

Note of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 13th February 2014

In Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

Present :

Alastair Kennedy, Chair	
Gordon Methven	Elgin Community Council
Eric Marriott	Elgin Community Council
Donald Cameron	Lennox Community Council
Peter Bush	Innes Community Council
John Fettes	Innes Community Council
Anna Mary Overing	Lossiemouth Community Council
Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth Community Council
Graham Murdoch	Forres Community Council
Les Morgan	Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council
Pat Carroll	Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council
Mollie Moon	Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Keith Comrie	Strathisla Community Council
Ian Ross	Strathisla Community Council

In Attendance: Councillor Creswell and Tracey Rae, Community Council Liaison Officer

Access to Streets

The meeting opened with a short presentation from Don Toonen, Equal Opportunities Officer with The Moray Council regarding 'Access to Streets'. Don explained the Moray Equalities Forum are keen to work with Community Groups to carry out street audits and to educate on temporary obstacles, e.g. wheelie bins, parking on pavements etc. Consultation with communities will take place as well as raising awareness within communities. Information will be circulated to all Community Councils as it becomes available.

SEPA

Mairi MacNaughton, Flood Advisor with SEPA accompanied by Graham Henderson from the local SEPA office provided extensive information on their service and the Floodline. She advised that updated flood maps are available on the SEPA website. Mairi promoted registration with Floodline. This service is based on forecast information from MET and alerts can be given up to 24 hours in advance. There are a network of monitoring stations, the far eastern part of Moray is in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City catchment while the remainder is in Findhorn Nairn Moray and Speyside catchment. There are 28 flood warning areas in Moray. The registration for floodline in Moray is particularly good. When registered you can get a free text or voice message to your landline giving advance notice of any potential flooding in your area.

Work is ongoing on a coastal flooding system from Wick to Inverness along the Moray coast line to improve the forecasting of flooding. This will predict storm surges better. As part of this scheme there will be new coastal gauges in Kingston soon.

The number to register for Floodline is 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188. You can also register online [www.sepa.org.uk /flooding](http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding)

Innes CC commented they would like to see seasonal maps online which would be better than the overall view.

Findhorn & Kinloss enquired about predicting flooding where there is the combination of river flood with low surge. Mairi advised this is being looked at.

Forres CC asked about the shingle at River Findhorn and the plans to clear this as required. Michael advised there is an ongoing maintenance plan, levels are set and once reached it will be taken out and reset with Moray Council covering the cost of this work.

Elgin CC asked if the flood alleviation scheme in Elgin will have a negative impact in Lossiemouth where a high tide could cause a surge at Lossiemouth. Mairi advised that she would not wish to comment on behalf of the Local Authority, however it is a condition of a flood alleviation scheme that it will not make a situation worse in other areas.

Lennox CC asked if there are any conditions to stop Developers building on flood areas. Mairi advised that there is a team that consider flood risk for new developments and they work with Moray Council to ensure there is no building on flood plane. SEPA will consider new applications.

Elgin CC asked if they knew the cost of the new coastal flooding system and if there would be a contribution from Moray Council. Mairi replied it was hoped Moray would contribute, Highland have contributed. Mairi commented that Moray Council officers have been very helpful with all information requested to progress this initiative.

Mairi will provide the presentation to the CLO for sending to all CCs. Those in attendance were encouraged to share this information with all their Community Councillors.

LOAF

Michelle Gillibrand, a volunteer with The Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum provided brief information on the work of this Group. She explained this group are involved with the Moray Local Outdoor Access Strategy Review, Moray Core Path Plan Preparation, Application of powers to uphold access rights, raising awareness of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, Procedures for conflict / dispute resolution and comment on relevant planning applications. Michelle explained the group are keen to promote the work of the group to local groups and the communities.

If anyone would like more information on this group they should contact Ian Douglas, Access Officer with The Moray Council **email ian.douglas@moray.gov.uk** . Michelle is also happy to be contacted **mgillibrand@sky.com**.

