

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 14 May 2026, 7pm
Elgin Town Hall at the Community Centre

Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Andy Wallis	Heldon
Abbey Main	Burghead & Cummingston	Alan Bodman	Innes
Jamie Campbell	Burghead & Cummingston	Steve Hickin	Keith
Les Tarr	Cullen & Deskford	Stuart Chapman	Keith
Steven Christie	Elgin	Tina Murphy	Strathisla
Douglas Clark	Elgin	Karen Pryce-Iddon	Strathisla
Graham Jarvis	Elgin	John Taylor	Strathisla
Paul Kerrison	Findochty		

In attendance:

Debra Duke –Community Council Liaison Officer (Moray Council)
Moray Councillors: Neil Cameron
Inspector Mark Bayliss – Police Scotland
Kyran Dyer- Stagecoach

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Marion Ross (Speyside Community Council) Maurice Gibson (Banffshire Lieutenancy) and Catherine Sinclair (minute taker)

2. Approval of minutes and matters arising – 12 February 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February were confirmed as a correct record.
Proposed by Stuart Chapman, seconded by Karen Pryce-Iddon.

3. Matters arising –

Item 8: Follow up to add Stuart Chapman as a member of the Moray Growth Deal Board

Item 9: Only one community councillor had put their name forward to work on a statement. It was agreed that Andy Wallis would draft a statement for circulation. The statement would express concerns but acknowledge potential benefits too.

Item 12, i: Follow up to add Stuart Chapman as a member of the Moray Community Safety Strategic Board.

4. Police Update –

Inspector Mark Bayliss presented an update.
A large portion of calls, 23%, received related to mental health issues.

Operations since the last meeting included tackling the illegal use of e-bikes and e-scooters. E-bikes that could travel at over 15mph or where the battery use is not pedal assisted were illegal. E-scooters could only be used on private land with the landowner has given permission. Often these scooters or bikes are used for other crimes.

326 parking tickets had been issued in Elgin. Police were working with Buckie Moray Councillors to use Common Good fund to carry out parking patrols. Parking tickets had been issued in Mid Street, Keith.

Police were working with partners to reduce ASB issues in Elgin and would start in Lossiemouth. There was also a Schools Early Intervention Worker who was working with students who had come to the attention of the police.

In partnership with Trading Standards police had investigated vape shops selling products to people under 18 years of age.

5. Lord Lieutenancy update

Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire

Apologies had been given but an update was provided:

- Kings Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) 2027 - nominations would open in September - information about possible groups would always be welcome.
- Volunteers Week - 1 to 7th June - if anyone was aware of any initiatives linked to this, or particular groups that could be encouraged by a visit from either Lieutenancy, please let us know.
- Lieutenancies were being asked to promote this: [Commonwealth Clean Oceans Plastics Campaign](#). Full details were on the website. This linked to the Commonwealth Games in July and was encouraging groups and organisations to stop plastics entering the waterways by organising litter picks, etc. etc. If they could encourage groups, schools, or other organisations in their area to get involved, that would be great. Information was going out to schools and there would be posts on Facebook.
- Banffshire Memorial to the late Queen Elizabeth. QE was held in very high esteem by folk across the area. National memorials would be erected in London and Scotland and the Lieutenancy proposes that one should also be erected in Banffshire. With the support of the Crown Estate and Agents it had been agreed that a memorial would be erected at Clochan at the site of the Women's Land Army Scotland Memorial (WLAM). The area already contained a copse of trees planted in 2022 as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, marking the Platinum Jubilee. The memorial would take the form of a dry stone traditional Cleit where folk can sit and enjoy the views on site and further afield across the Banffshire coast and countryside. The design and wording on three brush polished sandstone plaques had been agreed by the Scottish and Cabinet Offices. Philip Chatfield would do the stone carving - he recently worked on Pluscarden Abbey and the large (4.5m) Cleit will be built by Euan Thomson the Stone Dyker from Portsoy. Building work will start in June and be complete by the end of July. The cost of the Cleit and work on the surrounding land was likely to be £22,000. Local individuals and organisations were being invited to donate to this important project which would provide a lasting tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth and enhance the area of the WLAM.

