

Innes Community council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

Urquhart Village Hall.

Community Councillors Present John Fettes Chairman

Peter Bush Secretary. Liz Bodman, Peter Gordon Smith, Winifred Linn, L Anne Speake.  
Lansana Bangura.

In attendance. PC Debbie Price Michael Reid, Lennox CC. Paul Ralph

Apologies Mark McClelland-Jones, James Mackie, Douglas Ross Margo Howe and Sandy Anderson.

John welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Public Submissions. None.**

**2. Reports.**

- **Police report.**

Pc. Price gave a brief report to the Community Council about ongoing Investigations, January – February. A total of 19 crimes were recorded in the Fochabers Policing Section. These crimes related to Thefts Road Traffic offences and anti-social behaviour. To date the offenders have been identified in 11 of these crimes.

- **Moray Councillors Reports.**

None received.

- **Treasurers report.**

Liz had taken on the role temporary, until Mark is back.

Liz had spent an hour in the Bank sorting out the mess they had created by losing Johns signature form, and as it was their mess they gave the Community council £15 as an apology.

- **JCC reports.**

Peter B gave a brief report

.Access to the streets presented by Don Toonnen who is explained the Moray Equalities forum was keen to work with Community groups to carry out

street audits and to educate on temporary obstacles such as wheelie bins, and parking on pavements etc.

#### **SEPA**

Mairi McNaughton who is a Flood advisor with SEPA provided extension on Flood line. Work is ongoing on coastal flooding system from Wick to Inverness along the Moray Coastline to improve the forecast of flooding. This will predict storm surges better. As part of the scheme there will be new coastal gauges in Kingston soon.

Winn and Peter Gordon smith reported the gauges were in place already.

#### **Loaf**

Michelle Gillibrand a volunteer with the Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum gave a brief presentation on the work this group does, She explained that this group are involved in the Moray Local outdoor Access Strategy review, Moray Core Path Plan Preparation..

#### **Structure**

Alastair provided a brief update on his time whilst being Chair off JCC, and felt, given the new term of office, this was an opportune time to consider

#### **Office Bearers.**

Tracey presided over this and the following Office bearers were elected.

Chair Alastair Kennedy.

Vice Chair Les Morgan.

Treasurer Carolle Rolf.

### **3. Community Council session.**

- **February 4<sup>th</sup> Minutes.**

These were accepted as a true record. Proposed PGS Seconded LB

### **4. Matters arising.**

- **Temporary Treasurer.**

The secretary had approached John Third to be acting treasurer whilst mark was on Leave of Absence; John declined and said there were enough Community councillors for someone to do the Job.

The secretary Approached Liz and asked her if she would do it as a temporary matter. This she agree d to do.

## 5. Consultations.

- **Public Entertainment License.**

The secretary reported that he had completed the online survey on behalf of the community council.

It was agreed by Moray Council that the new licensing fees would take effect from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

These fees will be subject to final approval by the Moray Councils Policy and Resources Committee when it meets to consider fees charged across the Council on 18/3/2014.

- **Schools Review.**

The secretary had circulated documents around the Community Council.

The main concern of the meeting was the need to transport so many pupils between the Schools within the Emerging Ideas. Such as transporting 130+ pupils between Mosstodloch and Milne's Primary School.

The merging of Milne's and Mosstodloch is not acceptable.

Merge Milne's High and Elgin High Schools at the new build Elgin High site.

This is also unacceptable too, once again the distance to transport a large number of pupils to Elgin High.

Combination of Milne's High being merged with Elgin High School and Mosstodloch and Milne's Primary Schools being merged at the current Milne's High School site.(the site would be refurbished and modified.

The meeting was concerned about the cost of maintaining two empty buildings as this could cost more than repairing Mosstodloch School.

John seemed to think that the school was bequeathed to Fochabers for the purpose of Education. Milne's Free School was opened in 1846, the result of a bequest by Alexander Milne of New Orleans. So there is a possibility that the empty building cannot be used for anything else.

This is unacceptable too.

The Secretary fill in Survey form on behalf of the ICC. PB to action

- **Sports and Leisure Review**

Further consultation will be taking place in March – April.

## 6. Items for discussion.

- **Community Benefits**

John opened the discussion on community benefits, stating that with the number of farms using wind turbines and the possible Benefits coming out of the farms coming our way, it might be a good idea for the ICC to be up and running to organise these incoming benefits.

The secretary pointed out that a recent application by Corskie farm if successful was going to put between £2000 and £3000 into the community, the application was unsuccessful.

Liz pointed out that there were no guidelines on this matter and it might be a good idea to raise this at the training session the secretary John and herself were attending on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>. This was agreed and would be reported back at the April 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting.

- **Brown Muir Wind Farm.**

Peter B opened this issue, as meg Deasley had been in contact with him with a view to coming to a future meeting to talk on Brown Muir. Liz pointed out that it was common courtesy to allow the Community council in half hour before the exhibition opened for the public to ask questions. PB to action with Meg Deasley.