1. JCC Structure

Alastair provided a brief update on his time whilst being Chair of JCC. Alastair felt, given the new term of office, this was an opportune time to consider Officer Bearers. Tracey presided over this and the following Office Bearers were elected.

Chair - Alastair Kennedy, proposed by Les Morgan and seconded by Peter Bush. Alastair accepted this nomination and with no further nominations Alastair was declared Chair.

Vice-Chair – Les Morgan was proposed by Alastair Kennedy and seconded by Gordon Methven, Les accepted this nomination and with no further nominations Les was declared Vice-Chair.

Treasurer – Carolle Ralph was proposed by Alastair Kennedy and seconded by Gordon Methven, Carolle accepted this nomination and with no further nominations Carolle was declared Treasurer.

The need for a Secretary was discussed. The Group felt with the assistance of the CCLO this was not necessary and thanks was extended to The Moray Council for their continued support with this post to all Moray Community Councils. Les suggested that the CCLO take on the role of Minute taker in a paid capacity, Tracey explained that her role there was as The Moray Council representative so payment from JCC was inappropriate. Andrea will be asked to continue as Minute Secretary to the group.

Press coverage of JCC meetings was discussed. Tracey will provide Minutes and dates of meetings to The Northern Scot. Community Councils are encouraged to provide their Minutes to The Northern Scot and other local media.

2. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Wright, Alistair Jeffs (Dufftown & District), Keith Community Council, Alison Hook (Lennox) and Lynn Duncan (Lennox).

3. Minute of Previous Meeting - 14th November 2013

With the removal of the paragraph on page 4, item 4 (3rd para) the Minute was accepted as a true record of proceedings; this was proposed by Pat Carroll and seconded by Carolle Ralph.

4. Matters Arising

No notes regarding Police Scotland proposals have been received by CCLO. No other matters arising.

5. Internal Consultation and next steps

JCC Consultation – All who responded agreed that tsiMoray do not represent Community Councils. Alastair advised he had received legal opinion that a membership organisation cannot represent anyone other than its members. As Community Councils are not members of tsiMoray they cannot be represented this way.

Community Councillors agreed they feel disillusioned and side-lined. Everyone agreed the future has to be better community involvement and getting better ways of communication. The current way of working is considered to fly in the face of the national directive. It was

agreed to form a sub-group to look at the way forward. This group will consist of Alastair, Les and Gordon.

6. Road Safety around Schools

A member of the public had approached Elgin CC regarding speed of traffic, parking etc around Elgin Academy. Alastair advised their Roads and Transportation committee are looking at this problem but he wondered if this is an issue in other areas.

Carolle confirmed there has been a problem, particularly around St Gerardine Primary School area, in Lossiemouth for a number of years and there was a campaign to establish 20mph zones around Schools.

Ian advised there is concern that a primary school in their area has a 60mph zone at their front gate and despite campaigning they have been unable to get this reduced.

Eric felt that flashing lights around the zone are ignored and applauded a scheme in Elgin where roads are closing during school exit times.

It was agreed that any representation needs to be evidence led so Alastair will write to Police Scotland stressing the concerns of the JCC and requesting information. **Act: AK**

7. Reports

Community Planning update – In addition to the update circulated with the Agenda, Alastair gave an update regarding the Leader programme. Community Councils will be approached to assist with the future proposals. A community led local development strategy (LLDS) is being created for all European funding streams and this will be used for all monies that come to Moray in the future. Alastair encouraged all Community Councils to participate when approached.

Financial Report – because of the absence of a Treasurer, the balance was not confirmed. Alastair will arrange a meeting with old treasurer / new treasurer to get signatories etc updated. **Act: AK**

CCLO Report - Tracey advised on the work by The Improvement Service supported by The Scottish Government to undertake a project to help enhance the role of Community Councils. The project proposes to explore opportunities to improve training and development opportunities for Community Councillors, improve communications by establishing a Communities of Practice web and organise networking events and sharing good practice, create a register of Community Councils and Councillors to be accessed digitally, investigate buy-in on a number of pilot projects and to map the relationship between Community Councils and other Community Organisation.

