



Findhorn and Kinloss

Community Council

Minutes of Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council Meeting held on Thursday 30 January 2025 at Osprey Room, JMI, Findhorn

Present		Attendance	
A Skene	Minute Taker	S Kane	Kinloss Barracks
S Dominey		C Low	TFVCC
R Hutchison			
A Shepherd		Moray Councillors	
M La Tourelle	Interim Chair	P McBain	
A Hart			
		Members of Public	

Item 1 - Welcome

- Apologies – D Anderson, S Worth, Cllr Robetson
- Declaration of Interest – to be raised as and when it occurs.

Item 2 – Public Session

- Community Safety Report/Police Scotland Report – There were no obvious incidents reported in the Findhorn and Kinloss area.
- Any other competent public business / public correspondence – to be raised through agenda items.

Item 3 – Ratification of Minutes of Meeting from Thursday 28th November 2024, at Culbin Room, Kinloss Church.

3.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as accurate, proposed by A Shepherd and seconded by S Dominey.

Item 4 – Matters Arising from 28th November 2024

4.1 (9.1) A Shepherd reported that the removal of historic signatories for the account is ongoing and that she would need to visit the Forres Banking Hub. A Skene offered to assist. **ACTION: A Shepherd and A Skene to visit Forres Banking Hub together. COMPLETED**

4.2 (9.2) Cllr Robertson reported to A Skene that with respect to the vandalism of The Pavillion at Kinloss, the Community Support Officer had provided advice but there was a limitation on what Police Scotland could do as ownership of the Pavillion at Kinloss is unknown. **ACTION: ALL using community contacts, identify the owner of the pavilion and share information with Police Scotland. RESULT: Moray Council have taken over ownership and carried out repairs**

16.b S Worth reported that when he put up the minutes at the Kinloss noticeboard in early November, there was dampness within the sealed area. **ACTION: A Skene to investigate when posting this month's draft minutes. COMPLETED – minor condensation on an old notice board**

16.c D Anderson drew attention to the email received for the consultation of Scottish Government's A96 Corridor Review. The closure date for the consultation is 21 February 2025. **ACTION: A96 Corridor Review consultation to be included in the Agenda for the January meeting. RESULT: Link to consultation sent to all community councillors and encouraged to complete.** <https://search.app/3RaYPvdeN1kLtQT88>

Item 5 The Findhorn Village Conservation Company

5.1 C Low reported that general maintenance work is ongoing through the winter months. TFVCC is looking at ways to alter the road surface at approach to the payment barrier and height barrier so as to avoid further damage.

5.2 The Local Place Plan for Findhorn Village has been submitted. It was agreed that it was an excellent piece of work.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report

6.1 S Kane reported that the Resilience Plan meeting had taken place on 14th January and that a blue light emergency vehicle trial run through MOD land and the Ecovillage was scheduled for the 7th February at 11.00am.

6.2 A further Condor Rally had been approved to take place on MOD property on 22nd March. Letters would be going out to relevant parties and those living in close proximity.

6.3 Talks are continuing to be held with Moray Council in an attempt to find a solution to the lack of a bus service to Forres.

6.4 The Moray Council is hosting drop-in engagement events on the phase 2 expansion of **m.connect** services in Moray.

There will be events in the **Findhorn Village Centre at 10.00 -1.00 on Monday 10 February and Monday 24th March.**

Residents from both Kinloss and Findhorn are encouraged to attend these events to voice opinions and concerns.

Item 7 Chair's Report

7.1 A Skene was invited to contribute to the final editing of the Ecovillage Local Place Plan (LPP). Both the Findhorn Village and Ecovillage LPPs were enormous pieces of work and costly to deliver. They were submitted on time at the end of January. It is hoped that Moray Council will give them the attention they merit and that action will be delivered based on the comprehensive content of each LPP.

7.2 A Skene along with M La Tourelle and S Worth attended a meeting in Cumming Hall on 14th January to discuss emergency access through Kinloss Barracks and the Ecovillage should the B9011 be closed for an excessive time. Representatives from 39 Engineer Regiment, the Fire Service, HM Coastguard and Moray Council were in attendance. Actions / Outcomes: the Moray Council Resilience Officer will discuss the resilience plan at a Cat 1 responders meeting; the route will be tested by a suitable fire appliance; Barracks guardroom personnel would be updated on the process to be followed necessitating a blue light transit route; contact to be made with Ecovillage landowners to confirm route and arrange signage (M La Tourelle); Recce of the route to be tested and documented for the FKCC resilience plan.

Item 8 Secretary's Report/Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence has been dealt with through other items.

Item 9 Treasurer's Report

9.1 A Shepherd reported that there had been three transactions over the past two months, two payments for member expenses, and the receipt of the admin grant from Moray Council. Funds held in the Account are:

Admin Grant	£2,004.45
Capital	£1,122.14
(Southside Community Fund)	(£36,234.86)
Total	£39,361.45

It was proposed that the treasurer look at instant access savings accounts for the Kinloss playground fund so that some interest might be accrued. **ACTION: A Shepherd to research Instant Access Savings Accounts for the Kinloss fund.**

Item 10 Joint Community Council

10.1 The next JCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday 13th February 2025. Venue to be confirmed.

Item 11 Moray Councilors' Report

11.1 Replacement of Forres Academy: the next phase involves legal works in regard to common good land. The final site of the new school has not yet been agreed. The timescale has been pushed back to an opening date in summer of 2028.

