

# Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 14th August 2014

## Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

### Present:

Alastair Kennedy (Chair)  
Gordon Methven Elgin Community Council  
Graham Murdoch Forres Community Council  
Les Morgan Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council  
Mollie Moon Cullen and Deskford Community Council  
Carolle Ralph Lossiemouth Community Council

### In attendance:

Cllr Lorna Creswell Tracey Rae, Community Council Liaison Officer  
Catherine Sinclair (minutes) John Calder KCR FM  
Robin Paterson, Integration Project Manger, The Moray Council

### Speakers:

#### **Robin Paterson, Integration Project Manger (Integration of Health & Social Care), The Moray Council**

Integration of these previously separate organisations is to go ahead as per Scottish Government requirements. Each local authority area must be divided into at least two areas and 'locality planning' will be a crucial part of this. There was discussion on how best to allocate boundaries in Moray. Although there are significant variations in life expectancy and emergency admissions at ward level in Moray, areas of deprivation and particular health challenges are found in pockets throughout the area, making boundary allocation a challenging decision.

Robin is keen to find out how he and his colleagues can work more closely with Community Councils and other community groups on this, including returning to JCC meetings or visiting individual CC's. See his presentation (circulated) for more details.

#### **John Calder, Director of Keith Community Radio**

KCR has been broadcasting for 17 years via an agreement with Moray Firth Radio, but have successfully funded a transmitter, currently being installed. This will allow longer broadcast hours and some advertising. KCR has a Moray-wide community focus, and wishes to increase their involvement with, and impact on the community.

It is intended to allocate a regular slot to Community Councils, and John will attend the November JCC meeting to explore how this could best be done e.g. via John visiting CC's, interviewing members with outside broadcast equipment, or airing emailed information from CC's. The station is open to any ideas. John asked how KCR's listener-ship could best be harnessed to help achieve CC ambitions. The new frequency 107.7FM should go live on 10th October, but meanwhile, KCR can be heard across Moray on 102.8FM after 7pm. (See [www.keithcommunityradio.com](http://www.keithcommunityradio.com) for the schedule)

### **ACTION: Consider ideas for discussion at November JCC meeting - ALL**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Lynn Duncan (Lennox CC), Ian Ross and Keith Comrie (Strathisla Community Council), and Innes Community Council.

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting 8th May 2014**

Item 9 Cullen & Deskford should be "Repair of the footbridge over the burn is being investigated. Meetings have been held to discuss the pros and cons of community asset transfer of the harbour buildings."

Subject to this amendment, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.  
Proposed by Gordon Methven, seconded by Les Morgan

### 3. Matters arising

#### **Page 2, Item 4 - 'Access to Streets'**

Twenty-five people have signed up for training, including community councillors. There is good representation from across Moray. Training will be on 9th & 10th September 10 am - 4 pm

#### **Page 2, Item 5 - Moray Wide Sports Competition**

No briefing document has been received, so it may be other options are being explored.

#### **Page 2, Item 7 - Self Governance (role of JCC)**

An initial meeting was held with Martin Kirwan, The Moray Council, in May 2014. Since then there have been further issues and concerns in CC's across Moray, showing there is a lack of clarity in guidance for CC's. Each time a conflict is reported to the local authority, it disempowers CC's and the JCC, which are independent and self-governing. Another meeting with Martin Kirwan will be held on 19th August, to produce a reporting mechanism and look at providing relevant training. Tracey Rae and Alastair Kennedy will attend, others are welcome.

### 4. Community Awards for Moray

Gordon Methven circulated a paper he prepared. Alastair reviewed the background to the awards that are being developed with Elgin Community Council, tsiMoray, Elgin BID, Elgin Youth Café and the Northern Scot. The ceremony will be on 21st November in the Alexander Graham Bell Centre. Sponsors for the awards are being sought, and a number have already expressed interest.

**ACTIONS: Circulate email requesting Community Councils to assist finding sites for local collection points for nomination forms - Gordon**

**Circulate email asking Community Councils if they would like to make a small donation to the awards ceremony - Tracey Rae and Alastair Kennedy.**

### 5. Reports

#### **a) Community Planning update (Alastair Kennedy)**

Alastair Kennedy suggested he circulate the papers for the engagement group when he receives them, rather than giving an update at JCC meetings. Any questions arising from the papers can be directed to him.

#### **b) Financial Report (Carolle Ralph)**

No report as no bank statements have been received by the new treasurer yet.

**ACTION: Alastair Kennedy to pass over existing bank statements**

#### **c) Rural Parliament (Gordon Methven)**

Report circulated. Gordon intends to go to the first parliament, to be held in Oban November 6th-8th. Themes for the meeting (see report) were to have arisen out of advisory forum meetings, in order to have grass roots input, but this has not happened. Gordon intends to bring this up at the September Advisory Forum meeting. The local Rural Parliament meeting will be held in The Inkwel (next to Elgin Youth Café, Francis Place) 6 - 9 pm, 4th September.

#### **d) CCLO Report (Tracey Rae)**

Tracey has been approached about re-establishing Dyke Landward Community Council. There will be an informal, open event at Dyke Village Hall on 27th August from 3 - 4.30 pm and 6.30 - 8 pm for local residents and Tracey appealed for any Community Council members available to attend. Refreshments will be provided. Leaflets have been delivered to local people and there have been some expressions of interest in having a community council. A petition of 20 signatures is required as part of the reinstatement process. Potential community councillors are keen to have widespread and meaningful community backing.

