

MORAY COUNCIL**MINUTE OF MEETING OF MORAY COUNCIL****WEDNESDAY 17 and 24 MAY 2017****COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ELGIN****PRESENT**

Councillors G Alexander, J Allan, D Bremner, F Brown, T Coull, J Cowe, G Cowie, P Coy, L Creswell, J Divers, T Eagle, R Edwards, C Feaver, D Gatt, L Laing, G Leadbitter, M Macrae, A McLean, R McLean, S Morrison, A Patience, D Ross, R Shepherd, S Warren and W Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive, the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure), the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Democratic Services Manager as Clerk to the Meeting.

1. CONSTITUTION OF COUNCIL

The Corporate Director (Corporate Services), as the Returning Officer at the Moray Council election held on 4 May 2017 intimated that the following had been elected as members of The Moray Council for the ensuing five years until May, 2022.

WARD	MEMBER
1 SPEYSIDE GLENLIVET	Louise Laing Derek Ross Walter Wilson
2 KEITH AND CULLEN	Theresa Coull Donald Gatt Ron Shepherd
3 BUCKIE	Gordon Cowie Tim Eagle Sonya Warren
4 FOCHABERS LHANBRYDE	David Bremner Marc Macrae Shona Morrison

5 HELDON AND LAICH	James Allan John Cowe Ryan Edwards Amy Patience
6 ELGIN CITY NORTH	Frank Brown Sandy Cooper – subsequently resigned Paula Coy
7 ELGIN CITY SOUTH	John Divers Graham Leadbitter Ray McLean
8 FORRES	George Alexander Lorna Creswell Claire Feaver Aaron McLean

2. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Thereafter the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), as the Returning Officer advised that it was his understanding that further time was needed before any appointments to committees could be made or to the role of Convener and Leader and asked if any Member would wish to put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting to 09.30 am on Wednesday 24 May 2017.

Councillor Leadbitter moved that the meeting be adjourned until 09.30 am on Wednesday 24 May 2017 to allow further discussion to take place between the various groupings and individuals within the Council.

Councillor Allan seconded the motion.

There being no one otherwise minded the Meeting was adjourned at 09.33 am on 17 May 2017 and reconvene at 09.30 am on Wednesday 24 May 2017.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2017

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors J Allan (Convener), G Alexander, D Bremner, F Brown, T Coull, J Cowe, G Cowie, P Coy, L Creswell, J Divers, T Eagle, R Edwards, C Feaver, D Gatt, L Laing, G Leadbitter, M Macrae, S Morrison, A Patience, D Ross, R Shepherd, S Warren and W Wilson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors A McLean and R McLean.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Acting Chief Executive, the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), the Corporate Director (Environmental Services), the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Democratic Services Manager as clerk to the Meeting.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER

The Corporate Director (Corporate Services) invited nominations for the office of Convener of the Council for the ensuing five years.

Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Brown, moved that Councillor Allan be appointed as Convener of Moray Council.

There being no one otherwise minded, the Motion became the finding of the meeting and it was agreed that Councillor Allan be appointed as Convener of Moray Council.

Thereafter, Councillor Allan took the Chair.

In accepting the appointment, Councillor Allan stated that it was a great privilege and honour to be appointed as Convener of Moray Council having worked with the Council for 25 years, the last 5 years as a Councillor during which he has gained great experience and knowledge of the operational function of most departments starting at the bottom of the ladder and working his way up to where he is today. He stated that he was of the opinion that a very strong administration group has been formed with a great deal of experience and knowledge to bring to the Chambers. He paid tribute to the former Convener Allan Wright stating that he would be a hard act to follow. He further stated that given the financial constraints the next 5 years would not be easy but he could only promise to do his best for the people of Moray.

4. MANCHESTER TERROR ATTACK

The Meeting joined the Chair in extending deepest sympathy to the families of those killed in the terrorist attack that took place in Manchester on Monday 22 May 2017 and expressed sincere gratitude to all the emergency services, doctors, nurses and the members of public of Manchester who offered their help to those affected.

The Convener stated that he would write to the Mayor of Manchester offering condolences on behalf of the Council and the people of Moray. Thereafter the Meeting observed a minutes silence in tribute to the people of Manchester.

5. COUNCILLOR A MCLEAN

The Meeting joined the Chair in wishing Councillor A McLean a speedy recovery following his recent surgery.

6. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL LEADER

Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Cowe, moved that Councillor Alexander be appointed as Leader of Moray Council for the ensuing five years.

There being no one otherwise minded, the Motion became the finding of the meeting and it was agreed that Councillor Alexander be appointed as Leader of Moray Council.

7. CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND DEPUTY CHAIRS

A report was submitted by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) inviting the Council to establish such committee structure as it considers appropriate, to determine the membership of such committees, sub-committees etc and to appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair where appropriate. The report also invited the Council to appoint representatives to a number of outside bodies.

