

**Lossiemouth Community Council  
Minutes of Meeting**

**Date: 15 November 2021**

**Time: 19:00**

**Location: Zoom**

**Chair: Carolle Ralph**

**Attendees: Carolle Ralph, Lily Mulholland, Kirsty Middleton, Kristi Corbett, John Cowe, Gina McNicoll, Fiona Birse, Marian Evans, Harry Halkett, Debra Duke, Peter White, Louise McBride**

Apologies: James Allan, Ryan Edwards, Heldon and Laich Police, RAF Lossiemouth

**Agenda:**

**1- Police Update:**

No rep due to us meeting via Zoom.

**RAF Update:** They are still looking for a volunteer, but Sarah Riley-Evans has provided an update. RAF Lossiemouth continues to be incredibly busy both at home and away with Typhoon Squadrons exercising internationally and continuing to support Operation SHADER from Cyprus.

- A team from LOS deployed to Leuchars Station where they provided an enhanced Quick Reaction Alert posture for COP26.
- We also had a scramble from Lossie on Friday to intercept a Russian TU-160 Blackjack aircraft approaching UK Airspace which was coordinated with several NATO Allies reminding us to be ever vigilant.

The P8 team have also been busy welcoming new aircraft (no 8 arrives tomorrow btw!), collecting the 201 Sqn Standard from Guernsey and we have been operationally active from Lossie.

- Securing the seas around the UK and our allies from surface and submarine activities, we are not able to talk about these activities the same way we do our Typhoons, please be under no illusion.
- RAF Lossiemouth sits now at the frontline in defending the UK and we remain vigilant and ready to respond to any threat 24/7.

Alongside the operational activities we continue to grow and develop, particularly as we prepare to welcome the next arrival to the #TeamLossie family – the E7 Wedgetail;

- We all know & love Moray but many across the Royal Air Force worry about an assignment to Lossie, fearful perhaps a lack of amenities or a hostile local environment.
- We have been working hard to promote a tour up here and our programme “The Lossie Offer” has involved online digital content on our @MyLossie website together with a roadshow visiting other Stns.
- RAF Lossiemouth as the best of all worlds – a challenging work environment, a great quality of life and the warmest of welcomes.

And success is also being had! Examples of people who previously had Lossie as a negative preference are now choosing to come here & in one case, a Service personnel who submitted an early termination of service request rather than be assigned to LOS has not only changed his mind, but he is also bringing his primary school teacher partner up with him as she has already found a job in a local school. Station Commander RAF Benson has also rather ruefully complained that we such a good job that they are struggling to keep technicians as they all want to come to Lossie

Our development programme continues at pace with the IX(B) Sqn, new Typhoon simulator and new fire, rescue & crash station all ongoing but our works on our utility supplies have also commenced so you will see some activity outside the wire in the vicinity of the golf course whom we thank for their patience, and we have

recently begun work on our new Single Living Accommodation blocks;

- These are being built to an enhanced size and facility in recognition that for many of our personnel, RAF Lossiemouth isn't just a place to sleep Mon to Thu then a commute home at the weekend.
- This is their home, and it is important if we are to attract personnel to be assigned here that we give them the living conditions they deserve.
- In many of these projects, local contractors and businesses are our key delivery partners providing direct benefit to wider local economy.

Finally, and it would be remiss of me not to mention to the Community Council, but I am receiving a steady trickle of complaints from local residents regarding the new airfield lighting creating overspill into the wider area.

The old lighting masts on the airfield were well beyond their serviceable life and were not compliant with the minimum standards required from the Health & Safety Executive for our team to work safely. The new lighting provides the level of illumination required by legislation to create a safe working environment and despite being much brighter, the new LED lighting generates a remarkable 90% reduction in energy use compared with previously.

