

**NOTE OF JCC MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 9 MAY 2013, 7PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

James Smith	Buckie Community Council
Gordon Cowie	Buckie Community Council
Les Morgan (Vice-Chair)	Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council
Colin Lipscomb	Forres Community Council
Bob Hellyer	Forres Community Council
Sandy Anderson	Innes Community Council
James Mackie	Innes Community Council
Anne Speake	Innes Community Council
Lansana Bangura	Innes Community Council
John Third	Innes Community Council
Donald Cameron	Lennox Community Council
Lynn Duncan	Lennox Community Council

In Attendance

Chief Inspector Willie Findlay, Police Scotland  
Councillor Chris Tuke  
Tracey Rae, Community Council Liaison Officer  
Andrea McArthur, Minute Taker

Apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Martin, Keith Community Council, Keith Comrie and Ian Ross, Strathisla Community Council, Alastair Kennedy, Elgin Community Council and Councillor Wright

Les introduced Chief Inspector Findlay to the meeting who has been invited to give a talk on Police Reform.

Chief Inspector Findlay advised that the launch had 'come and gone' on 1 April 2013 but, for the greater majority, transition to a single Police Force has gone largely unnoticed. The same local officers are dealing with the same local issues and nobody has moved. The staff are carrying out the same job now as they were before. The most significant change to date is that the contact number is now 101 for non emergencies and this will still take you directly through to the police contact centre in Aberdeen. The force is now called Police Scotland.

Background – The Christie Commission recommended that public services should be made more efficient and the Scottish Government set out to unify the 8 Police Forces across Scotland. Cost of policing in 2010/11 was £1.4bn and had seen considerable year on year increases although crime rates were falling and were at a 35year low. One of the major details of the reform is the anticipated cost saving of £1.7bn over the next 10years. The current budget for the new service is approximately £1.1bn, allocated 90% Police and 10% SPSA. £60m of savings are needed to be made in the current year to meet budget.

With the appointment of Mr House, Chief Constable for Police Scotland, his blueprint was to have one force with 14 divisions rather than the originally suggested one force with 32 divisions. Scotland has been split into three hubs namely, North, East

and West. We are in the North hub which is made up of Grampian, Tayside and Northern of which there are 4 divisions: Tayside one division, Northern one division and Grampian two divisions (Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire & Moray). Aberdeenshire & Moray consists of four command areas namely, North, Central, South and Moray. With Moray and Aberdeenshire now one division, there is a bigger voice at the national table and now bigger than Aberdeen city in terms of staffing and more comparable with other Scottish divisions. There is the view that even if Grampian Police had remained as is, there was a strong possibility that a merger would have occurred anyway.

Local policing is central to how the new service has been set up and the Grampian Police local policing model has been a strong influence on the new set up which has meant a lesser impact here in Grampian as there has been no change in terms of front end delivery.

#### Divisional Structure

Chief Superintendent – Local Policing Commander  
Superintendent Operations – Area Commanders – x4 Chief Inspectors  
Superintendent Support – chief Inspector Support – Support Functions  
CID Resources – Detective Chief Inspector  
Roads Policing – Inspector

National Policing purpose is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, place and communities in Scotland. Focus on Keeping People Safe. Values are of Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

The priorities are:

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour  
Protecting the Public  
Road Safety and Road Crime  
Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism  
Major Events and Threats  
Reform  
Public Confidence

In terms of local policing priorities, in the lead up to 1 April 2013, consultation was undertaken with Council, elected members, community representatives and partners to confirm what the local issues were to inform the local policing strategic assessment and in turn the Moray Local Policing Plan. This meant that we were ahead of the game with the existing Grampian local policing set up.

Local priorities are: Antisocial Behaviour, Violence & Disorder, Road Safety & Road Crime, National Security, Public Protection and Serious & Organised Crime. Particular local issues were also determined and highlighted in the Multi Member Ward Plans and the 4 inspectors cover the 8 Multi Member Wards will continue to produce quarterly updates as before. See details at this link <http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/aberdeenshire-and-moray/Moray/>

Scrutiny

Police and Fire Service Committee has been formed by Moray Council and will be reported to on a quarterly basis; this replaces the former Grampian Police Joint Board. This committee is chaired by Councillor Ross and has an elected representative from each of the 8 Multi Member Wards.

Police will continue to attend Community Council meetings and provide an informal and local update, engage through that process and take away any concerns raised. There are still Performance Indicators by which the police have to measure themselves against.

#### Future

Currently there is a mixture of IT resources across Scotland that is to be rationalised although work did commence prior to reform. Also a rationalisation of assets such as control rooms, service centres, back office functions to be spread across Scotland and not all centralised in Glasgow, Edinburgh or elsewhere. There should be no compulsory redundancy for support staff.