Liz also pointed out that James Mackie is right in stating the Community council needs a mandate from the community to take any action on Brown Muir Wind Farm . It could be a good idea for PB to contact local organisations to seek out their views. PB to action.

- **Rural Broadband**

Liz reported attended a meeting at Inch berry as there were a number of concerns about rural properties not in built up areas not receiving any broadband once this new fibre optic cable is running. A lot of these properties would not receive any broadband at all. Liz is using 3g at the moment but is working out very expensive.

The meeting she attended could offer no help at all. Liz did point out that Garmouth and Kingston has a possibility of having high speed broadband when Mosstodloch comes on stream which should be around June or July this year. .

- **Credit Unions**

Peter B and John along with James attended a fuel club meeting at Garmouth Village Hall and both of us were impressed the way NESCU or North East Scotland Credit Union played a role in helping fund shortfalls for those who lack funds to buy oil in bulk.

Peter B .spoke to Nicky McKay with a view to inviting her to a future meeting of the ICC to explain their role within the community.

The meeting agreed that a credit Union is needed in the Innes CC area Garmouth and Lhanbryde are two areas that spring to mind. Lansana thought this was a very good idea and spoke a little of his experiences with them.

It was agreed that Peter should get in contact with Nicky and invite her to the next meeting. PB to action.

- **Recycling Points review.**

Peter B received an email from Ally Gordon Monitoring officer (recycling) informing us of the review of recycling points across Moray, , and that Spey mouth Hall and Glenesk road recycling points are to be closed.

Peter B replied to his email which was circulated around the ICC, stressing the need to keep Speymouth Hall recycling point open, due to the high number of functions within the Hall which uses the recycling bins as they have no glass or can recycling bins themselves. The danger of this closing down is Bottles will be left outside the hall in carrier bags and there is a danger of vandalism. PB To follow up.

## 7. Information.

- **Planning issues.**

Liz pointed out there was 7 applications in since the last meeting.

6 of no Consequence but one was, this was 14/00163/APP retrospective Application for internal alterations to existing church hall to create a dwelling house at Garmouth church Hall. Winn stated that the floor has to be raised 3mm, She said this is senseless as the building has never been flooded. The members from Kingston and Garmouth agreed with this, Liz asked if the ICC should get involved and the general consensus was no it was being dealt with by other means.

John mentioned a problem that has arisen with a new build houses at Connagesdale Garmouth. The original Planning application was for 9 houses with their own Septic tanks, John has since learnt that the houses are now going to be connected to the main sewer.

John and Peter to write a letter to the planning department, to raise the concerns of the community Council.

- **Correspondence.**

Peter B reported there were 3 items of correspondence this week, all other correspondence had been circulated..

Moray Litter Strategy from Richard Lochhead. This was to do with a Litter Campaign during April.

Scotland Rural Parliament Advisory Forum First meeting to be held at Dunked Perthshire on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

This was a programme of what was happening on the day. As Gordon Methuen is the Moray JCC, it was felt to see his report back to the JCC. Women's Fund for Scotland.

Foundation Scotland has announced that the Women's Fund is back in business and can make small grants to projects that support women's development, self-sufficiency and social and economic equality.

More info i <http://www.womensfundscotland.org/>

Anne took a copy of the leaflet for further reference.  
All above correspondence filed for reference.

#### 8. AOCB.

- The secretary asked around the table how many had received the February 4<sup>th</sup> Minutes on the February 14<sup>th</sup> which was the day they were sent out to ICC Moray councillors village halls and Tracey Rae.

As he had received an email which had been circulated around the ICC from James that those minutes should be sent out at least a week before the meeting and had quoted Moray Council rules that say Tracey Rae should get the minutes within 30 days of a meeting.

I had sent the minutes out in plenty of time, the ones I sent out on the day of the meeting were sent out as a refresher.

.Also I would like to point out that the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was 28 days ago. Lansana said he had not received them, and Anne Speake said she was having problems with a changeover of Internet but gets them normally.

Another cause of concern in the email is the remark, referring to the Guidelines for Community Councils all personal interest has to be declared so that no accusations can be made against the CC at a later date, he is referring to Liz Bodman, I quote "Who had openly campaigned against the Previous Brown Muir planning application for the past 2 or 3 years therefor has well known personal interest.

Liz has responded to James Mackie's email, and stated that this new standalone application must be looked at in its own with regard to the planning regulations and Moray Council wind energy guidance 2013.

Liz went onto say I have made no comments or have any personal interest in this application.

The meeting accepted Liz Bondman's statement and as far as the ICC is concerned the matter is now closed.

Meeting closed at 20 39.

Next meeting at Urquhart Village Hall April 1<sup>st</sup> 1900hrs

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Chair

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Secretary