



Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council

Minutes of Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council Meeting held on Thursday 26th February 2026 at the Osprey Room James Milne Institute

Present		Attendance	
A Skene	Chairperson		
S Urquhart	Minute Taker		
M La Tourelle			
R Hutchinson		Moray Councillors	
A Hart		Cllr McBain	
P Lewington		Cllr Robertson	
W Ritchie			
		Members of Public	
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Item 1 - Welcome

- a. **Apologies** – A Shepherd, S Symonds, C Low, S Kane
- b. Declaration of Interest – to be raised as and when it occurs.

Item 2 – Public Session

- Community Safety Report/Police Scotland Report – There has been no new quarterly Police report received.
- A member of the public raised concern that some Findhorn residents do not agree about the naming of the Findhorn Foundation 3 (FF3) SCIO Course, which will be held mainly in the Park Ecovillage. The proposed name is Findhorn Experience which may imply that it is a Findhorn Village project. It was felt that it should reference the PEVF and be named to reflect this, such as the Park Ecovillage Experience. There was a lot of discussion around this, and it is to be taken back to FF3 to suggest they differentiate and find an alternative name as there are, and have been, other Findhorn Village projects. It was suggested that this should not be in the FKCC remit but it was pointed out that FKCC had been included in the consultation for renaming of the Findhorn Foundation to the Park Ecovillage, Findhorn.
- Three members of the public came along to discuss planning application **25/01702/APP** Proposed service area at rear of Bakehouse Market at 91 – 92 Findhorn Moray IV36 3YG. After discussion it was noted that the aim was to tidy up the area and give more security to the site. It was agreed that FKCC should submit a letter of support to Moray Council. **This has been actioned.**
- A Skene advised members that S Worth had resigned and it was acknowledged that he had contributed a lot to FKCC especially around organising the Remembrance Day. It was agreed that Remembrance Day would be raised at the next meeting to formulate a plan.
- Any other competent public business / public correspondence to be raised through agenda items.

Item 3 – Ratification of Minutes of Meeting from Thursday 29th January 2026, at the Culbin Room, Kinloss Church, Kinloss

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of Thursday 29th January 2026 were agreed as being accurate, proposed by A Hart and seconded by M la Tourelle.

Item 4 – Matters Arising

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S Symonds has met with A Shepherd to facilitate the handover. She has contacted community support at Moray Council and the Factor at Southside and will get 2 more quotes for playground equipment. **ACTION the Kinloss Playpark will become an Agenda item to ensure regular updates.**

4.2 R Hutchinson advised that Findhorn had met the initial criteria for The Dark Sky International Community status. The Roads and Transport Department of Moray Council to be asked to advise if the Kelvin rating for temperature and brightness of streetlights could be below 3000 Kelvin. If the application is successful, there could be 'Dark Sky Discovery Place' signage, which would bring educational interest as well as visitors. It was thought that Findhorn Village and PEVF could merge with this project so that the whole area would benefit. **ACTION: R Hutchinson will progress this project.**

Item 5 The Findhorn Village Conservation Company

5.1 No report

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report

6.1 S Kane had advised A Skene that the Kinloss School crossing proposal was still ongoing.

Item 7 Chair's Report

7.1 The Annual Village quiz will be held on 20th March in the James Milne Institute. A Skene asked for members to put their names forward so FKCC can enter a team.

Item 8 Secretary's Report/Correspondence

8.1 No report

Item 9 Treasurer's Report

9.1 A Shepherd reported the amounts in the FKCC bank accounts as follows:

Admin Grant	£2143.04
Capital	£297.70
Total	£2440.74
Savings Fund	£36,522.78

Item 10 Joint Community Council

10.1 The JCC had met on 12th February 2026. A Skene, A Hart and S Urquhart had attended.

10.2 The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Maj Maurice Gibson, asked for nominations for individual volunteers who we feel deserve to be honoured e.g. BEM, MBE.

- The next round of nominations for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service opens in September. He asked that we please nominate any voluntary groups in our area that go above and beyond. Keith Community Radio and Banff and Macduff Men's Shed will receive their awards this spring.
- Volunteer week takes place in June this year. We were asked to share any good practice in the local groups that the Lord lieutenancy could highlight in order to support volunteer recruitment.
- The next meeting would be on Thursday 14th May 2026 at Elgin Town Hall in the Community Centre

Item 11 Moray Councillors Report

11.1 Cllr Robertson updated the FKCC on several topics.

Moray Council Tax (CT) will increase by 10% in 26/27 and an anticipated further 6% increase in 27/28. There is a CT 'help' page on the MC website. She reported that Moray Council had been criticised in the past for using reserves but had managed not to in the last two years due to making better progress with their finances.

