they have been working heavily on tidal erosion at Kingston Beach. Innes CC provided a presentation to The Moray Council and Greg Guthrey of Royal Haskoning. Mr Guthrey visited the area to inspect the damage but, unfortunately, it was almost dark before he arrived. The Moray Firth Partnership have requested Innes CC share this presentation with them.

David made a request that the JCC host an evening, particularly to the 8 Coastal Community Councils that they can give their presentation. All in attendance agreed with this.

David also advised that a Petition is on the Scottish Government website <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01459> and asked that all Community Councillors visit and sign this Petition.

Tracey is to liaise with Jim Mackie with regards a meeting to share the Presentation.

Keith

Charlie reported a very successful event in Keith 'Keith's still Listening'. This event was primarily to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town. Charlie reported a good constructive attendance from the young people in the town and, from this event, Charlie will be getting involved with 'The Loft' to share his knowledge of hill walking, map reading etc with the young people.

Charlie reported the Keith Christmas Extravaganza will take place on Saturday 1st December and a Gala Dance will be held on 16th February.

Lennox

The Chair welcomed Lynn Duncan, the new Vice-Chair at Lennox Community Council to the meeting.

Lynn reported they had a 30 years serving as a Community Councillor presentation to Colin Murray at their last meeting when the Convener presented Colin with a framed certificate.

Lynn advised the Square in Fochabers is being upgraded by Transport Scotland as part of the detrunking. This project has been delayed until January with an anticipated completion by May 2013. Lynn reported that a Country Market will be starting in the Square.

Lynn reported good Police attendance at their meetings although they struggle to get youth membership.

Lynn asked for clarification regarding the long service certificate – there was confusion if someone is eligible only when they leave the Community Council. Tracey confirmed that serving Community Councillors who have served for a minimum of 20 years are eligible. Application forms are at the rear of the Members Handbook.

Strathisla

Ian reported low attendance at the recent meetings given the farming demands on members. They continue to deal with a larger than average amount of windfarm planning applications and an application for a substation.

Ian advised there is excellent police attendance at their meetings and enjoy a good relationship with this Agency. Ian also advised there are 2 new youth members on their Community Council.

12. AOCB

Peter advised they have a representative on the NHS but transport to Aberdeen for a Saturday morning meeting is proving difficult. Peter asked that the JCC make representation to request rotation of meetings. Alastair confirmed he will contact Richard Carey and also provide Richard's contact details to Innes CC.

Elaine Brown will be contacted to check her availability for the next meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the JCC will be held on Thursday 14th February, 7pm in the Council Chambers.