11.2 Councillors are back to busy schedules with full resumption of committee meetings including two Full Council meetings in February. This month, the final Budget, service charges and Council Tax will be set for the year ahead.

11.2 A new Chief Executive has been appointed for Moray Council. Karen Greaves BEM is currently the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions at Orkney Islands Council and will take up her new post in the Spring.

Item 12 Park Ecovillage, Findhorn Report (PEVF)

12.1 M La Tourelle reported that in December she had been kept busy with Ecovillage Findhorn Community Benefit Society (EF) weekly updates, Local Place Plan (LPP) rewriting, and the annual Solstice Meditation and Spiral. In January as part of Resilience Planning, she started a two-month series of weekly awareness raising posts in the community magazine Rainbow Bridge. For FKCC she updated and distributed the 'get to know' members poster. In addition, she attended New Findhorn Association (NFA) meetings on Purpose and Vision and an update on the new Sanctuary.

12.2 Reference 7.2 above, M La Tourelle agreed to meet with a Fire Service representative to carry out an emergency vehicle test run through the Ecovillage. It will take place on 7th February at 11.00am. Following a test walk, she provided a map, photos and measurements of the proposed route through the Ecovillage. M La Tourelle has a verbal agreement with the park landowners about access and has given them written notice of the test run and submitted a notice to the Rainbow Bridge. A retaining wall will be built by Green Leaf alongside the new Sanctuary which will widen the road to 3.4m at its narrowest point.

12.3 M La Tourelle reported that at a Cullerne Gardens meeting on 18th January, it was confirmed that the Findhorn Foundation SCIO would give a three year lease to EF for community use.

12.4 On 20th January, NFA/EF met to revise the Park Ecovillage LPP. There was majority approval and subsequently a poll was sent to all members. The result was 96% in favour of the LPP final version

12.5 S Dominey reminded everyone of the arts schedule put on at the Universal Hall and of the hard work in producing such a varied programme of film, music and theatre. A successful, full-to-capacity, New Year Ceilidh was held there.

12.6 The guest lodges and bunkhouse are now open for guest accommodation.

Item 13 Resilience Planning

13.1 R Hutchison reported that the application to the Participatory Budget fund had not been successful. It was for a generator/battery project for the Findhorn Village Centre.

13.2 During the snow event in early January, the Community Resilience Group (CRG) WhatsApp group were invited to be aware/raise awareness of the slippery conditions in each of their Zones. They responded by spreading grit on the pavements and reporting on bin grit levels around the village. A local resident cleared pavements with a mini snow plough. Everyone rallied.

13.3 The CRG also cleared gorse which was restricting access to the loop road. The CRG leaflet has been produced and is ready to go out to residents.

Item 14 Coastal Erosion

14.1 The work to repair and strengthen the embankment alongside the bay between the War Memorial and Fyrish Road has been started. The works are expected to last for a few months. Traffic lights are in place on weekdays but delays are very short.

Item 15 Planning

15.1 The following planning applications have been submitted and were discussed:

24/01777/APP Alter and extend dwellinghouse at 16 Fyrish Road, Findhorn.

24/01813/LBC Retrospective consent for internal alterations at Flat B, Findhorn House, Yacht Club Road, Findhorn.

24/01814/LBC Retrospective consent for internal alterations at Flat C, Findhorn House, Yacht Club Road, Findhorn.

25/00049/APP Change of use from agricultural buildings to maturation warehouse and filling store at Upper Hempriggs Farmhouse, Kinloss.

Item 16. Any Other Competent Business

- a) Recruitment to FKCC – there are three vacancies on the community council. A Kinloss resident, having attended the meeting in November, has agreed to be co-opted on to the FKCC. He was unanimously voted on and given a warm welcome.
- b) Members expressed sadness at the loss of two businesses in the village, namely, Torta and the Findhorn Pottery.
- c) It was noted that very few members of the public attend FKCC meetings unless a major issue comes up. It was suggested that notice of meetings could be announced on the various village WhatsApp groups to remind residents that the public are most welcome to attend. There is a public session at the beginning of the meeting when issues and concerns may be raised.
- d) A poster could be designed to hopefully attract more attendance.

Item 17 Forthcoming Community Events

17.1 The following forthcoming events were shared:

- Universal Hall events, including the Winter Film Season, can be seen on website www.universalhall.co.uk
- The Findhorn Village Quiz will be held in March...date to be confirmed.

Item 18 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 27th February 2025, 7.00pm at the Culbin Room, Kinloss Church, Kinloss,

POSTSCRIPT:

THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE TEST RUN THROUGH THE ECOVILLAGE WILL NOW NOT TAKE PLACE ON 7TH FEBRUARY