**ACTION: Contact Tracey if available, and for which session - ALL**

Lossie Community Council is still working hard on the Development Trust and has been on a best practice visit to Comrie Development Trust. The next Development Trust meeting will be in September to agree the constitution and sign up members.

Tracey had an enjoyable visit to Keith Community Council, regarding Keith being awarded Scotland's first Scots Town.

Tracey will attend the DTAS (Development Trusts Association) conference August 31st - September 1st.

Dawn Brodie has replaced Denise Gormley as Tracey Rae's supervisor. She is supportive of Community Councils and a DTAS Board member.

Tracey and Alastair have been in discussion regarding regular review of the JCC, checking if it is still the best structure to support Community Councils.

## **6. Information Sharing**

### **Cullen & Deskford**

The Moray Council are likely to replace the pedestrian bridge over the burn, as the old bridge was almost finished off in the recent heavy weather.

The calendar was completed, in spite of challenges. Funding will continue for next year's calendar and the process should be simpler. Another well-received newsletter was circulated to residents, along with leaflets from the police and community warden, in response to dog fouling concerns. The CC restored the flower baskets, and working with members of the public, restored the community garden.

There is a potential new youth member the Community Council. Work is ongoing on community relations, profile raising and fundraising, and feedback has been positive.

### **Elgin**

The issues with the turning circle and Stagecoach are ongoing, although the route has been reinstated, and local residents have been empowered to help deal with the issues.

Elgin has successfully achieved Fair Trade status.

A charrette (meeting devoted to concerted problem solving or design solutions) attended on 'Elgin City for the Future' plan was very valuable and has changed proposals in the plan. Funding is being sought to hold a public charrette and Elgin Community Council will write a letter in support of this.

Engagement with the Local Development Plan has been ongoing since May.

Two ECC representatives are on the short-life working group looking at the future of Grant Lodge.

It is hoped a second youth member, drawn from Elgin Academy, will attend ECC next term.

### **Findhorn and Kinloss**

No meeting in July, CC holiday. The Emergency (Resilience) Plan will go live after the 28th August meeting when publicity actions are finalised. A link to it will appear on Moray Council's website.

Following the changeover from RAF to Army at Kinloss, land for joint military/civilian allotments is no longer available so the CC are considering how the funds set aside for this should be used.

Speeding problems on both the northerly and easterly roads into Kinloss have been taken up with Moray Council. The CC continues to receive complaints about the pot-holed state of Beach Road from the entrance to Findhorn northwards on the east side of the village to the beach. The road is privately owned and neither the owner nor Moray Council will maintain it.

The CC has supported the Forres Area Community Trust's bid for funding for a feasibility study on the viability of a solar meadow.

One Community Councillor has resigned, but a possible replacement may come forward.

### **Forres**

This new Community Council is making good progress. The Chair resigned and the new Chair is doing well. One new youth member has joined.

Common Good continues to be an issue in Forres. Paul Nevin, The Moray Council is attending the next FCC meeting to present on what Common Good is. There was some misinformation circulating about Tesco's rates situation. It receives a small amount of rates relief, for its unused premises.

There was some flooding in and around Forres during the Hurricane Bertha weather. The throttling device on the Mosset Burn seems to be working well. There was some local flooding due to poor drainage of surface water. Around 150 acres of farmland and some houses were flooded downstream of the River Findhorn alleviation works. The farmer highlighted this issue 14 years ago but his concerns were not acted on. Since the work in Forres is under budget and ahead of time, could there be scope to carry out works further downstream?

### **Lossiemouth**

The first Seafest was highly successful and good feedback has been received. There was a lot of hard work and preparation by a small group, good working relationships, and great support from the Chamber of Commerce. There will be ongoing community benefits from the festival, with the purchased marquee and flags used for other events.

The visit to Comrie Development Trust was very motivating and enthusing.

Due to Lands and Parks cutbacks, the CC has taken on the flowers in Lossie, accessing funding through the 4 towns partnership. Greenfingers tendered for the work. The flowers are very impressive and have brought

Greenfingers more trade. It has been more challenging finding individuals and businesses able to take on the watering. When the sea wall came down, Lossie Lights lost a lot of expensive equipment that was in storage. The space has been cleared and will now be used to store water wagons for the plants. There are recurring concerns with beach safety in areas with dangerous currents, and with problems caused by jet-skis. LCC are in discussions with various agencies but this is an ongoing problem. The second secretary has left, citing the onerous and almost full-time workload. It may be that funding needs to be sought for this post. Another CC member has been lost and LCC is looking at co-opting a member. LCC has also been busy with the Citizen of the Year award, and with a planning meeting that was attended by a lot of the community.

#### **Cllr Creswell**

Cllr Creswell is still working on bringing together Forres Community Council, Forres Area Forum, and Forres Area Community Trust to build capacity. Another meeting is planned for the end of August to discuss putting on a community event. She would be interested to hear from Dyke Landward CC if it is reinstated.

#### **7. AOCB**

None

#### **8. Date of Next Meeting - 13th November 2014**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.58 pm

#### **ACTIONS**

**Circulate email requesting Community Councils to assist finding sites for local collection points for nomination forms - Gordon**

**Circulate email asking Community Councils if they would like to make a small donation to the awards ceremony - Tracey Rae and Alastair Kennedy.**

**Pass over existing bank statements - Alastair Kennedy**

**Contact Tracey if available, and for which session - ALL**