

Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 12 February 2026, 7pm
Elgin Town Hall at the Community Centre

Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Brian Irvine	Vice Chair	Andy Wallis	Heldon
Jane Benson	Burghead & Cummingston	Alex Lyons	Heldon
Steven Christie	Elgin	Steve Hickin	Keith
Anne Skene	Findhorn & Kinloss	Stuart Chapman	Keith
Sheila Urquhart	Findhorn & Kinloss	Marion Ross	Speyside
Adrian Hart	Findhorn & Kinloss	Karen Pryce-Iddon	Strathisla
Christina Macfarquhar	Forres	John Taylor	Strathisla
Graham Murdoch	Forres		

In attendance:

Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire
Moray Councillors: Juli Harris
Dawn Brodie, Community Learning & Engagement Manager, Moray Council
Catherine Sinclair, Minute taker
Diane Anderson, Engineer, Transport Development, Moray Council
Mark Taylor, Project Manager, EZO

1. Welcome and apologies

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Alastair Kennedy (Chair), Debra Duke (CCLO), Ron Cameron (Elgin Community Council), Findochty Community Council, Cullen and Deskford Community Council, and Chief Inspector Mike McKenzie, Police Scotland

2. Approval of minutes and matters arising – 11 December 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December were confirmed as a correct record.
Proposed by Marion Ross, seconded by Anne Skene.

Matters arising – due to the collapse of the Garmouth Viaduct, Innes Community Council requested that Speyside Community Council take the lead on setting up a subgroup of Community Councillors with an interest in renewables. Speyside has agreed.

3. Police Update – Apologies

4. Lord Lieutenancy update

Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire

Please pass details of individual volunteers who you feel deserve to be recognised with an honour e.g. BEM, MBE.

The next round of nominations for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service opens in September. Please nominate any voluntary groups in your area you feel go above and beyond. Keith Community Radio and Band & Macduff Men's Shed will receive their awards this spring.

Volunteer week takes place in June this year. Please share any good practices in your local groups that the Lord Lieutenancy could highlight in order to support volunteer recruitment.

5. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Presentation

Moray Council has previously received Scottish Government funding to install 1-2 EV charging points per year, to a total of 30. The funding model recently changed, providing an opportunity to install many more. A condition of grant is engaging a private partner on a 20-year contract. Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, and Highland Councils formed a

consortium, mapped their needs, and selected EZO as their partner. The four local authorities secured £7million of a total of £15million of available national grant funding. The EZO presentation and documents will be shared. EZO is the largest private supplier of charging points in Ireland, with 4500 locations and a 97% up time. In the 4 Scottish local authority areas, they plan to complete the migration of 470 existing chargers to their system by the end of March 2026. They will install an additional 570 public charging points. New locations will 'fill in gaps' in the existing infrastructure. Moray will have 57 new sites, 11 of which are underway. Existing chargers will be replaced by EZO chargers as needed.

The project is a group effort between EZO and the local authorities, with installations being reviewed and approved before works commence. Most locations are on council owned land, car parks, a few roads and some in residential areas where there is a lack of off-street spaces for charging e.g. Findhorn and Hopeman, affordable housing schemes. Proposed locations may change due to electricity supply constraints or local concerns. EZO first apply to SSEN re electricity supply for an identified site, then consult locally. Identified non-council owned locations can refuse a charger if they wish.

If a hall or organisation not on the list would like a charging point, they can approach Moray Council. Funding is limited but some currently identified sites may not be suitable so there could be opportunities for others. The grant covers capital costs but there must also be a business case for EZO i.e. adequate usage.

Questions were asked about increased frequency of power outages in Ireland because of the charging network, if there is any liaison about locations with competitors, the role of battery parks and renewables to support demand, and problems with poor mobile signal for app usage. Mark noted that app connectivity has improved in some of the existing chargers when a new sim has been installed. Fob payment is also available and fob and credit card payment for fast chargers. He will ask about the potential for competitor liaison in future and if there have been increased power outages in Ireland.

Any questions or suggestion of additional locations can be emailed to Diane and team at traffic@moray.gov.uk

ACTIONS: Mark to share EZO presentation with CCLO for circulation. Mark to contact CCLO with answers to questions raised.

6. Community Council Updates

Buckie Community Council

Has just had inaugural meeting so not in attendance.

Burghead and Cummington Community Council

The Community Council objected to Moray Flow Park as it will affect Burghead fishing sites. After discussion with Paul Wolverson, Moray Council, there will be a campervan pitch will be trialled in Burghead this summer. Digital payment will be taken, and the harbour toilets can be used for waste. The Community Council has asked if Moray Council could provide signage to advertise the local businesses. It was suggested that if not, the businesses themselves might be willing to pay for an information board at the site.

After the Community Council went to the press about the war memorials inside the church, the Church of Scotland has finally paid for them to be removed. They will not pay for them to be re-sited and still hold £400,000 of community funds. It was suggested that the Community Council contact The British Legion and the Memorials group about re-siting the war memorials.