Reform was never going to be an overnight process and whilst in the short term there have been some structural changes, there will be more to come in the future as Police Scotland continues to evolve. Things are starting to take shape and there should be no difference in the frontline policing service you see, the changes are behind the scenes and structural changes.

Les thanks Chief Inspector Findlay for his informative presentation and invited questions and comments.

Colin was concerned that there might be problems with the 101 numbers as there were when the 0845 numbers were first introduced.

CI Findlay advised that by dialling 101 in this area, the call goes to the Aberdeen call centre as it did before. Technology has greatly improved since the introduction of the call centre and early Indications are that all is working well with the 101 number.

Bob felt that local intelligence had been lost since the introduction of the 0845 number and would continue to be so with the 101 number. This was due mainly to being unable to get through to the local police office.

CI Findlay advised that you can ask to be put through to the local police office when dialling 101 (or 0845 as previously).

Bob advised that he was unaware that he could ask to be put through and also he and Colin were not convinced that this would happen as the operator always asks many questions in the first instance.

CI Findlay advised that he will feed these comments back.

Bob asked about whether HMI would still look at complaints.

CI Findlay advised that complaints were dealt with through Professional Standards Department, HMI, and this department has been deleted and complaints now go to the Police Complaints Commission for Scotland and if complainant remains unhappy then it will be considered by Professional Standards.

Bob commented that in Forres both police officers and community wardens were well respected and effective in gathering intelligence in the community.

Donald was concerned about the problems on our roads and the standard of driving and wondered whether anything would be done about raising standards of driving in Moray.

CI Findlay advised that there is a Road Policing Unit and this unit will continue the work it is currently doing. There is a National Roads Policing Unit currently being created.

Chief Inspector Findlay thanked the Community Councils for their input.

Les advised that David Mackay on Neighbourhood Watch is currently unwell and therefore his presentation will be postponed until another meeting date, to be confirmed. August will not be a suitable date due to the attendance of Richard Lochhead.

## **2. Minute of Previous Meeting – 14 February 2013**

Tracey advised of amendments by Councillor Wright. Page 3, second paragraph; 'Councillor Wright advised there is an extra budget pressure of £1.5m to accommodate children out of area'.

Page 3, seventh paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> last sentence; 'He stated that an extra £70k.....'

With these amendments the Minute was approved as a true record of proceedings and was proposed by Bob Hellyer and seconded by James Mackie.

## **3. Matters Arising**

Pg 2 – Action: All CCs to consider – this has been done.

Pg 4 – Item 4 Contact Details – Les advised that Peter Bush has resigned therefore Action not required.

Pg 5, Item 8 Community Planning Update – AK will provide update at next meeting

Pg 8, Item 10 Cycle Path – 1500 signatures had been collect in 2 weeks in support of the cycle path. Transport Scotland, The Moray Council and Sustrans to meet to discuss. There is also to be a meeting between Transport Scotland and Richard Lochhead MSP.

Pg 8, Item 10 Press Attendance – Hazel from the Northern Scot requested that minutes and agendas of meetings are sent to her and she will attend if necessary.

## **4. Review of The Moray Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils**

Les advised that all Community Councils should have received information from Moira Patrick, Democratic Services Manager, The Moray Council, on the scheme outlining how it operates and suggested changes. One significant suggested change is that the age be lowered to 16 years in line with 16 year olds being given the 'vote' at the 2014 Referendum.

Another suggestion is that people who are co-opted to a Community Council automatically become a full member after a year.

Once all comments have been received and collated from the Community Councils, a revised scheme will go to the Community Councils for approval. The election process cannot be started until the scheme is approved.

## **5. Reports**

(a) Community Planning update (provided by Alastair)

“As we know, a new structure for Community Planning (CP) has been agreed by the CP board. As before, it is proposed that a Community Engagement Group (CEG) sits almost outwith but alongside the rest of the structure and will report directly to the CP board. This is exactly the same situation as with the previous structure. You will recall that the JCC wrote to the relevant people who, through their organisations, were involved in CP, raising our concerns that following the cancellation of a CEG meeting early last year no engagement had taken place in Moray. Furthermore, members were thereby completely isolated from Community Planning. A number of representatives were invited to attend an initial meeting with Stewart Cree, Convenor of the Moray Council, to look at building a new CEG. That meeting took place on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The representatives involved were the JCC, Moray forum, Village halls, Tenant’s participation group and tsiMORAY. Roddy Burns, Ian Todd and Denise Gormley were in attendance. Stewart Cree, is to chair the CEG and he is obviously enthusiastic about proper engagement taking place throughout Moray. There was a facilitator at the meeting and the morning went well. However, I was personally disappointed in the later session because it was exactly as the previous group had spent very many hours doing and I felt we were trying to re-invent something. However, Stewart Cree’s obvious desire to build a good engagement vehicle led me to agree to continue.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May and I will update members on what transpire”

Comments:

Les felt positive that the Convener is so positive about the future of the new Community Engagement Group.

