

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 8th May 2014

Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

Present:

Alastair Kennedy (Chair)	
Gordon Methven	Elgin Community Council
Donald Cameron	Lennox Community Council
Peter Bush	Innes Community Council
John Fettes	Innes Community Council
Graham Murdoch	Forres Community Council
Les Morgan	Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council
Jen O'Hagan	Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council
Steven Mill	Cullen and Deskford Community Council
John Smart	Lossiemouth Community Council
Mike Mulholland	Lossiemouth Community Council

In attendance:

Cllr Lorna Creswell	Michelle Gillibrand, Local Outdoor Access Forum
Tracey Rae, Community Council Liaison Officer	Catherine Sinclair (minutes)
Wendy Johnston, Telehealthcare Co-ordinator	Jimmy Green, 'Jimmy's Blog', 'Living It Up'
Lorna Bernard, Telehealthcare Strategy & Development, Manager of 'Living It Up'	

Speakers:

Wendy Johnston gave a presentation on telehealthcare, describing a wide range of equipment including fall, smoke, seizure and door-opening detectors, alarms, tracking devices and automated reminders, that can help disabled adults and persons at risk live safely and independently. Moray Resource Centre has two rooms kitted out for potential users to view.

Wendy is recruiting responders throughout Moray to help support vulnerable people in their communities. Community Councils can help by promoting this initiative in their areas. She is happy to give demonstrations to local groups and show the sophisticated support these devices can offer.

Lorna Bernard introduced the 'Living It Up' (LIU) pilot, part of 'delivering assisted living lifestyle at scale', a national scheme to support those living with disabilities and health conditions, particularly over 50s. She explained how a website portal (<https://portal.livingitup.org.uk/page/about-us>) & social media (<https://www.facebook.com/LiUmoray>), can be used to enable people to connect. She asked us to visit the sites and give feedback.

Jimmy Green spoke about living better with chronic conditions, including using technology. He is keen to share his experiences and help people source bespoke solutions, and outlined the benefits of online support. He asked the Joint Community Council to spread the word about this pilot, and to suggest groups to present to, and venues in each area where workshops could be set up.

Jimmy's blogs about his experiences are at <https://portal.livingitup.org.uk/blogs/moray> and as a pdf at <https://www.facebook.com/jimmypagemoray> Paper copies are also available for groups on request.

The Technology Strategy Board funds LIU until May 2015. It is hoped it will be self-sustaining thereafter.

1. Office bearers

The Chair introduced Catherine, minute-taker for this meeting.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Cllr Allan Wright, Alison Hook (Lennox CC) and Lynn Duncan (Lennox CC)

3. Minutes of previous meeting 13th February 2013

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by John Fettes, seconded by Gordon Methven

4. Matters arising

Item 4 - 'Access to Streets'

Don Toonen (don.toonen@moray.gov.uk) asked that any further Community Councils interested in this initiative contact him directly. He would like Community Councils to train in 'Access to Streets'.

Item 5 - Internal Consultation and Next Steps

A sub-group has been set up to look at improving representation of Community Councils within Community Planning.

Item 6 - Road Safety around Schools

Alastair Kennedy proposed he contact Gordon Holland, The Moray Council initially, to see what issues there were in Moray before contacting Police Scotland. There were no objections

Action: AK to contact Gordon Holland

5. Moray Wide Sports Competition (Lossiemouth Community Council)

This idea was introduced for consideration. It was agreed a briefing document containing more information was needed. Michelle Gillibrand suggested liaising with Sport Moray.

6. JCC Constitution

The constitution states papers must be circulated 1 month before a meeting. Discussion was held on changing this to 2 weeks, but it was agreed it should remain at 1 month.

7. Self Governance (role of JCC)

Discussion was held on the role of the JCC in supporting Community Councils, and how appropriate it is for the JCC to mediate and arbitrate on issues. Advice and support has worked well on an informal basis in the past but there is no formal reporting mechanism e.g. for complaints, and JCC members are not trained in mediation.

It was agreed this is an appropriate role for the JCC, and that a panel of experienced Community Councillors could be formed, rather than asking individuals to take this responsibility. Training could be provided. Support is only likely to be needed on an occasional basis.

ACTION: All - Forward names of those willing to be on advisory panel

8. Reports

a) Community Planning update (Alastair Kennedy)

Alastair Kennedy attended a conference based on the Draft Community Empowerment Bill and will circulate a report once he receives slides from the day. The Community Empowerment Bill goes to its first stage in June. This should be monitored, as the bill is important regarding e.g. community asset transfer.

Action: AK to circulate report

There is concern that consultations in Moray do not meet the national standards. Elgin Community Council had problems responding to the Local Plan consultation due to timescales. The subcontracted School Estate and Recreation and Leisure Reviews did not meet national standards for timescales. Gary Templeton, Planning Officer, The Moray Council, would like to hold a meeting on consultation and engagement. Alastair will keep JCC informed of this.

b) Financial Report

Carolle Ralph has been to the bank and is now the recognised treasurer of the JCC.

c) Rural Parliament (Gordon Methven)

Report circulated. 'Parliament' means a gathering, and rural parliaments have been successful in other countries. The Scottish Rural Parliament has been set up to better understand the problems facing people living rurally, and has been supported by Richard Lochhead MSP, amongst others. This meeting was about

how to best reach people, and the organisers are interested in Community Councils' networks. Information about how the parliament was formed and what powers it has is available at <http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk/> Gordon intends to go to the next meeting in September, which will cover the types of issues that are likely to arise. The first parliament will be in Oban November 6th-8th.

d) CCLO Report (Tracey Rae)

A training event for Planning & Licensing was held in March. It was a good event, well attended. Feedback was positive. A lot of information was covered in one evening and Tracey is happy to receive requests for further types of training.