ACTION: Brian to pass on details of war memorials group

Elgin Community Council

The Christmas Lights group managed to get lights up withing a matter of months after Elgin BID failed to secure funding for its future, but it was a lot of work. Fundraising for next year is underway now and the group is looking into why some lights tripped.

Community Councillors attended a NatureScot event in Fraserburgh and showed an officer some drone footage of gulls. He seemed amenable to receiving this information. Elgin Community Council have commissioned further drone surveys to be carried out at the start, during, and end of the gull breeding season, which they will also share with NatureScot. There will be a big push on resilience planning this year, with funds set aside for this work.

Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council

A public meeting was held by the "No to the Flow" steering group in the James Milne Institute to encourage people to join and share the workload. There are subgroups dealing with research, fundraising, marketing and merchandising, legal and advocacy, and campaigning and events. Information has been shared with the CCLO and other affected Community Councils. There are still seats on the bus going to Holyrood on 18th February, leaving Forres at 10.30 am. Those going will protest, meet MSPs and tour Scottish Parliament.

Findhorn Village Conservation Company has secured 98% of the funding required to purchase the church.

The resilience group is highly effective and worked well clearing and gritting pavements during January's heavy snowfall. Communal kit is stored in a phone box.

There are plans to apply for Dark Skies Status for the village and beach.

Diane Anderson gave a presentation on proposed EV charging sites. This will go to consultation.

Forres Community Council

The planning application for the new school has been submitted. Objections have been raised on the grounds of flood risk and location, but there is no ideal location in Forres.

There are concerns that sonar surveying re the Flow Park drives away dolphins and other wildlife which will distort the findings of the environmental impact surveys.

Conservation and Heritage funding of £3.2million has been approved for Forres. The funding is for tourism, promotion of the town, and four buildings have been shortlisted for upgrade.

Heldon Community Council

Heldon would welcome all Community Councils affected by the Flow Park working together. Community Councils must be impartial so could not campaign directly but could be represented on the steering group.

Broadband issues continue with problems due to no and slow coverage. The Community Council wrote to Richard Lochead who said it is a Westminster government issue, but he can contact Open Reach with issues affecting his constituency area.

There was discussion on courier charges and reduced frequency of Royal Mail deliveries.

Elgin Community Council had a reply from Graham Leadbitter stating surcharges amount to £71million in Scotland, including £9million in Moray. Nothing seems to have changed since Scottish Government's 'Fairer Deliveries For All' launched in 2018. Discussion was held about how to tackle this issue. Heldon Community Council will share information.

Cloddach Bridge is currently priority number 122 for repair in Moray. Since the £7million earmarked for repairing the bridge was withdrawn by Westminster Government, Heldon Community Council asked Moray Council to return the £120,000 business case funding they provided. Moray Council has written to the government to request the Community Council be paid back. Could someone from Moray Council attend JCC to explain how the priority list for repairs is decided?

**ACTIONS: Heldon Community Council to share information on courier surcharges
CCLO to contact Moray Council re priority list**

Keith Community Council

Zenobē is expanding the battery park on Netherlands Farm. A community benefit fund of £25,000 per annum has been introduced. Community Councillors and the Fire Officer had a site visit in August, although there is no requirement to allow fire safety visits at battery parks. Keith Community Council finds it problematic that most battery farms are on private land, generating private profit, with planning applications going directly to Scottish Government and the local authority only a consultee. The Community Council and public in Keith and Strathisla did manage to get the proposed Blackhillock II battery park site changed from the immediate outskirts of Keith to a site nearer the Blackhillock power station.

Speyside Community Council

Since inauguration 2 members have been co-opted bringing the total to 9 of a possible 10. The meeting schedule has been reduced to 7 fixed meetings per year with additional meetings as needed. A lot of the work is done by subgroups between meetings.

Moray Council has been contacted about poor sight lines at the Craigellachie junction with the A95 northbound. Sight lines have never been quite right, but work on the bridge and railings has made them worse. Moray Council advised that the sight lines are clear 2.5m and 4.5m from the junction. Discussion is ongoing.

Marion attended a 'Lynx to Scotland' information session. This is the initiative of private individuals and a few organisations. It is not a Scottish Government or Cairngorms National Park initiative. The NFU is against the introduction of lynx.

The Community Council responded to SEPA's water safety environment consultation. Confor (Confederation of Forest Industries) conducted a consultation on how to improve forestry consultations. Speyside Community Council feels that mass tree planting, not just forestry roads, should be subject to the Planning process. They noted that it is also difficult to get information from Forestry Scotland.

A dilapidated footbridge over the burn in Rothes has been replaced by Diageo. The new wooden bridge is lovely but is slippery when wet. Speyside Community Council donated money and secured further funding so anti-slip strips could be fitted.

Paul Wolverson, Moray Council, attended a meeting to discuss trialling a campervan site but concluded there was no clear-cut support for it locally.

Strathisla Community Council

The Community Council has been dealing with Planning applications and has requested Planning training.