Colin and Bob expressed concern that the group say they are doing something but then not doing it. Bob hopes that the group manages to list and action what they say they will do ie. listen to the community councils. It should be remembered that community councils have a statutory right to be consulted on issues.

(b) JCC Sub-Group Update (Les Morgan)

As a result of Alastair’s proposal at the last meeting, a sub group was set up to consider actions to promote nominations for the next community council term starting in October 2013. Alastair, Gordon Methven, Jane Martin and Les have had 3 meetings during March and April 2013 and were well supported by Tracey. The group believes that it has made good progress to date. To promote community councils and give information on the nomination process, they have produced some draft publicity material; a leaflet, poster, press advert and a press release; these are

very much in draft format. Tracey distributed copies of this information and Les advised that any suggestions and/or comments were welcomed. Tracey advised that all community councils will get a number of posters and leaflets to distribute in their area, once agreed.

Donald suggested that the use of Doric was perhaps not the best example on official literature as it may not be understood. Les advised that this had been suggested by a member from Keith and the sub group had considered this and thought that it might make the literature look as if it is from 'the people;' rather than the Moray Council. Donald felt that it was okay for people who actually speak Doric but the literature should be representative of Moray as a whole. Les suggested that a vote be taken by those present and this was agreed.

Yes to Doric – 4 (Buckie & Innes)

No to Doric – 7

The group discussed possible alternatives and it was proposed to simply translate to: 'Give us a hand, have your say'

Yes to this – 6

No – 1

Les advised that these comments and suggestions will be fed back to the sub group.

There has also been a budget produced based on receiving £75 from each Moray community council and approximately £250 from JCC funds. The funds would be used for advertising in the Spotlight magazine and in the local press. Any unspent money would be returned to community councils. Councillor Tuke advised that Burghead & Cummington CC had decided not to contribute.

Les advised that currently they are under budget and asked Tracey to chase community councils for their contribution cheque.

**ACTION: TR**

Bob suggested that current community councils should be minded to ensure that new community councils will be funded from scratch – no obligation to leave monies for the incoming community council however, Les did confirm that money can be carried forward to the new community council.

Councillor Tuke asked about whether editorials in the press had been considered as these are free as opposed to advertising in the press. Les is confident that the press will give more than one editorial over the period of community council elections. They may do a biography on nominations as done at previous elections.

Bob congratulated the sub group on what has been done to date but not sure what they are now doing. He thinks that the problem is not with the public but with the way community councils are supported and considered by the Moray Council. He feels that the effectiveness of community councils and the Joint community councils has been reduced.

Les advised that the sub group is doing what the JCC want it to do and suggested that if any community council members felt that this was not the case then it would be helpful if the information could be documented for all members to see.

(c) Treasurer's Report (Colin Lipscomb)

Colin advised that there is £828 in the account and this included £600 for special projects. He advised that to date in the separate account noted for the sub group, there has been £450 of cheques received giving a total of £1050 available.

Colin proposed that up to £600 can be used for the promotion etc of the forthcoming elections and this would help any shortfall due to any community council not contributing or of any unforeseen added costs.

Vote: 6 in favour of this

Colin also advised that he would be stepping down at the end of this term and therefore a replacement treasurer would need to be identified. Colin agreed to take the accounts to audit stage and also to give some initial help to a new treasurer. If a community council is not happy or does not feel supported then they should share these concerns formally with the JCC.

Les formally thanked Colin for his 3 terms work as treasurer.

(d) CCLO Report (Tracey Rae)

Tracey advised that Grants have been issued to Community Councils for the period April – September 2013. There has been an issue with non banking of some grant cheques and failure to provide accounts and minutes; this is currently being addressed.

The Community Council Scheme is currently out for consultation and community councils are urged to comment on positive proposals as well as anything they do not think will work. Given the experiences of the present term, amongst other proposals, a proposal has been made that co-opted members will become 'full members' after 1 year.

Update Members Handbook, - as well as updating the Scheme, the Handbook will be updated and issued in a combined document to Community Councillors in the new term. All Community Councillors have been asked to comment on the Handbook, what they have found useful? What is missing? What is necessary/unnecessary to ensure a Handbook that best serves Community Councillors.

Facebook – a Joint Community Councils of Moray Facebook page has been set up and Community Councils are asked to publicise this and 'like' the page.

Sub – Group – Tracey has been involved in supporting this group; there has been a lot of work undertaken by the volunteers in this group including delivering presentations to Speyside Forum and Rathven Community Hall. Further presentations are planned at Edinkillie Community Association and Moray Youth Forum.