As we have grown in size welcoming the new P8 Sub-hunters and preparing to welcome the new E7 Wedgetail aircraft we also have more areas of the airfield in active use so additional lighting has had to be installed. To avoid creating shadow spots, the lighting masts must be at a certain height and provide multi-directional beams. Shielding was installed to the high masts where the P8s (and soon to be E7) are worked on which directs the lighting down which has been successful in removing any glare to our pilots as they approach to land but doesn't fully resolve the overspill. We have explored additional shrouding to further try & reduce the impact, but the local conditions are rather against us here. Not only do we have the longer dark nights which means we need to keep the lights on for longer to provide a safe working area but any larger shrouding risks creating a 'sail' effect which may exceed the structural limits of the lighting towers in windy conditions.

We have now installed selective switches across the airfield area where the P8s are parked, and these lights are now switched off when not required. However, I should stress that our Poseidon team are on 24/7 readiness to secure the UK's seas so there may be periods when the lighting cannot be switched off. The P8 engineer team also work a late shift finishing at 0200 and an early shift commencing at 0600 so the lighting will be on these periods to allow them the safe levels of lux for their workspace. It may be that the times when our lighting is switched off also correlates with when most people are asleep perhaps creating an incongruous perception that they are on all night.

The other area at RAF Lossiemouth which has also received new lighting recently is the yard where our fuel bowsers are parked. To comply with the MOD regulations for safe storage of bulk fuels, brighter lighting needed to be installed than what was previously there. As this working area is active 24/7 supporting our operational output, the lighting was installed with a simple photocell Day/Night sensor which does mean the lighting remaining on even when there isn't any active movements. To resolve this, DIO are currently investigating the installation of shielding similar to what was installed on the airfield lights and a manual switch as the new lights, apart from being energy efficient LEDs, also provide immediate illumination unlike the old system which needed a period to 'warm up'.

I want to stress RAF Lossiemouth is very grateful for the support we receive from our local community, and we wouldn't choose to create a knock-on impact for our neighbours if we could help it, but our current lighting levels are essential to our important operational role securing the skies and protecting the seas and they provide our teams – RAF personnel, civil servants and local contractors – have a safe place to work.

The Community Council understands that RAF Lossiemouth has done what it can to reduce the lighting impact and are excited to hear that the reputation of RAF Lossiemouth and Lossiemouth is

improving in the Air Force with it becoming a more desirable posting.

Carolle has also emailed Sarah Riley-Evans about concerns in the community about the drones that were being tested. We had been contacted by the press for comments on this but chose not to respond to them and contacted the camp instead. Sarah has replied to Carolle with assurances of safety and an explanation on the drones, they were only in Lossie to take part in the Joint Warrior exercise.

### **3- Minutes of September Meeting**

-The defibrillator is now up at St. Gerardine's Church.

Our electrician will install the one at the Esplanade Toiles, the council has approved this as they have no funds to have their electricians do this. The Guiddi's defib is to be removed.

The defib at the Baptist Church was taken out on Saturday night but not used. Kieran's legacy is looking into it.

We are waiting on word from Lansteane Housing about putting a defib at Faroese Court, we have the one that was donated to be put at the Co-Op, but their corporate will not allow them to place it on the outside of the building.

Yvonne Murray will look after the defibs.

-The Afternoon Tea for the gardening team was held and enjoyed by all, the team is really enjoying the work.

-The joint LCDT, LCC and LBA project was unsuccessful in getting funding

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

Carparking at school- No update

**Anti-social behaviour-** Carolle is setting up a meeting with the police to discuss the issue and what can be done.

**Inchbroom Traffic Calming:** Moray Council is still waiting on information from Tulloch's.

**UHI Project-** A representative will be coming to the January meeting; the project has fallen a bit behind schedule.

Per John Cowe, this project is being funded through the Moray Growth Deal with 30% of the Growth Deal going to fund it.

The Growth Deal final signing should be days before Christmas.

There will be a cycle track link to the campus, the roads leading to the campus will be widened. Marian asked if this is going to include upgrading the Muirton Road junction as it's already a dangerous and difficult junction to use.

This is a massive project that will be large enough to house a Boeing 737.

**Station Park Toilets:** The toilets have been closed for the winter. The donation boxes really helped with the fundraising bringing in over £1,900.

**Esplanade Toilets:** Colin Bell and Sharon from Moray Council have been dropping in to do spot checks on the toilets and are chasing up getting the toilet roll holders fitted.

