



Date: 9th June 2026
Time: 6pm
Venue: Ace Winches Suite, Buckie Thistle FC, Buckie
Attendees: Ann Mitchell (AM), Alison Durno (AD), Christine Allan (CA), Treasurer - Daska Murray (DM), Co-chair Neilian Toms (NT), Secretary - Sharon Innes (SI), Richard Simpson (RS), Cllr. Sonya Warren (SW), Iona Shewan (IS), Susan McLennan (SM), Darren Westmacott (DMT) from Moray Council
Apologies: Pringle George (PG)
Pubic present: Neil Simpson (NS) from Buckie Fishing Heritage

Minutes of Meeting

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
Welcome, Apologies and Introductions	Everyone welcomed NT chaired the meeting. One formal apology: Pringle George (PG) Ongoing issue: Ross Ingram (RI) has not made contact with the group or returned group laptops despite repeated requests.	SI to message and email again including DD
Meeting protocol	Visitors are made aware via agenda that meetings are recorded electronically for the purpose of supporting minute-taking, with recordings erased thereafter.	
Approval of previous meetings minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment by DM and AM. All attendees in agreement.	
Local Development Plan	A council planning officer (Darren) attended to explain the new Local Development Plan (LDP). Key points: - The LDP guides development, housing, employment land, and infrastructure over the next 10–15 years. - The new plan is being prepared under Scotland's current planning framework. - A Proposed Plan is expected to be published after summer, followed by a public consultation period of approximately 14 weeks. - Public events will be held, including one in Buckie. Community Involvement Members asked how the community could contribute. Darren explained:	

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	• People can submit comments online during consultation. • Feedback can include: • Support or objections to development sites. • Suggestions for alternative uses of land. • Comments on planning policies. • Community groups can also meet directly with planning officers. Concerns About Engagement Several members expressed concern that: • Consultation events are often difficult for working-age residents to attend. • The same small group of people tends to participate. • More effort is needed to engage younger residents. The planning officer acknowledged this challenge and said: • The council is looking at different ways to engage people. • Schools and youth groups have been involved in previous planning exercises. • Short explanatory videos are planned to help people understand why the development plan matters. Buckie-Specific Issues Discussion focused on Buckie and surrounding communities. Main points: • There are no major new housing or industrial land allocations proposed for Buckie. • The emphasis is likely to be on strategic improvements rather than large new development sites. • The Buckie Harbour Masterplan was discussed. • Members raised concerns about: • Derelict buildings around the harbour. • Road infrastructure. • Future construction traffic. • Wider economic benefits for the town.	

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	Transport and Road Safety Members raised longstanding concerns about: • Speed limits on the A98. • Requests for reduced speed limits. • Pedestrian crossing provision near schools. • Delays in delivering promised road safety improvements. The planning officer noted that transportation decisions are handled by another department but offered to pass concerns on. Local Place Plans Discussion turned to Local Place Plans. Key points: • Portgordon already has a Local Place Plan. • Buckie does not currently have one. • Members asked whether Buckie should prepare one. • Darren suggested waiting to review the Proposed Development Plan first before deciding. • Even if prepared later, a Local Place Plan can still influence planning decisions. Future Timetable • Proposed Plan expected to be published around November. • Consultation follows publication. • Adoption of the new Local Development Plan is targeted for around 2028. • The plan would then guide development for approximately 10 years.	
Open Business from the last meeting	A. Portgordon School Bus Petition Current Position • A Stage 2 complaint has been submitted regarding school transport arrangements.	

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	• A response is expected by 16 June. • Concerns were raised that the complaint appears to have been referred back to the same department that is the subject of the complaint. Petition • The petition has been acknowledged and appears to have met the required criteria. • A representative will be allowed to address the council on 30 June. • Speakers will have approximately 5 minutes. Planned Representation • IS will speak at the meeting. • The possibility of representation from the local high school was discussed. • The aim is to present views from affected pupils and families. Council Process After hearing the petition, councillors will decide what action to take. Possible outcomes include: • A full hearing/investigation. • Delegation to committee leadership. • Taking no further action. • Other procedural options available to the council Railway Bridge Freedom of Information Request A Freedom of Information response was received regarding the railway bridge. Key Findings The report appears to show more serious issues than previously indicated, including: • Extensive corrosion. • Replacement of bolts and fixings. • Slippery and potentially hazardous steps. • Need for repainting and structural maintenance. Members noted that previous council statements had suggested only minor maintenance was required.	IS

