

**Welcome** - Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the Zoom Meeting.

**In Attendance** - Alastair Kennedy, John Divers, Sheila Cochrane, Colin Bell, Douglas Clark, Graham Leadbitter, Sara Marsh, James Wiseman, Jack Wright, Sean McAngus, Steven Christie, Margaret Dearman, Dan Puplett, Pat Paterson, Eddie Wallace.

**Apologies** - Ray and Maria McLean, David Chapman

**Stagecoach** - The service is now back to 98% of what it was in March 2020, however all services have reduced capacity and revenue is down 50%. The furlough scheme is still in use. Buses have advisory capacity limits and these are applied at the driver's discretion. The number and size of family bubbles complicates the number of people allowed on a bus.

There was a discussion about the newly refurbished waiting room which is expected to reopen in November. Social distancing by the public at the bus station and on the buses is disappointing, however Stagecoach do not wish to refuse travel.

There was a discussion about whether the Deveron service which used to serve Hamilton Gardens, Morriston Road and New Elgin could be reinstated.

**Wildflower Meadows** - Dan Puplett from Scottish Wildlife Trust welcomed increases in wildflower meadows. Whilst visibility is an issue on road verges the need to increase biodiversity is strong. Less frequent cutting of verges or other open spaces and the use of wildflower meadows would reduce operating costs. The example of the Tore roundabout was mentioned along with ways of making wildflower meadows look a little more organised (50cm strip cut along the edge). At the end Dan Puplett and Colin Bell agreed to meet to discuss these goals further.

Speaker - Colin Bell

In response to public demand Moray Council are seeking to update their policy on the maintenance of open spaces with a view to improving biodiversity. Colin Bell outlined strategies and some small scale initiatives currently under trial and is looking to develop a plan by the end of the year to achieve this goal across the open spaces in Moray. There was a discussion about how to engage expertise and community resources whilst retaining the Moray Council's responsibility for safety and in particular road safety. Councillor Graham Leadbitter highlighted the work that Colin Bell and his team had done during the covid 19 pandemic to date and thanked them.

**Previous Minutes** - The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 8 September were proposed by Eddie Wallace and seconded by Douglas Clark. There were no objections and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**Matters Arising** - Douglas had sent the letter to Stagecoach and a speaker on wildflower meadows had been organised for this meeting.

**Planning and Development** - Douglas Clark and James Wiseman proposed a letter to Moray Council Planning and Developers to engage in a conversation about recently discussed environmental matters. Douglas Clark explained that this had come from an observation that recent housing developments had little or no provision for the movement of small animals such as hedgehogs. We also want to take the opportunity to discuss

topics such as wildflower meadows and vehicle emissions. A draft letter is to be circulated for comment.

**Moray Growth Deal** - Discussion was held over to next meeting.

**Dr Gray's** (severe delays over tests and cataracts) - Jamie Hogg is to be invited to the next meeting to address this topic.

**Community Development Trust** - A separate meeting was requested to discuss this topic.

**Agency Update** - Stagecoach (see above)

**Elected Member Updates** - The Councillors present gave an outline of some of the prominent activities from recent weeks. The Council committees are returning a more normal operation as restrictions allow. Car park charges are to be reintroduced at the end of October, however Free-after-Three will be in place until the first week of January. The road closures in the High Street will be also be removed. A brief update was given on the progress of seagull management in Elgin.

**Treasurer's Report** - An update was requested.

**Reports and Updates** - JCC

At the JCC Rhona Gunn gave presentations on carbon reduction and collating volunteering activity.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting** - Dr Gray's (Jamie Hogg), Common Good Fund

**AOCB** - There was a brief discussion on attracting new membership by holding a surgery type event at a market stall.

**Date of Next Meeting** - Tuesday 10 November 7pm