

**Lossiemouth Community Council  
Minutes of Meeting**

**Date: 19 April 2021**

**Time: 19:00**

**Location: Zoom**

**Chair: Carolle Ralph**

**Attendees: Kristy, Peter, Carolle, John, Gina, Fiona, Harry, Marian, Maureen, Tim, Louise, Kirsty, James**

Apologies: Fraser Bowie

**Agenda:**

**1- Police Update:**

No police representative, but the new inspector has asked if we use Microsoft Teams, he was told that we had used it in the past, but it did not work well for us.

There have been cases of minor vandalism at the new school and gatherings of youth behind the school. When the neighbours have tried to phone 101 they have not been able to get through.

Due to the increase in youth activity and the busier summer season we need a larger police presence or community connection with them.

**RAF Update:**

**DEATH OF HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP.** RAF Lossiemouth has participated in the period of official state mourning with the most immediately visual impact being our social media feeds falling silent. We will slowly re-start activities over the next week or so in accordance with the very strict rules around the death of a senior member of the Royal Household.

**AIRFIELD LIGHTING.** Other than when required for periods of operational activities, the lights will now be switched off. Shields have also been installed.

**US NAVY.** Our visiting P8 colleagues have now concluded their operational activities from RAF Lossiemouth and are in the process of relocation to Iceland for the summer period. No doubt they will be back later in the year!

**E3 SENTRY.** The aircraft with a giant frisbee on top! 8 Sqn – and the future home for the new Wedgetail aircraft – have been training from RAF Lossiemouth since late last week and will depart in the next day or so. Whilst here, the Sqn have been planning for their eventual relocation to Lossie in 2022/23 and today conducted a memorial service re-dedicating a plaque to the crew of an 8 Sqn Shackleton that crashed on Harris with the loss of all lives on board. As families couldn't participate in person, we live screened it via a zoom call which also enabled all the families to catch up with each other. A short video remembering our fallen colleagues will be uploaded to social media in due course.

**SPOTTERS AREA.** RAF Lossiemouth will publish a reminder to all driving to the area to view aircraft activity of the need to park vehicles safely and not cause a hazard. Hardstanding currently blocked off is leased from Golf Club and will become contractors' yard by May 21 for next stage of works.

**EX STRIKE WARRIOR.** The evolution of the old JOINT WARRIOR (and even older NEPTUNE WARRIOR!), this is a major NATO maritime and air training exercise and is due to start in the coming weeks. Plans have been heavily adjusted for COVID and many of the planned attendees are no longer coming. Those that are being based at RAF Lossiemouth will be fully compliant with Scot Gov COVID restrictions throughout.

**NIGHT FLYING.** Current period of intensive night flying to prepare both for operational activities and the lighter nights over summer when we can't physically practice those skills is drawing to an end. We recognise the impact on our neighbours, but it is essential our pilots practice those skills on a regular basis.

**RAF LOSSIEMOUTH CHILDCARE CENTRE.** New portcabins to provide our current users with COVID compliant facilities have been installed and should be operational in the next month or so once all fitting out is completed. No additional places are being created at this stage but the kids who have spent all of winter outdoors for out-of-school care will now have indoor options and ease of access to ablutions. The Moray Growth Deal Early Years STEM hub pilot will be based in one of the rooms which is a great win for Lossie as whole giving all families and early years care providers (nurseries, 2-3 groups and childminders) ease of access to high quality age and stage appropriate STEM activities.

**FRIENDS & FAMILIES DAY 2021.** RAF Lossiemouth is provisionally working towards holding this event on Wed 21 Jun. We will be entirely directed by whatever COVID guidance and restrictions are in place at that point, but it is always easy to cancel at short notice then plan. It looks likely that we will secure some air display assets for the event so even if a traditional format isn't deliverable, we may still have the air display element – even if it run like a drive-in movie and no one leaves their vehicle!

The community is very appreciative of the work that was put into finding a solution to the air field lighting issue.

### **3- Lossiemouth Community Development Trust Update:**

They have a new staff member, Helen who will be a part time admin, the funding for this position is from a Seafest Grant.

There will be changes to Seafest this year but they are planning on holding it.

The new studies for the Cycle Track have been done.

They are still gathering feedback for the five year plan, but they do need more.

### **4- Minutes of March Meeting**

Sarah Riley-Evans has provided some updates on two items from our last meeting:

**A pre-planning application has been submitted for the new RAF Aviation Academy it will be at the old helicopter area.**

Incorrect! The Moray Aviation and Advanced Technology Campus is a joint UHI, HIE and Moray Council project under the Moray Growth Deal. It is not an 'RAF Aviation Academy' though we fully support the concept of the project. The land identified in the pre-planning application is outside the wire and consists of a mix of private land immediately adjacent to the base and MOD land on the southern side of Drainie Road.