There have been 5 co-options to Community Councils and there is a healthy membership across Moray.

Tracey took part in a teleconference about enhancing the role of Community Councils. A further teleconference is planned.

Tracey has been attending meetings regarding concerns around the CC election process.

9. Information Sharing Cullen & Deskford

It was agreed funding for the 'Discover Cullen' website be withdrawn. Planning for the 2015 calendar photo competition is underway. This will be the last calendar due to the level of work involved. Profile raising and fundraising events are planned. A newsletter has been delivered to every household and this will be continued bi-monthly.

Bridge repair at the harbour is being investigated, and meetings have been held to discuss the pros and cons of community asset transfer.

Elgin

Letters are being received from residents who wish the Community Council to object to the Western Link Road. ECC will respond, but cannot object, as they represent all of Elgin.

There are ongoing issues with residents complaining about Stagecoach using a turning circle.

Application for Fair Trade status has been resubmitted.

A markedly different planning application for Brownmuir Wind Farm has been submitted.

ECC representatives will attend a meeting on the future of Grant Lodge.

Funding is being sought for the planned award ceremony. Gordon will update next JCC meeting.

Action: TR to put on agenda

Findhorn and Kinloss

On 26 Feb Les Morgan represented the JCC at the COSLA's Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy. 34 Community Councillors from 28 Local Authority Areas met in Edinburgh for a facilitated forum on how to strengthen local democracy in Scotland. A Final Report was produced which is now publicly available at the Commission's website:

<http://www.localdemocracy.info/call-for-evidence/listening-sessions/26-february-community-councillors/>

The Emergency (Resilience) Plan is now with the Moray Council Emergency Planning Officer for printing. It will be given wide publicity with the aim of recruiting local residents who have access to resources suitable for use in an emergency, e.g. 4x4 vehicles, inflatable boats, tractors with snowplough fitting.

The Noise Abatement building regulations around the former RAF Kinloss have now been relaxed and new residences will no longer be required to be fitted with extra sound insulation etc.

The two Youth Members have not been good attendees at our monthly meetings for one reason or another and it is too early to say whether the recruitment of Youth Members has been successful.

Forres

There are ongoing issues over Bogton development, and concerns about the public poll taken, which was actually on the future of the Forres Mechanics ground, rather than Bogton.

Planning - FCC has supported objections of the change of use from agricultural, to industrial status of sector ID8, which currently provides a beautiful view of Findhorn from the A96. It is felt that other, more suitable sites for industrial status are available nearby.

Innes

ICC has been involved in the School Estates Review, covering Milnes ASG. There is the possibility two schools in the area may be closed. ICC will meet with a parents' support group on May 14th. The profile of ICC is increasing, and the public has been bringing objections to the Community Council.

Lennox

With Tracey's help, 2 members have been co-opted, bringing the total to 11. Residents have raised concerns about speeding, dangerous corners and damage caused by speed bumps. Work is ongoing on these and other issues. Three representatives of LCC will attend the Coastal Erosion Seminar June 16th. Portgordon Harbour committee are having some difficulty in trying to deal with damage done to the harbour. Fochabers Village Association are having the tennis court resurfaced, and are carrying out work on the Fochabers Institute. The Gala day will be Sunday 20th July.

Lossiemouth

LCC has been continuing meetings with local groups and associations, encouraging them to work together and form a register of resources they can share. It is hoped groups will wish to be involved with Lossiemouth Community Development Trust. A 'Seafest' themed fundraising black tie dinner is being held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce on the 4th of July. Work investigating harbour bridge repair is ongoing. There is an ambition to develop a cycle track from Lossiemouth to Hopeman, to help complete the loop from Lhanbryde to Forres.

LOAF

Michelle will pass all relevant information from this meeting to LOAF. LOAF will have a stand at Gordon Castle Highland Games on 18th May, with a celebration of what to see and do in Moray, as well as the Core Path consultation.

Cllr Creswell

As Chair of Health & Social Care Services, Cllr Creswell was particularly interested to hear the Telehealthcare presentations. She has also noted concerns about the levels of community engagement and consultation by The Moray Council. She is also involved in trying to bring together Forres Community Council, Forres Area Forum, and Forres Area Community Trust to identify priorities for the area, and build capacity using a bottom up approach.

10. AOCB

Those posting photos on Facebook with a 'Yes' or 'No' badge should take care not to be seen as politically motivated. Although the referendum is not strictly a party political matter, it is important Community Councils are not seen as political.

Further discussion was held on consultation, noting it can be challenging. Elgin Community Council is developing a template to assess if a consultation is relevant and compliant with national standards, and will not respond if not. This template could be shared with other Community Councils if desired.

11. Date of Next Meeting - 14th August 2014

Richard Lochhead MSP is invited, availability TBC.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm

ACTIONS

Action: AK to contact Gordon Holland re school safety issues
All - Forward names of those willing to be on advisory panel
AK to circulate Community Empowerment Bill conference report
TR to put ECC Award Ceremony update on agenda

DRAFT