

# Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## Council Chambers, High Street, Elgin

### Present:

Alastair Kennedy	(Chair)
Gordon Methven	Elgin Community Council
Karen Pryce-Iddon	Strathisla Community Council
Les Morgan	Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council
Pat Carroll	Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council
Donald Cameron	Lennox Community Council
Ann Mitchell	Buckie & District Community Council
Morag Stewart	Buckie & District Community Council
Christine Allan	Buckie & District Community Council
Carol Wood	Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Iain Rennie	Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Graham Murdoch	Forres Community Council
Stewart Noble	Forres Community Council
Bunty Campbell	Dufftown & District Community Council
Dennis Dalgarno	Dufftown & District Community Council
Lansana Bangura	Innes Community Council
Carol Allan	Innes Community Council

### In attendance:

Jane Martin, Community Council Liaison Officer, Cllr John Divers, Anita Milne & Gill Stewart Milnes Area Forum, Catherine Sinclair (minutes)

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Carolle Ralph and Brian Higgs

### 2. Diane Burgess, Regional Community Team Manager, Scottish Water

Diane is based in Elgin and covers the Western Isles, Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen. She is happy to be the named contact for Community Councils to use if there are any unresolved water or sewerage issues in Moray. Some have been in touch about flooding and SUDS schemes and she assured them work is ongoing. Issues may not always have a quick solution, particularly if they are complex and require joint working with other agencies. Forres Community Council has been in touch about surface water. Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council reported that flutter valves (for use in emergency overflow of sewage) in Findhorn Bay are rusted shut. Diane also confirmed there are no plans to fluoridate water in Scotland.

### 3. Community Engagement, Moray 2023 – Mark Palmer, Corporate Director

Work has been ongoing to look at how to improve community engagement in Moray. The many community planning partners realise that engagement is a continuous project and are looking to better manage their collective resources to improve it. They would also like to encourage more community involvement and feedback. It is planned to update Moray's 10 year plan every 2 years. From now to October 2017 The Moray Council will engage as widely as possible then produce a draft Moray 2026 for consultation in January, with a view to a final plan being approved by March 2017.

A calendar of Community Council and area forum meetings has been published on the Community Planning website. Public sector partners are being encouraged to include consultations and specific events on the same calendar. Over the next 8 weeks there will be events on Facebook with debates involving the public and experts. A questionnaire is also available for the next 6 months, online and in public access points such as libraries. Community Council and individual responses are sought. Mark also encouraged Community Councils to ask Moray Council officers to speak on any of the plan priorities, a specific priority or any other priority they feel should be included.

While other Community Planning Partners will continue to consult on their priorities, in July The Moray Council will begin engaging on the financial position of the council.

The Council cannot continue to operate in the same way and deliver the same services or all reserves will be used up within 2 years and there will be a shortfall of £14million per year. Increasing income, efficiency measures, and increasing Council Tax as far as Scottish Government allows, will net £4million. Further difficult cuts could realise £5million. It may be time to lobby Scottish Government as it is proving impossible to do enough to meet the required cuts. Members of the public need to be made aware of the financial

situation and feed in their preferences and solutions. Focus groups will also be held including representatives from business, youth, elderly, disabled, citizens' panels, parents, sports and equalities organisations. It was agreed Mark could return to the next meeting to take questions.

#### **4. Minutes of previous meeting 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Les Morgan, seconded by Gordon Methven.

#### **5. Matters arising**

**Item 7a) Participatory Budgeting** –Alastair was unable to attend the conference in Edinburgh but the fees were returned.

#### **6. Participatory Budgeting Update**

This project was named "Money for Moray". A working group was set up to administer the project which will hand out to Moray community organizations £120,000 of Scottish Government and Moray Council funds. Several Community Councillors are on the working group and attended events to take forward the project. Organizations were able to bid for projects from £200 to £5000 which have an economic benefit to Moray. The working group received over 80 applications totalling approximately £316,000. This response was overwhelming therefore the second £60,000 of funding will be brought forward and there will now be two community events where the community groups vote on the distribution of the funds. The first will be held in Grant Hall, Rothes, on 28 May, for £60,000 and the second in the same place on 26 June, again for £60,000. About 20 of the bids were rejected by the working group, leaving 30 to present on each day. Letters to the organisations explaining this go out shortly. Who is funded is decided by the audience on the day marking their top 10 projects on a score sheet with the highest scoring being funded.