This initial piece of work will address some of the issues raised in the Community Council Short Life Working Group report and will help inform any longer term support required by Community Councils.

Tracey advised she will be contributing to the working group looking at approaches to supporting Community Councils which looks at Training and Development, Shared Services, E-Learning and Funding for CCs.

The Improvement Service also requested attendance from a Moray Community Councillor at a meeting to discuss views on how the Commission could strengthen public participation, accountability and democracy. Les Morgan will be attending that meeting on 26th February and will report back to the group.

A Training evening has been arranged for Thursday 6th March at Elgin Academy and will look at planning matters and licensing matters. Senior Officers from The Moray Council will be delivering this. It is an excellent opportunity for Community Councillors and has been arranged in response to requests from several Community Councils. Names for this must be passed to Tracey ASAP.

Act: All

8. Information Sharing

Cullen & Desk ford- The current Secretary is moving away. Meetings are well attended by members of the public and Elected Members.

Elgin – Discussions have taken place regarding a Community Awards Scheme. If other Community Councils are interested in becoming involved at this early stage they should contact Gordon and a Steering Group can be formed. Issues around bullying at schools have been discussed. Elgin CC is now on Facebook and Twitter. They have been involved in a consultation regarding the relocation of Bishopmill Post Office. They are unhappy at the process of this consultation and it would appear the decision had already been made.

Findhorn & Kinloss – Their Inaugural meeting (following a postal ballot) was held in November. They have a full membership and also have 2 youth members. The youth members will be asked to look at social media and means of promoting the Community Council. Members will revisit the Emergency Community Plan which was well advanced in the previous term of office and should be finalised in early course.

Forres – A public meeting was recently held regarding the REDCO Milne project. This was well attended and a good debate was held. Alastair extended his congratulations to the Community Council for organising this excellent event.

Innes- internal matters have now been rectified and thanks was extended to Alastair for his assistance. Apologies were expressed to CCLO for conduct.

Lossiemouth – recent storm damaged flooded the West Beach and the Coastal Path has now disappeared. A new one will be created in early course. Work is ongoing in pulling all the organisations in the town together and developing short and long term goals for the town. Discussions are taking place regarding a cycle track from Lossiemouth to Hopeman. The Station Park toilets were flooded along with the storage unit which a local organisation uses.

There is a problem with the breakwater having a breach in it and erosion of dunes, the Community Council is looking at repair of breakwater and any damage to the esplanade.

Lennox- a new Vice-Chair has been elected and 2 co-options are progressing. Advice was given by the CCLO on numbers that can be co-opted. There was recent damage to Portgordon Harbour caused by the storms.

Strathisla- There has been one co-option and they have a youth member. No major issues at the moment.

9. AOCB

Rural Parliament – Information regarding the Rural Parliament had previously been issued to all Community Councils. John Hutchison from Scottish Rural Action has also contacted Alastair requested JCC representation on an Advisory Forum the first meeting is being held in Birnam on 18th March. Gordon Methven has expressed an interest in this so will attend the meeting and report back to JCC.

Boat o Brig and Newmill Flooding – Eric expressed concern over the increased costs above contract for work in Moray particularly the Boat o Brig and Newmill flood alleviation contracts. As these particular contracts are not in the Elgin CC boundary he asked Strathisla representatives if they would approach their Elected Members asking which this has been allowed to continue.

Ian advised that with regards to the Newmill flooding project the scheme had been discussed and arranged in a hurry and would be in 2 parts. A nominal figure was agreed for the first part given the urgency of getting the job started but the 2nd part of the project would be a more realistic cost.

With regards to the Boat o Brig project Keth advised that the funding became available with very short notice and no time to carry out detailed surveys

Strathisla Community Councillors have asked questions from Elected Members regarding these particular projects and the above answers were provided so they are happy with the process which was used.

Eric will write to the Chief Executive, The Moray Council expressing his concern over this issue.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 8th May 2014, 7pm in the Council Chambers. There will be a presentation from Wendy Johnston, Telehealthcare Co-ordinator