The cobwebs and graffiti from the women's toilets have been cleared and the urinals in the gents are working properly.

Refresher training for the cleaning staff has been organized.

### **West Beach Public Toilets:**

Many are unaware that the toilets in the Ponderosa are public toilets, do we need to look into signage? The toilets are not available from 9-6 as is stipulated in the lease. The lease is to Mike Wilson, and he sub-lets it to the Ponderosa, we need to

The rent has been adjusted for the café to reflect that they maintain the public toilets.

We need to have better public access to the toilets; we will look at meeting with the Ponderosa about them and to look at the access etc.

We can also look at the possibility of accessing the sailing club facilities as well, it is something that can be discussed with George.

Harry suggested looking into the possibility of building an extension onto the sailing club with public toilets and there was also the suggestion of port a loos for the future.

### **Golf Course Pooh Bin:**

Something needs to be done about the bin as it's always overflowing. We are getting many complaints about it.

Moray Council put the bin in provided that the golf course empties it. There is another bin in the Muirton Road carpark that is not used as often, do we need to put up a sign encouraging people to use that bin, use a regular bin or carry it home and dispose of it if the pooh bin is full.

It was suggested that we ask for the bin to be moved closer to the golf course or have it removed all together. The public needs to do their part as does the golf course.

**Christmas Fayre:** We will be doing a raffle with tickets available day of and on-line before the event.

**Square Christmas:** Lily is still trying to sort the tree.

Kirsty has 80 ornaments we can have to the remembrance ornaments. They will be used as decorations on the tree.

The tree and decorations will be in Mike's memory.

### **Christmas Lights:**

We donated £1000 towards the new lights for Pitgaveny Street, but the Christmas Lights group has not had enough time to sort out the new lights or additional funding. They are hoping to have them in place for next year.

Marian asked about our donation and was assured by Fiona that it will only be used towards these lights.

John asked if they had heard back from the Boyd Anderson Trust and Fiona said that they have not.

Carolle has suggested that they take the charity shop for a week or two to use as a fundraiser.

### **Charity shop:**

We have the shop the weeks of Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Carolle and Gina will sort out a rota and we will start accepting donations before Christmas.

### **NHS Focus Group:**

Carolle and Gina attended a meeting looking at issues in the area such as, accessibility, the amount and types of travel required to Aberdeen, and staff shortages. They did not feel that it was a productive meeting.

### **Lossie Community Engagement Steering Group:**

This is a group representing Lossiemouth, Hopeman, Burghead and Duffus looking at a community review on medical services and their future in the area.

They are looking at expanding the Moray Coast Medical Practice in Lossiemouth into the old dental centre to allow for visiting consultants and nurses.

The lack of a public transport link was brought up as was their phone service. Their system only allows so many people to be on hold and will disconnect calls after they wait on hold too long.

The dial a bus service from Moray Council will not service patients from Hopeman, Burghead, Duffus etc as there is an indirect public transport service available. This service is not a good one and requires multiple buses and an hour plus of travel.

Per John they are looking at the possibility of an ambulance type mobile doctors' office that would allow for home consults and appointments.

They will be having public drop-in sessions on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec from 18:00-20:00 and 9<sup>th</sup> Dec from 14:00-16:00 in the Lossiemouth Town Hall to consult with the public.

Carolle felt that this was a very productive meeting.

The practice also thanked the gardening group for looking after their flower beds.

### **Next year priorities/ CC projects for 2022:**

Our priorities for next year are:

James Square

Campervans

Public Toilets

The Red Park area

The Art Group- looking at ways to brighten up Lossiemouth

The Queen's Jubilee- Gina is heading this up and per John there will be no charges from Moray Council for the event. We will investigate the Jubilee Project Funding grant for this, we may be able to just use the Scottish grant fund application for this.

### **5- Correspondence:**

CPL Jamie Wayhall from the camp contacted us about wanting to set up a Christmas relief drive. He is now working with Louise on this, and they will be providing Christmas Eve treat box with Christmas crackers etc. in them. The RAF Lossiemouth Childcare Centre will also be involved, they wanted to do a giving tree again this year.