Houses between Keith and Drummur were having issues with their private water supply, but this has been resolved.

The severe winter weather has affected a lot of residents and farmers and created a lot of bad potholes.

7. Joint Community Council Constitution – deferred until May meeting

8. Representative for Moray Growth Deal Board

Alastair has been attending but he is not able to make the day/time. The £100m Moray Growth Deal is currently in year 5 of 10 (finishing in December 2031). The Board meets every month to discuss the status of activity, provide guidance to project leads and undertake assurance activity.

There is a 2-hour, virtual meeting on the last Thursday of every other month, with papers distributed in advance. In the month between, the same time slot is held to discuss time-sensitive papers, have a focus on a specific project or undertake site visits. There will also be the opportunity to engage in Moray Growth Deal events throughout the year.

ACTION: CCLO to circulate information. Contact CCLO if willing to sit on the Moray Growth Deal Board

9. Discuss renewable energy issues and consider agreeing a Moray Community Councils statement

Information from North East Scotland Convention of Community Councils (NESCCC) and The Community Council Convention of the Highland Council Area were circulated. Discussion was held as to whether joining the group should be a JCC or individual Community Council decision. It was felt Moray should have a representative at NESCC and Highland Convention meetings. Elgin Community Council is waiting to speak to SSEN about pylons at their next meeting. Heldon Community Council is supportive of much of the statement but does not agree with pausing renewables developments. It was suggested a Moray statement about managing renewables should be developed. The main issue is that local input is being overridden by Ministers. Curtailment is also a concern with £5-8billion paid out in constraint payments last year.

ACTION: Community Councils to email the CCLO with the name of a Community Councillor for a sub-group to develop a Moray statement

10. Report to Moray Council on Just transition Fund - Community Energy Moray [Document.ashx](#) - shared for information. One of the recommendations in the report was that Officers should engage with the JCC to raise awareness of the ongoing work to develop a Just Transition bid for Moray. A project from Burghead and Cummingston's Local Place was selected and will be developed with Community Energy Moray which was formed by the JCC. Representatives from Community Councils can attend a Just Transition event in Aberdeen – invitations have been circulated.

11. Reports from subgroups

- I. **Money for Moray** – Ready for the next round of funding. Advice is for applicants to check and secure any planning permission required before applying as applications without required planning permission will not be funded.
- II. **Zero Carbon Moray** – no report
- III. **Transport Forum** - The Forum has not met recently. M Connect has started a return service to Elgin on Saturday between 6 and 10pm. Graham raised the fact that the bus service between Lossiemouth and Elgin is still dire with morning buses frequently cancelled. It can take his employees 2 hours to get home from Forres to Lossiemouth at night. Brian advised that Elgin Community Council has been repeatedly contacting Stagecoach with little response. There are no managers based in Elgin now. Heldon Community Council advised they had good contact with Stagecoach and had secured reinstatement of the number 32 bus coming to Roseisle for a 6-month trial period. It was proposed that JCC invite Stagecoach to a meeting or hold a public meeting to Stagecoach can hear directly from their customers.

ACTION: Arrange meeting with Stagecoach

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 has not met for over a year. Brian will follow up

ACTION: Brian to email Diane Anderson to ask about Road Safety Champions

13. Treasurers Report

For the period 10/12/25 – 31/1/26 the opening balance was £7,640.58. No income was received and £151 of expenses were paid out, leaving a balance of £7,489.58

The accounts were verified March 2025. The balance sheet from March 2025 to 31/1/26 has an opening balance of £9,120.83. Expenses of £2,131.25 were paid out leaving a balance of £7,489.58. Steven will add Sam as a banking signatory so he can take over as Treasurer.

14. CCLO report

Planning Aid Scotland Training – email with link to videos of recent Planning Aid Scotland events has been circulated. The link can be resent if needed. Marion advised the webinars were useful.

Community Council Planning training – is on the agenda. The CCLO was waiting until Buckie and Portknockie Community Councils formed before arranging dates. Steve noted that weekly wards list seemed to be reduced in frequency and timescales are too short. Steven suggested regularly logging into the Planning portal to avoid the lag between applications and weekly wards. There have been mixed responses to Community Councils asking for extensions, some have been granted, some refused.

Improvement Service session - Webinar for Community Councils (Microsoft Teams) - Local Governance Review 25th February 6-7:30pm. The Scottish Government Local Governance Review team will be providing an update on Democracy Matters policy development and to take any questions on the process and next steps.

15. AOCB

Keith Community Council has not been finding the Police reports useful. They have provided feedback and asked for a list of abbreviations but not had a satisfactory response.

ACTION: Keith CC to contact Chief Inspector Mike McKenzie

Dawn asked if the JCC would like an update from update about the Learning Estate Review at a meeting. All agreed.

ACTION: CCLO to arrange update on Learning Estate Review

16. Closing remark

The Vice Chair thanked everyone for attending.

17. Date of next meeting Thursday 14 May 2026 (Elgin Town Hall at the Community Centre)

Items for next meeting

Review and adopt JCC Constitution