#### **7. Community Council Complaints Review**

A final draft of the Complaints Procedure was circulated. After some discussion and subject to 2 amendments – 'it is expected most complaints will be submitted immediately or within 2 to 3 months' and 'from the date of the incident' added to give a specific time frame the Complaints procedure was agreed. The Guidelines for how to deal with a complaint were also adopted as a working document to be reviewed and finalised after further consultation.

Training on conflict resolution and mediation is planned later in the year – a 3 week course of 3 x 3 hour sessions. It is hoped at least one representative per Community Council can attend.

#### **8. A96 Dualling**

Finderne Community Council formed partly in response to the A96 dualling and the Chair wished to introduce this topic and ask if it is time for Community Councils to look at this issue jointly.

#### **9. Reports**

##### **a) Financial Report**

No report. £5,000 for costs for participatory budgeting is being held by JCC.

##### **b) Rural Parliament Update (Gordon Methven)**

Only 12 people attended the Rural Parliament meeting in Elgin Town Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> May; however it was a good meeting. Scottish Rural Action is seeking input on 6 questions, as well as feedback on what other issues concern the people of Moray. There was discussion on whether it would be best to circulate the questions by email or hold another event to gather more feedback. Elgin Community Council have added an additional standing item to the agenda to see if anything discussed at the meeting needs to be shared with Scottish Rural Action. This is working well and they have so far shared capital investment, inaccessible location of pain clinic in Dr Grays and lack of toilet provision in the evening in Elgin.

#### **10. Information Sharing**

##### **Buckie Community Council**

One member has resigned due to ill health. The Community Council is working on raising their profile and public awareness. One member attended the launching of 'Selkie' the new dredger. Several Community Councillors have been involved in Participatory Budgeting. Dog fouling remains a concern and there has been a rise in abandoned cars in Buckie.

##### **Dufftown & District Community Council**

The Fife Street footpath appears to have been completed. New signs from The Moray Council legal department have gone up concerning 'redetermination of means of public rights of passage' on footpaths and cycle paths. It would be helpful if Community Councils were notified ahead of time so they can better answer questions from the public.

### **Elgin Community Council**

Willie Findlay, the new Community Safety Officer spoke at the last meeting. Elgin has no designated warden, however all Moray wardens are sharing Elgin's workload.

Members are to form a recreation and leisure sub-committee as it is being split from the existing recreation, leisure and Fair Trade. A member has taken up the invitation to join the Local Licensing Forum.

Members voted that individuals could buy Elgin Community Council fleeces if they wish. Gifts for Elgin, Illinois have been purchased.

Elgin and Innes Community Councils plan to meet to discuss Wind Farm Community Benefit. The Elgin Community Resilience Plan has been drafted.

A member has written a report about the problems with Elgin's road network and the Community Council are asking what will happen now the link road is not going ahead.

Work has begun on the new High School, expected to be finished by October 2017. A footbridge with lifts and steps at each side is being built at the railway station, good news, after years of lobbying.

### **Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council**

The Community Council seat vacated by a member moving out of the area has been filled.

Civilian access to Kinloss Swimming Pool had been requested during the time Forres Pool is closed for refurbishment. The MOD have explored this at length but issues around corporate liabilities and the staffing/resource implications make civilian access not possible for the foreseeable future.

The opposing petitions, one to ban and the other in support of wildfowling were discussed at a meeting of stakeholders under Moray Council chairmanship on 11 April, which Les and Pat attended. Although there was some support for a voluntary system of restrictions on wildfowling, most considered it would be ineffective and many favoured the introduction of a byelaw. L Morgan reiterated our long-held Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council view that the contents of the byelaw should be decided by the Moray Council and be based on a compromise between the anti and pro shooting spokespersons. The Moray Council officials at the meeting seemed to be persuaded that a byelaw is necessary and there will be further meetings to agree the compromise.

The CC has received complaints about speeding on two of the roads into Kinloss and the Senior Traffic Manager from Moray Council will attend and give a presentation on their views at our next meeting.

Findhorn Village Hostel has undergone a £260,000 renovation to improve the fabric, install a green energy heating system, disabled facilities, and new kitchen. It is the only hostel between Nairn and Cullen and will now be open year round. Income is used to underwrite the cost of running the Community Centre, providing facilities for the community.

