

Speyside Community Council

DRAFT Minute of Meeting Held

On Wednesday 26 August 2026

At 7pm

Speyside Sports and Community Centre

Community Council Members:

M. Grant, K. Ross, R. Kendrick, N. Slessor, M. Ross, D. McLean, C. Davis

In Attendance:

Cllrs Gordon and Ross, P. Shanks (EHC), D. Agutter

Apologies:

A. Bagnall (SCC), Cllr Harris, B. Cooper (CVC)

Welcome:

MR welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.

It was decided that there was no requirement for a private session at the end of this meeting.

D. Agutter was introduced to those in attendance.

Previous Minutes: 24 June 2026

Proposer: R. Kendrick

Seconder: N. Slessor

Presentation:

Eilidh Mellis (Muckle Media) and Chris Thacker (Fred Olsen) gave an update on the progress of Rothes III windfarm.

Consent was granted by Scottish Ministers, following a local public enquiry, in October 2022.

28 turbines in total. 3 @ 149.9m to tip

8 @ 200m to tip

17 @ 225m to tip

A final decision on whether or not to build the windfarm will be taken early in 2027.

Matters arising and not overtaken on the Agenda:

- None

Correspondence:

- All correspondence relating to/including funding sources is sent to both members of the Community Council and community organisations within our geographical area, as and when, received.
- * Community Energy Moray – Research on behalf of Moray Council. Jenni Marchant is conducting research in how Community Benefit is distributed and by whom in our area. Additionally, which windfarm Community Benefit funds can SCC area and its village councils/organisations tap into.
- * Rothes Sports Development Group – there is a CAT request in place for the Recreation Park and Bowling Green in Rothes. The CAT Team at Moray Council has confirmed that the CAT request does not include the land behind the primary school which is currently the subject of a licence awarded to SCC.

Reports:

- **Treasurer:** *Current Account: £7542.61
Available to SCC - £3288.73
Available to SCI - £2480.61
Available to ACA - £1773.27

Credits – Rothes Council £2000 (SCI)
Donation £50 (SCI)
Donation £15 (SCI)
Moray Council £434.15 (SCC)

Debits – Building Materials £61.82 (SCI)
Grass Cutting £60.00 (SCI)
Building Materials
(KBM) £154.86 (SCI)

Internet Banking is now up and running. The Treasurer proposed that all invoices should be sent to him, as usual, and then A. Bagnall or M. Ross would approve the payment. The Constitution will need to be amended to reflect this change.

Proposer: D. McLean

Seconder: K. Ross

- **SCI:** To be taken under Business.
- **SSCC User Group:** R. Kendrick reported that Community Centres will have upgrades in the 2027/28 financial year, mainly critical works (fabric, electrical and mechanical), with cosmetic upgrades if funding allows. A digital upgrade is being launched in September 2026, including a mobile app for booking fitness classes and services.
Fit Life Review – consultation continues through a working group established in partnership with Moray Leisure Centre. Feedback on SSCC and Fit Life was given during the meeting. This concentrated on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
SSCC has joined the Scottish Swimming Association.
All members of staff will receive training regarding ASNs. The intention is to offer autism friendly swimming sessions. (Anticipated launch April 2027).
The Drowning Awareness presentation delivered to pupils at SHS is to be rolled out to other pools next year.
- **Moray Council Nature Network:** Nothing new to report.
- **JCC:** The ‘Unified Statement on Windfarms’ has not been forthcoming, despite the preparation of such a statement being agreed. MR requested further information.
MR also requested an update on the progress of the policy for community access to council buildings for meetings – this was agreed by Councillors in December 2025.
The Moray Transport Forum has been officially dissolved.
This is the last year for Participatory Budgeting.
Next Meeting: 12 November 2026
- **m.connect:** There is a new tracker facility on the app.
40 vehicles are capable of carrying wheelchairs. Only 3 are not and are not involved in public facing transport services.
The tracker app will provide real time passenger and wheelchair capacity.

- **Councillors:** Cllr Gordon provided further information on the Rothes Woodland Creation Scheme Case Study.
He suggested writing to MSPs with our concerns about this Scheme and forestry creation in general..
D.McL to write to Cllr Gordon outlining SCC's issues with this 'Scheme'.

Cllr Ross reported on the recent wildfire in Cairngorm National Park. The emergency services were unprepared for such an event. This was not the fault of those 'on the ground' but of those responsible for the Fire and Rescue Service.
Nethy Bridge was evacuated and there were also plans in place to evacuate Tomintoul, should that be necessary.

Police Matters: CSP Report previously distributed. MR will also distribute to village councils/associations within our area in future.

Planning Matters: The Weekly Wards had been previously distributed.

Planning updates:

- Caley Casks, Viewfield, Craigellachie
Further documentation has been supplied by the applicant. MC Transport Department has not withdrawn its Holding Objection. It's not clear if there will be further public consultation.
- Blackhills Windfarm and Teindland Windfarm
Still no response from the developers to the ECU's request for further information regarding the impact of the Raeshaw Farms Judgement.
*MC has until 11 December to submit responses but without any reply from either developer this time scale may be extended.
*As a result of the court case, there may have to be a new round of public consultations.
- **Scottish Government:** SCOP-0076 Moray Flow Park consultation. It was decided not to make comments on the scoping request from the developer but to acknowledge that SCC would like to be kept informed of future plans.

Licensing – None

Forestry Updates

- Royburn 25FGS88319 – a map has been requested. It is not clear if this is for felling or planting but the plan only refers to conifers.

Business: *SCI – Cycle Pump Track.

A licence to use the land has been granted by Moray Council. Cost is £1 pa, should the Council ask for it.

Additional insurance has been taken out with Zurich Insurance.

SCC would like to thank Rothes Council for its donation of £2000 and to Netherglenn Quarry for the donation of materials.

*R.K. informed the meeting of a funding application on behalf of SCI.

*M.R. has submitted a request to HES to ascertain if funding would be available for restoration of The Pavilion.

*Resilience – M.R. had met with ACA. The current plan needs a complete update as some people are no longer involved. There will be an audit of the equipment and where it is stored. A schedule for charging equipment needs to be established. The issues of wildfires and scarcity of private water supplies during dry weather need to be addressed.

AOCB: It was reported that Police attending a recent fatal accident had no knowledge of the area and were diverting HGVs down roads that were totally unsuitable. This had the potential to cause further accidents. M.R. to contact CSP Team.

Future Programme:**Consultations:****Moray Council:**

- * Community Engagement Strategy (Closes 31/8/26)

National:

- * Salmon Fishing. Proposed Conservation Status for 2027 Season (Closes 4/9/26)
- * Protections in the Justice System for Women and Girls (Closes 31/8/26)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 30 September 2026

Meeting Closed at: 9 pm