**Per Tim they are opening Crash Gate 2 onto the main road and will be expecting an additional 140 cars a day, this will also be close to the new Tulloch's road. Carolle will contact them for more information on this.**

Partially correct but perhaps misunderstood. More accurate description of the why the new gate is being made useable as an entry point as per below.

Due to the continuing growth and improvement work at RAF Lossiemouth, the main point of entry via the roundabout on Muirton Road/Coulardbank Road has been identified at risk of becoming bottlenecked at peak times. This would create a hazard for all road users include our wider community. To this end, RAF Lossiemouth has worked with Moray Council and identified various mitigation measures to reduce the impact.

Contractors working on the North side of the base will access the site via Crash Gate 8 (the one used by Robertson's during the Strat Fac build) and Crash Gate 2 (opening onto Muirton Road) will be used by all contractors needing to access the main base area. The use of these two gates by contractor staffs will reduce traffic via the main gate by circa 140-150 vehicles per day.

#### **4- Matters Arising:**

**Campervan Sub-committee Update:** See separate email from Marian.

The JCC is meeting on 22 April to discuss Camper Vans and Marian and Carolle will attend.

The sub-committee will be meeting again next week.

The West Beach carpark is already full of camper cans.

If anyone has suggestions for the camper van situation please email Marian.

#### **Campervans and parking:**

John Cowe will continue to look into ways to discourage overnight parking and will communicate with the sub-committee.

**LBA Tourism subcommittee:** Maureen will be our representative to the two Zoom meetings, one 5 May and the second 17 May.

**Public Toilets:** We have had no word from Moray Council/NHS Grampian if they want to use them for the testing teams.

Carolle and Gina will discuss if we want to turn the water back on for the season.

**Community Awards:** Gina proposed that we don't have a 2020 Citizen of the Year Award and look at focusing on the youth groups. We will look at the possibility of doing a quarterly award.

It was agreed that we will not do a 2020 Citizen of the Year Award.

**United Free donation from CC:** We will donate £200 to the United Free Church as a thank you for the use of their space. Carolle and Tim will sort out a cheque.

**Traffic complaints Inchbroom Road:** We have had several complaints about speeding on the road, in the past the Council has said that the speed limit won't be lowered there but with the new homes being built we may be able to get it lowered now.

John Cowe has written to Nicola Moss today about the issue but has not heard back from her yet.

Gina is supposed to be on the JCC Speed sub-committee but has not heard about any meetings. Carolle will find out what is going on for her.

**High Vis Vests:** We have ordered and paid for 10 additional vests.

**The Square:** The Rotary is keen to continue with the Square.

Lily would like to be an associate member of the Community Council and handle the gardening.

Lily has started getting the Remembrance Stones installed by the dentists, near the gold post box. She doesn't have quite enough stones so will ask the youth groups to contribute additional stones.

Lily has sponsors/volunteers for some of the beds.

**Bins:** John Cowe has contacted Environmental Health already to request additional bins.

We need them on Shore Street, West Beach, James Square, and near the high school.

**Food Larder:** They now have the keys for the Coulardbank space, and will start moving in.

They are still working with Moray Food Plus and will be taking on more food recovery from the Co-Op.

They received a £750 ASDA food grant which was used to help fill the larder.

Going forward they will be using more eco-friendly packaging in the parcels.

They will be keeping the Youth Café as a base and storage; they are looking into the history of the space to find a new name for it.

Ben Sullivan will be handling their digital media to help advertise the larder.

**Partnership with Lossie 2-3 Group:** We have been working in partnership with the Lossie 2-3 Group for the COVID relief in Lossiemouth and have voted to continue with the partnership for the time being. It will be formalized this week.

**Defibs:** The one from the Community Centre will be moving to St. Geradines, James Allan will be looking after it and will receive training on what needs to be done. Keiran's Legacy will be moving it.

The one at the new high school has not been put up yet as it needs a new box.

Co-Op Corporate has said that they cannot install one on or in the building. They currently have a mobile unit and Kieran's Legacy will look into it.

The Guiddi's one is non-operational at the moment and will be being moved to the Esplanade toilets once it is repaired.

Keiran's Legacy is looking at moving the football club and golf course defibs to outdoor location.

**New school/Community Centre:** Meetings have been held with Kim Patterson and the Head Teacher to look into what can be done for the community groups.

It does not look like there will be any of the elderly groups that will be accommodated due to a number of reasons.