Colin enquired as to whether there was anything being done in the Rafford area to encourage people to form a community council? His impression is that the community support unit is against this. He had had a call in respect of windfarm

benefits and had to advise that there is no community council in that area and advised caller to go direct to the Moray Council.

Tracey responded to this and stressed that she could not agree with this statement and that resources are being put into that area including visiting, open event at the hall and making information and application forms available. The remit of the open event at the hall was not to recruit.

Les suggested that in respect of Facebook, that the sub group add information on promoting the work of community councils.

## **6. Information Sharing**

Buckie: James advised the main issues have been a fight against the cuts especially in respect of closing toilets. Les enquired whether any challenge had been put forward by the community council – James responded no.

Findhorn & Kinloss – In view of the possible cuts to rural bus services, the community council conducted a survey of users of the number 31 bus serving Kinloss and Findhorn. Results showed that the bus was essential during morning and afternoon rush hour periods but that at other times the service was used only by a few people. The results were report to the Moray Council stressing the need to modify the timetable to eliminate uneconomic runs.

Moray Council's plan to issue a complete set of coloured waste bins to all households was overkill as some properties do not have enough space to accommodate them all or enough waste to fill them. Dialogue with Waste Management staff has resulted in positioning of some centralised bins and the removal of some personal ones.

Work is continuing to produce a Findhorn & Kinloss Emergency Resilience Plan as promoted by the Scottish Government.

Kinloss Church of Scotland is thriving in its dual role of church and village hall. Work continues to overcome licensing and insurance issues for the Cumming Hall MOD building modified for military and civilian community use.

Forres – very little going on but a lot going on in the background in respect of public toilets and libraries. There is a feeling that figures generated misrepresent the truth and the community council is fed up of fighting this. Information was requested and received in respect of a financial spreadsheet of which a quarter of the amount was depreciation of building (£60,000). The feeling is that some of the common good fund could be used and have put this forward to the local Councillors – no feedback to date.

Innes – toilets in Garmouth used to be opened/closed/cleaned by the village amenities then Moray Council took this task over!

Brown Muir application – information provided on observation and submission has resulted in the application back to the Scottish Government to amend the highlighted points.

Doohill – Reporter over-ruled the Council's decision and 3 years grace has been afforded to the travellers.

Kingston Beach – the surveyors have visited but there has been no further communication or feedback to the community. Requested Chair of Economic



Development & Infrastructure Committee to include some information as further issues on the River Spey appear to have been ignored in the reports. A sub group has been set up which is gathering data from old reports and other available information in order to collate evidence should anything untoward occur in the area.

Rural Buses – wrote to MSP to ask if communities can be consulted on routes – response indicated that the Scottish Government have increased money given to authorities to spend on rural bus services.

David McKay has stepped down as Chair of Innes CC due to ill health, Sandy Anderson has taken over and this is his first JCC meeting.

Lennox – Donald confirmed that the CC are more than happy to provide the £75 towards the forthcoming elections literature etc.

There is a large community spirit in Fochabers and the new village association has formed as a limited company, currently in excess of 150 members which includes 7 Directors. Aim to be a development trust and take forward the asset transfer of the Institute Hall in Fochabers which will require good management and support.

## **7. AOCB**

James Mackie had submitted a letter to the JCC Chair in respect of disabled parking in Elgin (copy attached). It was agreed that this letter should be actioned by the Chair by submitting to the roads & transportation sub group.

**ACTION: AK**

Les also asked Tracey if she could pursue the matter and she advised that she is already in conversation with Andy Duff, Senior Traffic Engineer, the Moray Council.

James advised that the Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee had already turned down the recommendation to review parking in Elgin and it may be helpful if members of the community councils could discuss with their own local councillors. Councillor Tuke suggested that Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services, is contacted directly as he is still currently looking at the provision of disabled parking.

Anne Speake wanted to make everyone aware, for information only, that the unit for infantile arthritis may be closing in Aberdeen as the current consultant is retiring and the post is not being advertised therefore it may be that families with young children will have to travel to Glasgow for appointments.

Donald advised that the link between the council and the public is the community councils but there is no clear remit, status or powers, can only give their views. The community councils hold insufficient powers to be taken notice of and he thinks that this is the basic problem and, until this matter is solved, this will always stop people from standing as community councillors. Small places already have their own community groups that do things within their communities and don't want/need a community council. Community Councils should be recognised by the government and given better status and more power.

Bob said it had been 6 years since the Scottish Government decided that the community should be involved in community planning. Community Councillors are elected, are volunteers and work very hard but, in Moray, not listened to.

Tracey reminded everyone that the existing community councils will be in existence until the night before the elections, they will not be dissolved – do not resign.

**8. Date of Next Meeting – 8 August 2013**

Richard Lochhead, MSP has been invited to the meeting.

DRAFT