All toy donations will go to the Northern Scot Appeal and can be left at Ian Watt Garage.

Per email from John Cowe – due to a change in the law's licenses for seagull egg and nest removals will no longer be available for gull control. NatureScot are looking for evidence that alternative methods such as seagull proving buildings have been tried first.

### **6- Community Groups Update:**

#### **LCDT:**

#### **-Cycle Track/ The Laich of Moray Active Travel Routes:**

They are at a stalemate right now as the Moray Golf Club is being uncooperative.

The members of the golf club have not been consulted on the matter; their board has not taken it to the general membership.

Richard Lohead will be writing to them on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The Cycle Track Committee will also be meeting with Douglas Ross to ask him to do the same.

The committee will also be taking the issue to the press in December, they will try to do it before the Golf Course's AGM which is in early December. This may be a virtual meeting.

The committee is trying to bring a motion about the cycle track up at the Golf Club AGM but none of the committee trustees are members of the club, so they are working on it. As far as Fiona is aware the motion hasn't been seconded, John Cowe will look into it.

Motions were to have been in by Nov 8 and Carolle hasn't seen anything about the cycle track yet in the motions that have been sent out by the golf club.

SUSTRANS will not let them apply for the next lot of funding until the golf course is on board. £40,000 has been spent on the project to date.

Marian has asked if there is an update for the public with information on where they are with the project and Fiona has said that this will be available at the LCDT Coffee morning on 4 Dec\*\*. It was suggested that all this information needs to be made available before the golf course AGM.

### **-5 Year Plan**

The LCDT will be holding a coffee morning on 4 Dec at the RNA Club to discuss their five-year plan and where they are with other projects. \*\*

They are wanting to coordinate with other groups on the on projects that are part of their five-year plan as other organizations are already working on many of the items.

Dawn Brodie from Moray Council will also be at the meeting.

Carolle, Gina, Louise, Kirsty and Lily will all attend the coffee morning.

### **The Lossie 2-3 Group:**

They will be holding a Christmas Fayre on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov at the Town Hall; Santa will be in his grotto.

The Santa Bus will be coming around Lossiemouth again this year, 12<sup>th</sup> of December is the provisional date. They are accepting donations of selections boxes or towards them.

Planning Permission has gone in for the Warehouse Theatre, once it is approved, they can move forward.

We are working with the RAF and the RAF Lossiemouth Childcare Centre on a community Christmas relief project, going to be making Christmas Eve goodie bags and treat hampers for families in need.

Louise and Kirsty are looking at the family lists for this. See correspondence update for more information.

The Soup and Sweets have been successful and will be stopping for December but picking back up in January. They are also distributing food recovery from the Soup and Sweets and will put a poster/information packet together with the benefits of food recovery that we can share on the Facebook page.

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

Gina: The LCDT will announce the bridge webcam tomorrow.

Marian: The Campervan Committee will be meeting with Stephen Cooper and Will Burnish on 30th November.

Peter: Wanted to thank everyone for their efforts with the Remembrance Day Parade.

### **8- Councilors Updates:**

**John Cowe:** John is waiting for a reply from estates about the Coularbank area.

He also asked Lily about a memorial garden in the unpaved area of the cemetery carpark as it's an eyesore at this time. She will investigate it.

### **9- Treasurers Report:**

Gina is working on getting the banking set-up with the proper names on the account and to get access for Lily and Carolle.

Total. £19883  
School Crossings. £7811.09  
Tulloch £5000  
Gardens. £560  
Food Larder. £550.05  
Toilets. £2078.18  
General Account. £2654.78  
Covid Recovery. £1229.03

**10- Chairman's Updates:**

We need to get photos of everyone for the Facebook page.

The Christmas Night out will be 17<sup>th</sup> of December, Gina is coordinating it.

**11- Planning Issues:** Harry will be leading the committee with Kristi and Marian supporting him.

**12- Date and Time of Next Meeting: 17 January 2022**

\*\*The coffee morning has been postponed due to COVID and the venue size, they are hoping to be able to hold it in the Town Hall after the new year.