The Chair moved that the committee and sub-committee structure be agreed as set out in the report and that the numbers on the committees be as previous, except for the committees where the number previously was 14 and that these be reduced to 11 and that the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee be made up of 9 Members, one from each of the 8 wards plus a Chair.

Councillor Divers sought clarification as to why the numbers on the committees was being reduced as he was of the opinion that the number should remain at 14 which would provide opportunity for more Members to be on a Committee.

In response the Convener stated that having been a member of the previous administration in his experience having several committees on in a week resulted in a large volume of papers to read and that coupled with other responsibilities such as ward issues, considered that the proposed number was sufficient.

Councillor Alexander, in seconding the Motion, stated that whilst he appreciated Councillor Divers view, he was of the opinion that 11 members on a committee is much more manageable, particularly for Administration Members, which will allow time for paperwork to be read properly and for better attendance at meetings.

Councillor Leadbitter moved as an amendment that membership at committees be set at 13 based on political balance of 7, 5 and 1 which he believed would provide more robust scrutiny of committee reports. In regard to the Children and Young People's Services Committee which includes lay membership, reducing the number to 11 would introduce a greater democratic deficit within that committee which, in his opinion, was a further reason for not reducing the number to 11 and that 13 was a reasonable compromise between 14 and 11 and provide for greater scrutiny.

Councillor Morrison, in seconding the Amendment, stated that she was of the opinion that by retaining higher numbers on committees newly elected Members can be given the opportunity to gain greater scope of experience.

On a division there voted:

For the Motion (13) Councillors Allan, Alexander, Brown, Cowe, Cowie, Creswell, Eagle, Edwards, Feaver, Gatt, Macrae, Shepherd and Wilson

For the Amendment (10) Councillors Leadbitter, Morrison, Bremner, Coull, Coy, Divers, Laing, Patience, Ross and Warren

Abstentions (0)

Accordingly the Motion became the finding of the meeting and it was agreed that for the committees where the number previously was 14 that these be reduced to 11 and that the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee be made up of 9 Members, one from each of the 8 wards plus a Chair.

Thereafter the Chairman stated that in regard to the political balance on committees this would consist of 6 from the Administration Group, 4 from the SNP Group and 1 from the other members and advised the nominations of Chair and Depute Chair for each committee by the Administration Group as follows:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	DEPUTE CHAIR
Policy and Resources	Councillor Alexander	Councillor Allan
Audit and Scrutiny	Councillor A McLean	Councillor Coull
Children and Young People's Services	Councillor Eagle	Councillor Brown
Communities	Councillor Creswell	Councillor Gatt
Economic Development and Infrastructure Services	Councillor Cowe	Councillor Wilson
Planning and Regulatory Services	Councillor Feaver	Councillor Wilson
Police and Fire and Rescue Services	Councillor Wilson	Councillor Allan

Appeals	Councillor Alexander	Councillor Allan
Joint Consultative	This Committee appoints own chair.	
Licensing	Councillor Cowie	Councillor Shepherd
Moray Local Review Body	Councillor Wilson	Councillor Feaver
School Placings and Exclusions	Chaired by Lay Member	

It was agreed that in terms of the nominations for membership of the service committees, that the names be passed to Committee Services following the meeting.

The Chairman stated that in relation to the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee the appointments to this Committee need to be identified on a ward basis and that the Administration Group would wish to provide members from the Forres, Buckie, Keith and Cullen, Heldon and Laich and Speyside Glenlivet Wards. He further stated that this model would require Councillor Divers to represent Elgin City South and that the SNP Group provide 3 members for the remaining wards.

In respect of the Service Development Group, it was agreed that this group be renamed the Corporate Plan Steering Group and be made up of 9 members of the Administration Group and that the initial priority for this Group will be to lead the work to establish the long term financial viability of the Council.

Thereafter in regard to the appointments to Community Planning and other partnership bodies the Chairman proposed the following Membership:

Community Planning Board	Proposed to increase the number of councillors to consisting of 3 from the Administration Group, 1 from the SNP Group and 1 Other
Community Engagement Group	Council Leader 2 others
Grampian Valuation Joint Board	2 Administration Group Members 1 SNP Group Member
Moray Adult Protection Committee	1 Administration Group Member 1 SNP Member
Moray Integration Joint Board	3 Appointees plus 3 Substitutes Administration Group – Councillors Brown and Feaver with Councillors Edwards and Macrae as substitutes SNP Group – Councillor Morrison with Councillor Laing as substitute
Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee	Councillor Cowie with Councillor Gatt as substitute

Councillor Divers stated that in respect of the Membership of the Community Planning Board and the intention by the Administration Group to increase the number from 4 to 5, this had previously been proposed but had not been agreed by the Community Planning Board whose decision it is to make and that the Council should be aware that this proposed increase may be blocked by the Board.

In response the Chairman stated that this had been noted by the Administration Group.

