

DRAFT Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 13 August 2026, 7pm
Elgin Town Hall at the Community Centre

Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Steve Hickin	Keith
Jane Benson	Burghead & Cummingston	Stuart Chapman	Keith
Steven Christie	Elgin	Carolle Ralph	Lossiemouth
Samuel Zizighi	Elgin	Marion Ross	Speyside
Ron Cameron	Elgin	Tina Murphy	Strathisla
Graham Murdoch	Forres	Karen Pryce-Iddon	Strathisla
Alex Lyons	Heldon	John Taylor	Strathisla

In attendance:

Inspector Kevin McPherson, Police Scotland
Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire
Audrey Michie, Head of People, Change and Community Strategy, Moray Council
Martin Robertson, Service Manager, People, Change & Community Strategy, Moray Council
Jennie Shade, Community Support Officer, Community Support Unit Moray Council
Catherine Sinclair, Minute taker

1. Welcome and apologies

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Debra Duke (CCLO), Cullen and Deskford Community Council, Buckie Community Council, Findochty Community Council and Andy Willis, Heldon Community Council.

2. Approval of minutes and matters arising – 14 May 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May were confirmed as a correct record. Proposed by Steven Christie, seconded by Samuel Zizighi.

Matters arising

Amendment: The AYE bus is only available for use in Elgin.

Items 7 & 9: Planning – Requests had been made to see if someone from Planning could attend the Joint Community Council meeting to explain their processes and see if the issue of out-of-date ward lists can be resolved. Also, conflicting answers have been received to the question as to whether Community Councils should or should not be notified about Planning applications where Moray Council is only a statutory consultee.

ACTION: Could CCLO follow up on these requests

Item 9: Andy Wallis was to draft a statement.

ACTION: Could CCLO follow up on this

3. Police Update – Inspector Kevin McPherson

- The Police rely on the goodwill and support of the community. Information can be given via 101, 999, in person at Police stations and anonymously via the charity Crimestoppers
- There are three Anti-Social Behaviour Orders active in Moray. There is quite a high threshold for these to be granted so Police rely on information to build evidence.
- Five e-scooters and e-bikes were seized. The more powerful ones are covered by the same legislation as cars so potentially, a young person could be disqualified from driving before applying for their license. Please pass this information on.
- Around 50 eye tests were carried out by Roads Policing, with no failures recorded.
- A 'car seat clinic' was well attended and more are likely to be held.
- There have been 4 fatal collisions in the Northeast this year to date, down from 9 last year and is 2 lower than the 5-year average.

- Police have been involved in youth community engagement with partners including attending the AYE bus in Cooper Park and the Gleaner Arena youth sessions. Youth crime is down 34% compared with last year.
- Police have been carrying out more proactive interactions with vulnerable people, including signposting and facilitating support from organisations such as Arrows and social work.
- Police Scotland North East Facebook page is a useful source of information to and from the public e.g. tracing missing persons, advising of accidents and road closures.
- There are 9 special constables in Moray. These are volunteers with the same powers and responsibilities as Police officers. Please encourage people to consider this. If interested, see the jobs page on the Police Scotland website and/or request a chat with a serving special constable.
- There was discussion on road safety. Heldon Community Council has been gathering statistics and liaising with Police regarding Roseisle junction. Vehicles commonly speed through the 50mph zone and there are frequent accidents and near misses. The top speed recorded to date is 101mph. In Moray 58 people have been reported for speeding in the year to date, which is up on last year, but down on the 5-year average. It is difficult for Police to comment on the success of the 20mph speed limits as they deal with collisions and fatalities which tend to happen on open roads.

4. Lord Lieutenancy update

Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire

Kings Award for Voluntary Service – nominations open 1st September. This award is equivalent to an MBE. Please forward information on any groups in your area that you wish to be considered to the relevant Lieutenancy.

Remembrance Day Memorial Services – If there are any suggestions for changes to services in your area e.g. holding at a different time, please submit them to the Lieutenancy.

5. Community Engagement Strategy Consultation

This is running until 31st August and has been widely publicised with marketing materials and pop-up events. Work with partners to reach groups and individuals with protected characteristics was undertaken, to ensure broad representation. Please publicise the survey and give feedback on it e.g. is anything missing from the survey. Marketing materials are available on request.

A Young Person's Charter is being developed. It is hoped that Citizens' Panels will be set up in future.

There was discussion on communication, perception of Moray Council, closing the loop e.g. "You said... we did..." to let people know what actions have been taken. It was observed that Community Councillors had not been made aware of Moray Engage. There is a feeling of 'nothing ever changes' fatigue. Discussion was also held on how Moray Council can better support Community Councils. They will look at opportunities to engage and better notify Community Councils of what is coming up. They will discuss with the CSU team if it is possible to be the voice for other Moray Council services too, to enable smoother, more efficient communication.

ACTION: Martin Robertson will re-circulate survey links.

