



*The City and
Royal Burgh of
Elgin
Community Council*

Minute of a meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026

7pm at Elgin Community Centre

Sederunt: **See attachment A**

Alastair opened the meeting and welcomed those present

ITEM	CONTENT	ACTIONS
Guests	<u>Will, Jack & Dan – Elgin Round Table</u> Will, Jack & Dan from Elgin Round Table have joined us to explain what the Round Table have been doing and what their plans are for the foreseeable future. The Round Table is open to male and female members between the ages of 18 – 45. Their focus is to end social isolation by encouraging people to get out and socialise by a number of methods. There is also a Ladies Club for women of the same age range and again it is to encourage Ladies to socialise. Jack stated that he got involved as he is fairly new to the area and was looking for something to encourage him to get out of the house. Dan's story was somewhat similar, and he wanted to meet new people. The group hold quarterly planning meetings to discuss new ideas and projects. One of those ideas is to reinstate the Lossie raft race which they have planned for the 15th of August between the supports of the old Briggie and the new bridge which crosses to the beach. Although they may start small the aim is to build up the event year on year.	

1.Previous Minutes 9th April 2026	Proposed : Brian Irvine Seconder: Diane Burgess	
2. Matters Arising Cooper Park Pond	A response from Gary Templeton regarding the mud on the basin of the Cooper Park pond. The rubbish which has built up will be removed however the mud which contains a rich source of nutrients will be left.	
3. Finance Correspondence	All payments are up to date. All correspondence circulated via email – no comments	Appendix B
4. Planning Licensing	Nothing to report Alastair mentioned that the 1 st Elgin Cub Scouts require some assistance with a planning application and wondered if James could help. Alison mentioned that amongst all of the funding ideas for the regeneration fund none mentioned Lady Hill, where the paths and steps etc are all in need of a bit of repair/ upgrade as they are in a poor condition.	
5.Elgin Christmas lights.	The Group continue to make steady progress towards this year's display and have recently taken delivery of a gazebo which will be used when they are at events or fundraising etc.	
6. Resilience	Brian recently mentioned that one of the biggest issues is encouraging people to get involved in the resilience group. Unlike smaller villages or rural communities resilience in Elgin requires much more work than a small group can deal with, to this end it has been decided to park the resilience group for the time being and Brian is to seek advice from the resilience team at Moray Council.	
7. Gulls Jonathan Weald	Steve opened up this favourite topic for members and then handed over to Jonathan (Jon) who gave an update as to where he is at with surveys etc. Jon explained that from what he has seen the gull problem is almost certainly escalating, he has been out carrying out drone surveys across Elgin from as early as 5am. These surveys started on 4 th May and are likely to take until the end of the month weather dependent. Our main target areas include but are not exclusive to Elgin Academy, Ashgrove, Edgar Road/Wards, Elgin Town Center and New Elgin.	

	So far he has recorded approximately 433 nests, taken 5 – 6 hundred images and estimates 7 – 800 pairs of gulls which if we take as an average of 2 chicks per pair could amount to 1400 – 1600 chicks thus far. Jon then went onto say that he has made contact with Peter Rock an Urban Gull expert from Bristol. This was welcomed by the members but also surprising as NatureScot do not identify Urban Gulls as a rule. Peter has provided some good information to Jon, and as far as we are aware we are amongst the first, if not the first to carry out gull surveys by drone. Steve introduced Andy Imlah who is also a drone operator and who is keen to assist with the surveys, he and Jon will catch up to see what can be done. Next Steps – Jon will write up a report once all surveys are done and this in turn will be shared with NatureScot who we hope to meet again soon. Alison and James thanked Jon for his work so far and James made reference to Jon’s precise approach and methodology. Cllr John Divers added that he has seen a dramatic escalation in gull numbers this year, and that the introduction of solar panels of roofs across the area has given rise to new nesting sites for the birds. Anne Mitchell also commented that in the space of a couple of hours two new nests had appeared in her area. Many of the current solutions to the gull problem don’t appear to have the desired effect, with Cllr Divers mentioning that the most effective solution he is aware of was the nest and egg removal. We are aware that the breeding season for gulls starts earlier and is longer than the official guidance would proclaim.	
8. Cooper Park	Alison reported that the schemes to redevelop both the pond and the toilet block are about a month behind schedule. Part of Deanshaugh park is being investigated to see if it would be suitable for a ‘pump track’. Some of the parking spaces have been lost due to the pond realignment and the current spaces are to be reconfigured as to which way users will face their vehicles when parking. The proposed boulder site will need to be properly managed. And the former pitch and putt area has asbestos buried beneath it which will add to the work involved in that area.	

9.Hustings	Steve informed members that the recent Hustings event for the Scottish Gov't elections was well received and that the idea of placing topical issues in envelopes which were drawn at random by the candidates was also seen as different from the norm at these events but again was well received.	
10. Elected members	Nothing to report as Council was in Purdah owing to Scottish Gov't elections. Alastair did ask Cllr Keith about the 'Deep clean' which took place in the Town Center area. Unfortunately, despite all of the effort taken the Center looks as bad again. £20k which would have been used to pay the Elgin Bid levy was used for the clean-up – might have been better if put towards a street sweeper for continuous use to keep the center clean.	
11. AOCB	Castle Court – Elgin, many of the elderly residents struggle with the communal bins for waste. Hanover as the Landlord should be aware Mike Neary and the waste team at MC should be made aware Elgin South Cllr's are now aware Brian and Cllr Kirby to contact both Hanover Housing and the moray Council.	
NEXT MEETING	TUESDAY 9 JUNE @ 7pm, ELGIN COMMUNITY CENTRE	

Attendance record

Meeting date **12th May 2026**

NAME		ATTENDING	APOLOGIES
Alan Bell		✓	
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	✓	
Alison Stockley		✓	
Anne Mitchell		✓	
Brian Irvine		✓	
David Chapman			✓
Douglas Clark			✓
Diane Burgess		✓	
Graham Jarvis		✓	
James Wiseman		✓	
Olusegun Adebayo			✓
Ron Cameron			✓
Samuel Zizighi		✓	
Steve Christie	Secretary	✓	
Jonathan Weald		✓	
Amber Dunbar	Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Elaine Kirby	Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Jereme Fernades	Cllr Moray Council	✓	
John Divers	Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Peter Bloomfield	Cllr Moray Council		✓
Sandy Keith	Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Debra Duke	CCLO Moray Council		
Mark Crowley, Sophie Dinak-Martin	Community Wardens		
Gary Templeton & Diane Anderson,	Moray Council		
David	P&J		
Sean Angus	Press		
Andy Imlah		✓	
Jimmy Leith		✓	
Peter Lovet		✓	



Attachment **B**

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Finance Report

1st May – 31st May 2026

Opening Balance 01/05/2026 **£7,046.06**

Expenditure

Minutes - **APRIL** £0.040.00

Venue for Hustings Moray College UHI £0.216.00

Expenses – mileage (gull seminar) £0,072.00

Bank Charges £0.004.25

Expenditure total **£0,332.25**

Income

Income total **Nil**

Statement balance on 31st May 2026 **£7,713.81**

Prepared by Steve Christie 1st June 2026