Thereafter the meeting determined the membership of the undernoted outside bodies.

(i) CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

The Chairman moved that Councillor Wilson be appointed to the Cairngorm National Park Authority. Councillor Macrae seconded the motion.

As an amendment Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor Coull moved that Councillor Bremner be appointed to the Cairngorm National Park Authority

On a division there voted:

For the Motion (13)	Councillors Allan, Macrae, Alexander, Brown, Cowe, Cowie, Creswell, Eagle, Edwards, Feaver, Gatt, Shepherd and Wilson
For the Amendment (8)	Councillors Warren, Coull, Bremner, Coy, Laing, Leadbitter, Morrison and Patience
Abstentions (2)	Councillors Divers and Ross

Accordingly the motion became the finding of the Meeting and it was agreed that Councillor Wilson be appointed to the Cairngorms National Park Authority

(ii) CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Children and Young People Board – Councillor Eagle

Community and Wellbeing – Councillor Creswell

Convention – Council Leader, Convener and Leader of Opposition

Environment and Economy Board – Councillor Cowe

Health and Social Care Board – Councillor Brown

Leaders Meeting - Council Leader

(iii) GRAMPIAN NHS BOARD

Councillor Allan, seconded by Councillor Macrae moved that Councillor Brown be appointed to the Grampian NHS Board.

As an amendment Councillor Leadbitter, seconded by Councillor Coull moved that Councillor Morrison be appointed to the Grampian NHS Board.

On a division there voted:

For the Motion (13)	Councillors, Allan, Macrae, Alexander, Brown, Cowe, Cowie, Creswell, Eagle, Edwards, Feaver, Gatt, Shepherd and Wilson
For the Amendment (8)	Councillors Warren, Coull, Bremner, Coy, Laing, Leadbitter, Morrison and Patience
Abstentions (2)	Councillors Divers and Ross

Accordingly the motion became the finding of the Meeting and it was agreed that Councillor Brown be appointed to the Grampian NHS Board.

(iv) HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP (HITRANS)

Councillor Allan, seconded by Councillor Wilson moved that Councillor Cowe be appointed to HITRANS and that Councillor Cowie be appointed as substitute member.

As an amendment Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor Coull moved that Councillor Leadbitter be appointed to HITRANS.

On a division there voted:

For the Motion (13)	Councillors Allan, Wilson, Cowe, Macrae, Alexander, Brown, Cowie, Creswell, Eagle, Edwards, Feaver, Gatt and Shepherd
For the Amendment (8)	Councillors Warren, Coy, Coull, Bremner, Laing, Leadbitter, Morrison and Patience
Abstentions (2)	Councillors Divers and Ross

Accordingly the motion became the finding of the Meeting and it was agreed that Councillor Cowe be appointed to HITRANS and that Councillor Cowie be appointed as substitute member.

(v) MORAY LEISURE CENTRE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Councillor Brown, Councillor Wilson and Councillor Patience

Thereafter the Chairman stated that whilst Senior Councillor allowances are prescribed for the positions of Council Leader and Convener, for clarity he wished it to be minuted that Senior Councillor Allowances will be paid at the higher rate which allows for 8 such allowances which will be allocated to the undernoted positions:

- Chair of Audit and Scrutiny Committee
- Leader of the largest Opposition Group
- Chair of Children & Young People's Services Committee

- Chair of Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee
- Chair of Planning and Regulatory Services Committee
- Chair of Licensing Committee

8. TIMETABLE AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

A report was submitted by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) inviting the Council to consider, subject to approval of the preceding item on the agenda 'Constitution of Committees and Appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs', a proposed eight-week cycle and calendar of meetings.

Following consideration the Council agreed:

- (i) an eight-week cycle of meetings, as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report;
- (ii) the calendar of meetings for the period 17 May to 31 December 2017, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (iii) noted that a meeting diary will be prepared and published for the period to April 2022;
- (iv) noted that a special meeting of Moray Council has been arranged for Wednesday 9 August to consider the Elgin Transport Strategy; and
- (v) noted that a special meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee, followed immediately by a special meeting of the Council has been arranged for Tuesday 27 June 2017 to consider a Pre-Determination Hearing in respect of Planning Application 16/01244/APP.

9. MORAY LICENSING BOARD: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

A report was submitted by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services inviting the Council to appoint Members to the Moray Licensing Board for the new Moray Council.

The Chairman proposed that the Council form a Board with a membership of 9 Councillors consisting of 5 from the Administration Group, 3 from the SNP Group and 1 Other to serve on the Moray Licensing Board for the period until May 2022.

This was unanimously agreed and the Meeting agreed the undernoted appointments to the Board accordingly:

Councillor Shepherd
 Councillor Cowie
 Councillor Allan
 Councillor Edwards
 Councillor R McLean
 Councillor Laing
 Councillor Bremner
 Councillor Coy
 Councillor Divers