6. Community Council Updates

Burghead and Cummingston Community Council

- Contact was made with Diageo regarding the random, sulphurous stench from the DEFECO TransMoray pipe that runs under Burghead. The contractors investigating said that they can only work on the pipe in the week the maltings shuts down, which is not likely to be long enough to find the problem.
- Work is ongoing with partners and Moray Council to improve public areas and paths, including making the path at the Slappy safe.

- Gull numbers and nesting is at unprecedented levels this year and causing damage to roofs.
- Dedicated spaces for the campervan trial were set up but there were no barriers. The Community Council is awaiting feedback on this trial.
- A rededication ceremony for the war memorials that were re-sited from Burghead Church to the war memorial will be held on 23 Augst at 12.30pm.

Cullen and Deskford Community Council

- Apologies. A report was circulated highlighting community engagement efforts and events, including the Great Poo Bag competition at the Harbour Gala, as part of the Keep Cullen Clean campaign.
- A fundraising campaign for defibrillators is underway.
- Consultations have included the number 35 bus service and EV charging.
- Residents' issues including road marking, the sink hole on road above the harbour and a faulty road repair at the Viaduct have been passed to Moray Councillors.

Elgin Community Council

- Gulls have been on the agenda for about 5 years, and Elgin Community Council has been in repeated contact with NatureScot. Thanks to a drone survey carried out in Elgin, NatureScot has accepted there is an urban gull problem. Removing nests can only be carried out under license. It is not simple to get a license. NatureScot want area gull management plans, which should simplify license applications. Moray Council was given £10,000 to develop an area plan but this has not happened. There is now a gull subgroup for Elgin, which other Community Councillors are welcome to join.
- The Christmas Lights group is hard at work behind the scenes, but the small committee and lack of funding is challenging. It is proving difficult to communicate to the public that Moray Council was never responsible for the lights, Elgin BID was.
- Around fifty people attended a public meeting about substations.

Forres Community Council

- For the first time there was no July meeting this year due to summer holidays.
- The new school is underway despite some vicious objections. Steve Ferris met with the veterans and passed their concerns to Moray Council so mitigation can be carried out e.g. construction noise.
- The purchase of Leancoil hospital was completed. Part has been sold to Hanover Housing who plan a £10 million development to provide supported housing. The main part of the building will be developed for around £8 million. The community was determined to save the hospital, and this was brought to Forres Community Council 8 years ago. It is an incredibly positive outcome after years of work and effort.

Heldon Community Council

- Heldon Community Council has been engaging productively with contractors re SSEN substations, battery storage, and quarries. Relationships are positive, 'blue sky' thinking is being shared, and public meetings have been held. Proposed location sites can change quite rapidly which can create challenges.
- Speeding issues are ongoing as per Agenda item 3. The Community Council would like to know why Roseisle does not have a 20mph speed limit.

Keith Community Council

- SSEN is due to attend the September meeting regarding pylons and substations.
- After Transport Scotland advised they wanted £30,000 to put up and take down the Christmas lights (to ensure compliance with traffic regulations), 4 privately owned sites on the A96 corridor have been identified for hosting displays instead.
- The Community Council invited a local Moray Council staff member to a meeting about parks maintenance and grass cutting. The employee was supposedly told not to attend.

ACTION: Martin Robertson to investigate employee attendance at meeting

Lossie Community Council

- The Community Council and groups are still busy running public toilets, gardening, litter picking, and collecting for Ukraine.
- There will be a meeting with Scottish Government about the East beach Christmas tree dune erosion project next week. Later this month, a similar pilot scheme will be carried out on West Beach.
- The Community Council has recently found out the maintenance costs of community defibrillators and are paying Keiran's Legacy to update and provide consumables.
- Issues at West Beach car park are ongoing.
- Overflowing bins at Hanover Housing have been a longstanding issue. The Community Council finally went public due to lack of response to this matter and, since then, Environmental Health have been out and dealt with them.
- Funding for repairs to Arthur's Bridge aka The Ten Ton Briggy seems uncertain. It is on the link road between Lossiemouth and the A96. It is feared closure of the bridge will result in even worse traffic in Elgin. The Community Council has been monitoring traffic and reporting figures to Moray Council. (365 vehicles crossed in just over an hour in the morning, and 390 in an hour in the afternoon.) They have liaised with the RAF and are meeting the MSP. It is believed the bridge is second in line to be repaired.

Speyside Community Council

- Planning applications for Teindland and Blackhills wind farms remain with the Energy Consents Unit. In future, applicants will now need to justify why they are applying for the turbines only, versus the turbines and grid, as this affects the Environmental Impact Assessment. It seems likely that both developments will have to go to consultation again.
- Moray Council unanimously refusing planning permission for Marypark hydrogen plant due to River Spey environmental concerns. The developer, Storegga, has sold its portfolio to Protium who plan to look at the same site again.
- The resilience plan is being updated and reviewed to include how to respond to the possibility of wildfire evacuations etc.
- Discussions are ongoing with Moray Council about being able to distribute bottled water from a Speyside location in the event of loss of private water supplies. Currently, water is stored in Elgin and not everyone can travel there.
- A small cycle pump track is being set up, involving local children. Moray Council agreed to license the land for use for £1, Breedon Aggregates have donated hardcore and Rothes Council have donated £2000. Additional insurance from Zurich is £67 a year. This pilot project was set up in response to kids making jumps and trails in the woods and digging up Rothes castle grounds. If it works well, the track may be expanded.