The disabled parking access road will not be open until the old school is torn down.

There is a lack of parking for the community use, there are only 4 disabled parking spaces, and the school is currently using two of them, there is no additional parking being installed.

There has been an increase of traffic in the car park due to it being used for drop-offs and pick-ups.

We need additional public parking, not staff parking for the school, we will form a sub-committee to look at the issue. Members of the Community Council will meet and evaluate the parking situation for the community.

John Cowe will contact Moray Council for more information on the parking that had been in the original plans.

**Vandalism at High School:** See Police Update

**Esplanade Pavement:** The movement of the pavements is becoming quite hazardous as they have become very uneven and multiple people have tripped on them.

There is £400,000 for ancillary work on the esplanade in the bridge budget so hopefully this issue will be addressed.

There is a similar issue at the West Beach, but the pavement slabs there have been blocked off by Pitgaveny Estates for some time now. Harry will contact Pitgaveny about the West Beach pavements. It has been brought to our attention that there are no drop curbs onto the Esplanade, per John Cowe there is still £15,000 in the Moray Council Budget for drop curbs, Gina will look into the lack of drop curbs and also possible signage for uneven surfaces.

**Parklets:** We have been offered the parklet bench seating from Elgin Town Centre, but our climate is too harsh for it, so we have declined.

**Town Hall Committee Representative:** The committee has asked for a representative from the Community Council, Marian will fill this role.

**Beach Bar Seating Area:** This is an informal seating area near the old Beach Bar location but it looks like someone has been tearing it apart and burning it. Carolle will speak to Thomas Wardaugh or Peter from Criminal Justice to have them look at possibly repairing it.

**Seagulls:** They are once again become a major nuisance and a public hazard. The nests are costly to move but we need to do something.

The students at Hythehill Primary are unable to eat outdoors because of them and we've had several complaints from residents that they are unable to spend time in their gardens because of them.

We will request additional bin pick-ups from Moray Council to see if that will help discourage the gulls.

Due to the Seagull relocation programme in Elgin we are being asked what we can do to help in Lossie, this is not funded through Moray Council but through the Elgin Common Good Fund.

## **5- Correspondence:**

### **6- Community Councilors Issues:**

**Carolle:** The plane spotters parking is becoming an issue for the community. The MOD does not own any of the land outside of the wire so has no control over this. The area previously used by the spotters (or aviation enthusiasts) is owned by the golf club and is currently being leased by the MOD for use during the works on the camp.

We need to speak to Moray Council about what can be done to prevent parking on the main road as there have been several near misses. We will need to speak to Road Safety and the Police and suggest no parking signage or double yellow lines.

Fiona has also suggested that we speak to the farmers who own the adjacent field as it is not being used, to see if they would open it up for parking and the plane spotters use.

Can we move the bike rack at Station Park to a more accessible spot?

The coffee van that could be an issue, we need to find out if he can legally be there as he's close to the Ponderosa.

**Kristi:** The hand rails at the harbour wall are very eroded and look quite dangerous. Carolle will speak to the Marina Officer about the ones there and Harry will speak to Pitgaveny Estate about the ones at West Beach that are in a similar state.

**Harry:** The disabled parking at the West Beach has been painted and marked, so that will help eliminate one issue there. The double yellow lines on the road to the car park have also been repainted.

**Gina:** Has inquired about the disabled street parking in Lossiemouth, and has not had an update yet. Currently there are only three disabled parking spaces in Lossie listed on the Moray Council website.

#### **7- Councilors Updates:**

**James Allan:** The Moray Leisure Centre and Council facilities booking systems are now working together.

The new library has taken all of the memorabilia from the old library and it will be installed in the new facility.

School lets will be open again as long as there is staff available.

The new library will be large enough to hold Community Council meetings.

**John Cowe:** The lighthouse will be re-opening soon but they will be keeping the gates closes. John will speak to Bernard about possibly opening the carpark up for the plane spotters.

He has contacted Moray Council about the signs and road at West Beach carpark.

The exact route for the cycle track at the school will be planned once the old school is demolished.

He is looking tonto complaints about the bins and rubbish at the old beach bar site.

He will speak to Robert Faulkner about land for a carpark for the plane spotters.

#### **8- Treasurers Report:**

School Crossing	£8000
Toilets	£2000
Flowers	£100
COVID Relief	£2300
Unallocated	£3643
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,043</b>

We will be receiving another £5000 from Tulloch's to use towards community projects.

#### **9- Chairman's Updates:**

None

**10- Planning Issues:** None

**11- Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 17 May, 2021 over Zoom