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	Connection to School Transport There was discussion about whether the bridge could realistically form part of a safe walking route for schoolchildren. B. Lindsay Gordon Park Crossing Petition Status • An adult petition seeking a crossing was rejected. • Concerns were raised that some signatures may not have met electoral register requirements. • It was suggested that a revised petition with additional verified signatures could be submitted. Ongoing Concern Members remain frustrated that requests for a crossing date back many years without resolution. C. Cruise Ship Visit Review The group reviewed the recent cruise ship visit. Positive Feedback Piper and Highland dancer received excellent responses from visitors. • Passengers enjoyed being welcomed into the harbour. • Visitors took photographs with performers. • Feedback from tourists was very positive. Issues Identified Some performers reported: • No seating available. • No refreshments provided. • Better organisation would help in future. Visitor Numbers • Large numbers of crew came ashore as well as passengers. • Although it was a Sunday and many businesses were closed, visitors still spent time in: • Cafés • Tesco • Local shops	SI

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	Future Visits • Another cruise ship visit is expected on 19 June. • Border Force procedures may apply because it will be the vessel's first Scottish port of call. • Further cruise visits next year are considered possible if the experience remains positive. Proposal for a Tourism Group Members discussed creating a dedicated tourism subgroup. Purpose To coordinate: • Cruise ship visits. • Coach tours. • Visitor information. • Welcome events. • Town maps and leaflets. • Contacts with businesses and attractions. Suggested Activities • Maintain lists of contacts. • Prepare welcome plans in advance. • Coordinate performers and volunteers. • Improve communication with harbour and tourism organisers. AM was formally appointed as running this subgroup going forward. D. . Stagecoach Route 35 Bus Service Concerns Raised • Reliability problems continue. • Buses arriving early, late, or not at all. • Timetable changes without sufficient notice. • Difficult access from newer housing areas. Suggested Actions • Continue recording incidents. • Encourage residents to report problems.	AM

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	• Invite representatives from the Public Transport Unit to a future meeting. E. Community Resilience Group Discussion focused on whether a resilience group is still needed. Suggestions Included • Emergency contact fridge magnets. • Public information leaflets. • Community noticeboards. • Simple guidance on what residents should do during emergencies. There was support for keeping the approach practical and straightforward rather than creating a large formal structure. F. Little Norway Project Update • The original Aberdeen-based design support is no longer available. • Alternative printing and design options are being explored. • Questions remain about ownership of existing artwork and design files. • Members are keen to see the project completed. G. Community Noticeboard Members were reminded that a community council noticeboard still exists near the harbour office. Suggestions included: • Reinstating it in a prominent location. • Using it for visitor information. • Including resilience information. • Displaying maps and local event information. H. Upcoming Community Events • "Celebrating Buckie" event scheduled for 20 June. • Volunteers were sought to staff a community council table.	SI RS SW SI SI, CA & AM

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	• Discussion about using the event to: • Recruit volunteers. • Promote council activities. • Gather community feedback. I. Website The group voted in favour of proceeding with the community website. • Chris Thornton will maintain the site initially until volunteers or students can take over. • Chris's role will include identifying and fixing usability issues during the early stages. • There was discussion about paying Chris a maintenance fee while he performs this additional work. Website Benefits Discussed • Information remains permanently available, unlike Facebook posts that get pushed down by algorithms. • Easier to update than physical noticeboards. • Potential integration with: • Community events • Local clubs • Resilience/emergency information • QR codes linking visitors directly to local information Future School Involvement • Long-term goal is to involve local students in maintaining the website. • Current school calendar timing makes immediate recruitment difficult. • The website should be established and tested before students become involved. Email System • Concerns were raised about the current email hosting arrangement.	

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	- Agreed that concerns regarding parking and pedestrian safety could be submitted. Taxi Fare Proposal Discussion around Moray Council's proposed taxi fare changes. - No formal action agreed. - General view that fare-setting for private hire services is complex and largely driven by licensing arrangements.	SI
Sub Committee reports and plans	Community Engagement and Projects Playground Information Boards - Trial boards will be installed first using lower-cost materials. - If they prove durable and avoid vandalism, higher-quality versions may follow. Business Group Proposal - Interest in creating a business-focused subgroup. - Aim would be to engage local businesses on issues affecting Buckie. - Preference expressed for a practical subgroup rather than creating a completely separate organisation.	NT RS
Reports from local group activity and initiatives	Harbour and Community Updates - Harbour works and timber movements discussed. - Possibility of restoring an old collection box linked to mariners' funds. - Updates received from various local groups. Funding Opportunity - A resident, Lorna Patel, near the traveller site may seek funding for: - Wildlife enhancement - Bee and butterfly habitat improvements - Improvements benefiting Speyside Way users - Proposal is for her to join as an associate member and present plans at a future meeting.	NT

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	Promotional Materials - Tablecloth with community council branding has been ordered for events. - Future consideration of banners and display materials. Accounts Examination - Deborah advised the council to begin preparations for year-end accounts. - Proposal to ask Paul from Findochty Community Council to carry out the examination again.	SI & DM
Treasurer Report	Report was issued with balance of account £23,404.15	
Next Meeting	Tuesday 14 th July 2026 at Ace Winches Suite 6.30pm	AD

Community Council meeting closed at 20:30 hrs.