6. Stagecoach

As no other presenter had been on the agenda the Chair had asked the Stagecoach Inverness and Elgin Duty Manager, Kyran Dyer (KD) to attend to provide an update and answer any questions that Community Councillors had.

- Driver shortages had previously been an issue. Currently there were only two vacancies.
- Other issues regarding vehicle maintenance and cancellations had also improved.
- The £2 fare had been subsidised but the amount was not known.
- The £2 cap on fares had resulted in an increase in passengers:
 - M96 service 17% increase

- 32 service 12% increase
 - Lossiemouth services: 33a 19% increase; 33C 12% increase.
 - The increase in use of services in Elgin is the biggest in the region.
- The service to Dufftown had been cut to two hourly because there had not been the demand for the service.
- Timetable reviews were due in June 2026.
- The 35 service was managed by Aberdeen. Findochty CC was undertaking a survey with other coastal community councils about issues with the service. The feedback will be sent on.

Community Councillors raised the following matters:

Issues with the buses not joining up with the Keith and Dufftown Railway train times at Dufftown.

KD would take the following back to the commercial meeting that he would be attending:

- Bus times linking with tourist passenger trains at the Keith and Dufftown railway.
- Find out about routes that could include Grange and Rothiemay.

The Inverness and Elgin Manager was thanked for his time. Contact details were shared.

7. Community Council Updates

Burghead and Cummington Community Council

- The motorhome trial had commenced. No signage or payment method was in place when it started. There was no agreement to advertise local businesses.
- Concerns were also raised about repairs to the railings alongside the slappy. Repairs were currently just rope, which the CC was not sure was safe.
- The CC had had no communication from the company who were proposing the Moray Flow Park. The CC had met with other CCs, Heldon, Findhorn and Kinloss and Forres to work on a coordinated response.
- The CC had requested additional grit bins for the area of the village that currently only has 3 but these had not been provided.
- B&C CC had some resilience funding that they needed to amend the plans for.
- The CC felt that they were being expected to do more themselves. However, the area found it difficult to access wider funding, such as windfarm monies.

Cullen and Deskford Community Council

- At the election there had been five new members. There was also now a member from Deskford. Changing the treasurer had been difficult, the CC used Virgin Money.
- More issues seem to be reported to the CC. The CC had a good relationship with the Moray Councillors for the ward.
- Surveys on various issues had been carried out, including on EV charging at the Harbour; and the 35 bus service.
- Engagement through the website was also good.
- Common Good funding had been applied for tables and bench in Logie Park. However, a path to access the tables for wheelchair users was also required.
- A meeting would be held about roads issues.
- The CC was trying to be more proactive.

Elgin Community Council

- At the previous meeting SSEN had visited to discuss housing developments for workers. There would be a range of houses across Moray.
- Gulls, were still an issue in the town. A drone survey had commissioned. The first results had discovered over 700 nests in seven areas of the town.

- The CC had responded to the consultation on the new electricity substation. Different sites had been proposed from Newton to Calcots.
- The Christmas Lights group was now a sub committee of the CC.
- It was noted that Elgin CC was also not eligible for any windfarm funding.

Findochty Community Council

- The CC was established in February following an additional election period
- Currently the CC had 5 members, over the minimum of 4, but 2 vacancies. Difficult to recruit new members.
- The CC had carried out a community priorities survey. 65 responses were received. A plan was drawn up about what the CC could do or not do. Information was on the CC website.
- The CC was looking at undertaking a Local Place Plan.
- The CC had written governance documents. They had rewritten standing orders, which were with Moray Council for comments as required in the Scheme.
- Resilience Planning page was also on the website. The plan had been updated and sent to Moray Council for comments.
- The defibrillator costs for this year were £420. The CC was fundraising to cover these costs.
- Various other issues had been raised with the CC and the CC had raised on behalf of the community:
 - Access issues- liaising with Moray Council officer
 - Requested grit bin near the school
 - 20mph anomalies- the way the speed limits changed was confusing.