Strathisla Community Council

- The first round of Zenobē Community Funding has been allocated. This battery park community fund is managed in conjunction with Keith Community Council.
- The Community Council had a presentation from Murphy, SSEN's main contractor, currently working at Blackhillock. There is a lot of concern about substations locally.
- Keith Recycling Centre has had some short notice closures, which are unavoidable, but there has been no communication, not even a sign on the gate. This has caused issues with queuing traffic blocking access to the fire station.

Post meeting note: the following was forwarded to the CCLO

Findochty Community Council

- With Buckie, Cullen and Deskford and Portknockie submitted a report on the Route 35 survey to Stagecoach. The survey findings did not align with Stagecoach's operational data. Requested clarification and a discussion.

- Response awaited from Moray Council regarding the 20mph signage.
- Moray Council has agreed to install a grit bin at Findochty Primary School but it cannot be used on the unadopted road which is where it is needed.
- Talking to HITRANS and Economic Development about e-bike infrastructure along the Moray coast.
- Published "Understanding Climate Change" on the CC website. This might be of interest to other CCs.
- The survey on the consultative role of community councillors had not gathered 149 responses from 114 CCs across Scotland. Results are on the Findochty CC website.

7. Reports from subgroups

- Money for Moray** – Money for Moray are co-leads on the Just Transition Participatory budgeting fund. The fund is open for applications until 31st August, then voting will open. This is the fifth and final year of the fund, which has brought over £1.5 million to Moray.
- Transport Forum** – Marion Ross suggested formally disbanding the forum. Transport issues tend to be dealt with locally and it has been difficult to pull everyone together to meet. There are no assets or funds to be distributed if it is wound up and it can be reinstated in future if needed. There were no objections.

8. Update from groups:

- Moray Community Safety Strategic Group** – update from Stuart Chapman circulated.
 - Ongoing projects include tackling youth anti-social behaviour and increased in hate language and homophobic language.
 - There is a new pilot scheme to tackle shoplifting in Elgin, which may be rolled out in other towns if successful.
 - Lossie has a meeting Hub, and the plan is to involve more Young People
 - This group depends on information from Community Councils so that they can target and try to divert some of the anti-social behaviour that is occurring in Moray.

ACTION: Community Councils to send information and issues to Stuart, via CCLO, so he can better represent all Community Councils and areas.

- Moray Nature Network Steering Group** – no report

9. Treasurers Report – circulated

For the period 01/02/25 – 03/04/26 the opening balance was £7,489.58. Grant income of £250 was received and £168.25 of expenses were paid, leaving a balance of £7,571.33.

10. CCLO report – circulated

a. Resilience – SSEN Grant

The remaining £610.47 will be used for first aid training, Saturday 22 August at Rafford Village Hall, 9am-1pm. This will be open to both MFCHA members and Community Councillors. Please email Rhona McNicol to see if there are any spaces available.

b. Community Councillor training and development

Thanks to treasurers who attended an online session in July. Feedback has been noted and will be reported back to all soon. If anyone has yet to complete the feedback, please send it to the CCLO. If you were unable to attend the session, please let the CCLO know if there were barriers to attending.

c. Update from Moray Council meeting in December 2025

- A 7.75% increase in administration grant has been added to payments for this year. The report to full council recommended increasing by inflation annually.
- A policy for community access to council buildings is in the process of being drafted.

- An email was sent to community councils to ask whether they have a current laptop and planned replacement. The CCLO will list the current situation to prioritise laptop provision. Thank you to the CCs who have replied and the questions raised. They will be raised.
- with ICT officers to put together a plan and any required agreements.

d. Constitution amendments

There were no objections to the amendments.

REMINDER:

The end of the community council financial year is 30 September. Any issues with finding an independent examiner or preparing the annual accounts, please contact the CCLO.

An observation was made asking if the uplift in grants was going to be enough to support those Community Councils that were previously struggling. Free use of Moray Council buildings may help budget constraints. Could the CCLO follow up to see why a response was taking so long to draft.

ACTION: CCLO to chase up access to use of Moray Council buildings

11. AOCB

Moray Growth Deal Board – Stuart Chapman was asked to submit his CV to be vetted to join the Board. This seemed odd, as he is joining as the Joint Community Council representative as requested and the previous JCC rep was not asked to do this. Stuart has not been receiving notifications of meetings. He received an email at 9am to attend a meeting at 10am.

ACTION: Martin Robertson to follow up on the CV requirement and notifications

12. Closing remarks

The Chair remarked that eight Community Councils were represented at tonight's meeting. It seems some Community Councils have forgotten the commitment to attend they made at the inaugural meeting. The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

13. Date of next meeting Thursday 12 November 2026 (Elgin Town Hall at the Community Centre)

Items for next meeting

- Learning Estate