### **Forres Community Council**

Planning for Real is working well, having produced a superb, detailed model. The process has been delayed due to Participatory Budgeting but is expected to resume soon. The Community Council is looking into the possibility of CARS funding for Forres.

The Moray Council have almost finished installing new play equipment at various sites in Forres.

Findhorn Bay Arts gave a presentation at the last meeting.

Planning for a Cluny Hill lighting event, "Colours of Cluny" is progressing well. Forres Futures CIC, the police, Moray Council and other statutory bodies met with the Community Council. There was a lot of support and enthusiasm for the project and a safety group within the Moray Council will work on supporting it. So far £45,000 has been raised - £25,000 from the Budge Trust, £10,000 from Berryburn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (with further funding a possibility if needed) and funding from HIE. After being turned down, a second application is to be submitted to Awards for All, with more emphasis on the community benefit the project would bring. It is aimed that the project will be self-financing after 3 years.

In general, the Community Council is dealing well with incoming matters and has designed and purchased pull up cassette banners to promote their activities and what they do for the public i.e. "Representing Forres Residents to Public Agencies" and being "at the heart of the community". The banners cost £55 including printing and postage. Stewart can help other Community Councils with producing the image for printing if desired. They have also produced a PowerPoint, which others are welcome to use and adapt.

**ACTION: Stewart to email PowerPoint to Jane for sharing with all**

### **Innes Community Council**

Good public attendance at Community Council meetings is ongoing and issues brought up are being dealt with. Another new member has been co-opted. A representation will be going to the public hearing over the proposed demolition of the Tenants Arms Hotel.

The Community Council is awaiting a response from The Moray Council to enquiries about the travellers' encampment at Troves.

It is hoped to work with a local GP practice to set up a patient participation group to improve local representation.

Donna Jamieson, Community Warden, attended the last meeting, which was very useful. There have been some incidents of theft and vandalism in the area.

There is concern about the level of policing in Moray – discussion was held.

**ACTION: Alastair to write to Commanding Officer for an update on policing levels in Moray. Gordon to pass this concern to Rural Scottish Action**

### **Lennox Community Council**

The Community Council is requesting the owner of Portgordon harbour clears the silt and maintains the harbour so it can be used by boats again. There are ongoing issues with roads maintenance in Portgordon. There are ongoing problems with speeding on Spey Bay Road, which Police are covering as best they can. One member has resigned. The Community Council has sponsored an award for Community Service for a pupil at Milne's High School, which will be awarded at this year's prize giving ceremony.

The Portgordon Lampie Group, Fochabers Village Association and Fochabers Gala and Events Committees are very active in their areas. The Fochabers institute will be closed later this year for an £800,000 refurbishment, thanks to the efforts of the Village Association. The Gala day is 21<sup>st</sup> July and all are welcome.

### **Keith Community Council**

One new member has been co-opted and others are still sought. Two members attended handbook training with Martin Kirwan.

A successful litter pick was recently held. Sub groups are very active at present with Keith in Flower preparing planting, the Christmas Lights committee applying for funding and the Scots Toun representative working on 'A Warm Welcome Awaits' literature and trail, designed to bring people from the distillery to the town and to promote its status as Scotland's first Scots Toun. St Rufus Park Regeneration Group, a newly formed group is going from strength to strength, working in partnership with Keith Community Council, and with sponsorship and support from local organisations and business. They are planning a family day event at the park on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Strathisla Community Council**

The Police report highlighted a telephone bank scam involving persuading victims to transfer money to a safe account and they are urging the public to be vigilant. The Police report also urged the agricultural community to be vigilant and increase their security where possible.

The Moray Council Planning department will attend to give a talk on Planning and Community Councils.

Potholed roads also remain an issue locally although some patching has been undertaken.

There are plans to commemorate the Queen's birthday year by purchasing flower planters for each village.

A youth member is sought and one member is due for a long service award

**ACTION: Karen to follow up on long service award**

### **11. AOCB**

**ACTION: Alastair to invite Richard Lochhead to August meeting**

### **12. Date of Next Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm

### **ACTIONS**

**Stewart to email PowerPoint to Jane for sharing with all**

**Alastair to write to Commanding Officer for an update on policing levels in Moray. Gordon to pass this concern to Rural Scottish Action**

**Karen to follow up on long service award**

**Alastair to invite Richard Lochhead to August meeting**