Innes Community Council

- Concerns were raised about diversions that were used when the A96 was closed. Heavy vehicles used the Loch Oire road which was not suitable. The CC was trying to find out how to stop this.
- The CC was still involved in the Viaduct but there was now a steering group to take matters on.
- There was no further progress on two windfarms in the area.

Heldon Community Council

- Following the last meeting Heldon CC had asked for information from other CCs about websites. Thanks to all who had responded, it was very useful.
- The CC was working with ward members about speeding and would be meeting with Moray Council. The CC wanted to know what could or could not be done, what the expectations of the community versus what Moray Council could do within current legislation and budgets.
- Heldon CC did not find the weekly wards list for planning useful. Queries about how the list was put together as the information provided was not always relevant. The principle of a list automatically sent out was great and CCs relied on these lists, but improvements were required. It was suggested that attendance could be requested at a JCC meeting from someone in planning to explain the process.
- The CC was looking at whether a scheme to provide first aid training through village halls was viable.

Keith Community Council

- Comments had been made on social media about the 20mph limits in the town, but nothing had been raised directly with the CC.
- There were issues with the M Connect service not being on time to link with the 1825 train.

- Amey, who managed the A96, had attended a meeting of the CC. There were issues with the paint their contractor was using for road markings.
- The Christmas lights would no longer be along the A96 as the cost of fulfilling the traffic management rules was too high. Instead, lights would be placed at locations along the route but this would be on private land.
- Keith CC with Strathisla CC a microgrant scheme was being managed for the Zenobe battery site.

In reference to other discussions about windfarm funding Keith CC noted that they were on the boards for Hill of Towie and Edintore. For each round of funding there were more applications than could be funded. The money funding added by the companies to community benefit schemes was low.

Strathisla Community Council

- One new member of the CC.
- Ongoing issue- an area near Drummuir still having issues with their private water supply. The private water supply does not look to be sustainable long term. If anyone knew of options for areas such as this, please let Strathisla CC know.
- Other issues impacting the area included:
 - Beaulieu to Peterhead pylons
 - Electricity substation at Rothiemay
- The CC was looking at a bus shelter in Newmill as the bus stop was used by students for the school bus. But a shelter was expensive. Keith CC said that they had looked at a shelter for Regent Square, but the cost to erect and maintain was too high. However, as the new financial year had started it might be worth checking what the current bus shelter programme was.

8. Review and Adopt the Joint Community Council Constitution –

Discussion about the proposed amendments to the constitution. There were some minor administrative amendments, such as changes to references to numbered sections in the Scheme of Establishment. These were required due to the Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils being reviewed in 2025.

The following had been proposed to be added:

6d- Without the express approval of Moray Council, no one member shall hold more than one of the following offices at any one time: Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer.

Queries were raised why Moray Council had to approve this as Community councils were independent of Moray Council and the JCC was a forum of all CCs in Moray. It was acknowledged that Moray Council had to provide the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils. Although there were times in the past when one person had held multiple offices, this was not good practice. As every community councillor was a member of the JCC, currently there were 128 community councillors, it should always be possible to find three people to take on the office holder posts.

RESOLVED:

- To adopt the Constitution as drafted except paragraph 6d to be amended to as follows: 6d. No one member shall hold more than one of the following offices at any one time: Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer.
- The final constitution would then be signed by the Chairperson and two other members.

9. Planning – item requested by Keith CC

Keith CC had requested this item due to issues they had with the planning weekly wards list. This issue had also been raised in the CC updates, minute number 7.

Stuart Chapman said that he produced a report to Keith CC that outlined planning that could affect the community taken from the weekly wards supplied by Moray Council. He was finding that the information contained within the ward list was either out of date, dates for comments had passed, or planning applications had been approved which had not been provided to the CC and again it was too late for the CC to take any action. SC had taken to going through planning applications on the Moray Council Planning Portal to make sure that planning applications were not missed.

At the last JCC this seemed to be a trend that all Community Councils were facing, and was also coming up at this meeting. Keith CC wanted to raise this matter to establish if this was a general consensus, and if this was an area CCs could act together to resolve.