- She advised that Moray would not have a public holiday for the Scotland game in the Football World Cup.
- Forres Academy would need to be closed before relocating. A court application to use the Common Good land would be decided in May. This is to temporarily use the land for site setup, a construction compound and parking for construction traffic. It is planned to have off road parking for school buses to relieve congestion on the road. If all goes to plan, it is hoped to have spades in the ground in June.
- Moray Council has agreed funding for the Buckie Harbour master plan. Info at <https://engage.moray.gov.uk>
- The Moray Council Letter Patent gives legal status to the Moray Flag. The Flag was designed by a pupil from Dallas Primary School and depicts Moray's farmland, barley, rivers, coastline and sunshine.
- Cllr Robertson also reported on the Wildfire Summit that took place with relevant bodies, agencies and stakeholders to draw up an integrated fire plan. A lot had been learned from the Cairngorm National Park plan, and the by-law regarding wildfires which will be in place in April. Moray will be the first council to do a local authority wildfire plan. By-laws deemed necessary by Moray Council could take up to 3 years to become law.

- There will be a staged 20 mile per hour speed limit introduced across the council region starting with Keith, Aberlour, Elgin and Craigellachie, completed by Sept. 2026. Further details are on the Moray Engage website.
- 11.2** Cllr McBain said that Moray Council housing rent was between 30% to 70% cheaper than private housing.
- 11.3** It was suggested that the local plan needed to be reviewed and updated to take account of developments in renewable energy and changes in modern day living. There should be ways of using renewables, especially in the Conservation Area as many of the houses predate the 1940s. Cllr McBain said the PEVF have a lot of experience.

Item 12 Park Ecovillage, Findhorn Report (PEVF)

12.1 Several points were raised.

- FHT Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 Launch. Survey open till 5th March. www.findhornhinterland.org
- Following PEF tree survey the tree felling schedule is in progress.
- UHP - two recent films screened in UH nominated for BAFTAs. The Ballad of Wallis Island and I Swear.
- EF CBS Asset transfers. Ecovillage Findhorn members vote - result: 97% in favour of proposed transfers.
- Thursday February 26th UH - Open Meeting, Update and Q&A with Collaboration Circle and Asset Transfer Members. There was good collaboration between all PEVF organisations resulting in the best outcome for all.

Item 13 Resilience Planning

13.1 M la Tourelle raised a question about emergency planning at a national level. The Moray Councillors advised on the Moray Council and Scottish Government (SC) responses to emergencies. Regarding Wildfires, SC has strengthened legislation and strategic planning, and new measures will be implemented this year.

13.2 There had been no response from Berry Burn re grant funding yet.

13.3 It was agreed to put in a request to Moray Council to have the salt bins refilled.

Item 14 No to the Flow

14.1 35 people went from Forres by coach to gather outside the Scottish Parliament to raise concerns about the proposed Flow Park. The group were invited into the Scottish Parliament, met with MSPs and listened to the debate. Further to the JCC meeting it was agreed to form a group meeting with representatives from the local CCs to discuss this more fully. Burghead and Cummingston CC had agreed to host the meeting on Monday March 2nd. A Skene will attend.

Item 15 Planning

15.1 Three planning applications have been submitted for the FKCC area which were discussed.

- 25/01702/APP Proposed service area at rear of the Bakehouse Market at 91 - 92 Findhorn Forres Moray IV36 3YG. Various issues were discussed but it was agreed that a letter of support would be submitted to Planning.
- 25/01355/APP Proposed garage conversion (domestic use) and alterations to existing apartment retrospective consent for siting polytunnels 2 containers and siting temporary caravan static caravan and deck for duration of works. No issues with this application.
- 26/00161/APP Vary condition 2 of planning consent 24/00409/APP to change maximum stay for motorhomes/camper vans to five nights at West Beach Car Park, Findhorn. No issues with this application.

Item 16. Any Other Competent Business

16.1 The Kinloss Speed Indicator Sign on Findhorn Road has not worked for some time. **ACTION: A Skene to write to Moray Council Transport Department.**

16.2 Members of the Committee have been asked to provide their photograph along with their areas of interest. The poster would be displayed on the Findhorn and Kinloss notice boards along with contact details for FKCC.

16.3 A Skene again asked for volunteers from FKCC to join the team for the upcoming Village Quiz on March 20th.

Item 17 Forthcoming Community Events

17.1 The following forthcoming events were shared:

- A 3-day conference over Easter 4-6 April 2026 at the Universal Hall on the theme of 'Economics as if Life Matters: Celebrating the Abundance in Community'
- Saturday 4th April, Market and entertainment at the PEVF.
- Universal Hall events, the new Spring/Summer programme can be seen on website www.universalhall.co.uk
- Kinloss Gardening Club, first Monday of every month at 2.00 pm at The Abbey Inn, Kinloss.

Item 18 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 26th March 2026 at 7.00pm in the Culbin Room, Kinloss Church