The other area of concern was where planning decisions were taken by the Scottish Government. In these instances, the Local Authority, Moray Council was the consultee. These consultations were not always shared with community councils. CCs were not a statutory consultee in these cases but the public assumed that consultation had taken place with CCs. Therefore the CCs could have issues from local people about planning matters that they had not been consulted on.

Keith CC wanted to know if there was a way of getting this information from central government so that Community Councils could have a voice before the plans were committed to, so that CCs can act in the interest of the Community we represent.

Since raising the matter SC had found a link to be alerted to any Scottish Government Planning matters that were within Moray. This could not be narrowed down further than Moray. The link would be circulated to all.

RESOLVED:

1. Link to Scottish Government Planning to be shared SC
2. Query with planning department how the weekly wards lists are compiled and how they are checked for missing data. CCLO

10. Resilience Planning – item requested by Cullen and Deskford CC

Cullen and Deskford CC had raised this item. The CC area is large and varied, from a small coastal town to inland rural areas. They wondered if other CCs had plans they could share to help them to write theirs. They particularly wanted to work on a plan for the Deskford area.

The CCLO said that there was a standard template that Community Resilience Groups in Moray were being requested to use. This kept information in the same standard, making it easier to use when required. A recent table top exercise had been held with a Resilience Group in Findhorn Ecovillage. The CCLO would talk to the Emergency Planning Officer and see what support could be provided to Cullen, or the wider coastal area to Buckie/Portgordon.

RESOLVED:

CCLO to send the resilience planning template to CCs

11. Reports from subgroups

- I. **Money for Moray** – Just transition Participatory Budgeting had opened again. Deadline was end of August. Another third of a million pounds had been allocated to

Moray. This would be split with £300,000 going to projects and the remaining £33,333 being spent on youth PB projects.

- II. Zero Carbon Moray** – Officers at Moray Council had picked up the suggestion from the Burghead and Cummington Local Place Plan of a solar farm. Community Energy Moray had registered as BenCom in 2021. It had been set up following a conference held by Moray LEADER and the JCC to discuss investment opportunities in the proposed Clashgour wind farm project and other renewable projects. Community Energy Moray, with help from Energy4All, planned to issue community share offers in local renewable energy projects to enable members of the local community to benefit from the returns made by these projects. As there had not been recent progress on the Clashgour windfarm CEM was sitting dormant, until there was a suitable project. The Chairperson proposed that £1000 of funding should be provided CEM in order to enable them to carry out consultation on the proposal in Burghead.

Those in attendance said that they needed more details about what the funding would be used for from CEM directly. Members from Burghead and Cummington Community Council said that there were concerns over the LPP and whether the landowner would give permission for this project.

It was agreed that until the use of the land was clear and more information was received from Community Energy Moray that no funds would be provided.

RESOLVED:

To share more information about Community Energy Moray's plans.

To invite CEM to attend a future meeting of the JCC.

- III. Transport Forum** – no update.

12. Update from groups:

- I. Moray Community Safety Strategic Group** – Stuart volunteered to be the JCC representative
- II. Moray Nature Network Steering Group** – no report
- III. Road Safety Champions** – group had not met for over a year.

13. Treasurers Report

Report attached to the minutes. Since 1 February 2026 expenditure had been incurred for : Minutes Secretary honorarium; room hire and bank charges. Current balance was £7,571.33.

14. CCLO report

On 16 April Planning Officers had met with community councillors provide an update on the Local Development Plan. Information from this meeting was attached to the minutes. The LDP was being prepared to be published and consulted on.

The CCLO had been contacted by the Emergency Planning Officer with regards to opening books of condolence in the event of a death of a senior member of the Royal Family. Church stewards would provide support in the first instance but other voluntary groups, including community councils, might be requested to help if required.

A briefing note from officers on maximising socio-economic benefits from future energy developments was circulated and attached to the minutes. As this progressed more information would be provided and officers invited to attend meetings of the JCC when appropriate.

Training: there was a session on the Overview of Community Wealth Building, being held on Wednesday 10 June from 6pm, on MS Teams. Link would be shared with the minutes.

15. AOCB

Nothing raised.

16. Date of next meeting Thursday 13 August 2026 (Elgin Town Hall at the Community Centre)

Possible items for next meeting

Learning Estate