

**Lossiemouth Community Council  
Minutes of Meeting**

**Date: 15 May 2023**

**Time: 19:00**

**Location: Lossie Youth Cafe**

**Chair: Carolle Ralph**

**Attendees: Carolle Ralph, Louise McBride, Peter White, Fiona Conti (LCDT), Fiona Birse (LCDT), Allison Read (LCDT), Marian Evans, CLLR Bridget Mustard, Dave Walker, CLLR Neil Cameron, Gina McNicoll, Kristi Corbett**

Apologies: John Cowe, James Allan, Harry Halkett

**Agenda:**

Carolle opened the meeting by welcoming Fiona Conti and Allison Read to the first Community Council meeting they are attending in their new roles. Fiona Conti in the new Chair for the Lossiemouth Community Development Trust and Allison will be job sharing with Fiona Birse.

She also shared the sad news that Harry has been taken to Spynie Hospital.

**1- Police Update:**

No update.

Concerns for the police:

The youth have moved to Sunbank Quarry where they are drinking. They are staying on the outskirts of town.

There is a lack of police presence on the street due to lack of funding.

The police have not identified any culprits for the doorbells being stolen in Brandenburgh last fall and have closed the case.

From Neil the police are looking into the bollard situation at the Red Park. The residents have removed the bollards and damaged them while they continue to drive on the grass and park on it.

**RAF Update: (copied from an email from Sarah Riley-Evans)**

Ops:

RAF Lossiemouth continues to be incredibly busy delivering both home plate and global operations together with a recent uptick in visiting aircraft;

After a lengthy gap, in the last month we have seen Quick Reaction Alert scramble to intercept Russian aircraft as they transit around the UK.

The P8 Sub-hunters (both CXX and 201 Sqn) have also been activated in the last month to protect the territorial waters around the UK and in support of wider NATO intelligence gathering activities.

IX(B) Sqn are currently in Estonia delivering Air Policing for our NATO allies and you may have seen in the media, they are scrambling regularly to intercept Russian aircraft as they transit the Baltic Sea; 1 Sqn, not long back from an Op SHADER deployment to Cyprus, are already in work up to replace them at the end of this month.

51 Sqn RAF Regiment are not long returned from a lengthy deployment to Cyprus providing all airfield security.

6 Sqn are currently deployed to Cyprus on Op SHADER.

II(AC) Sqn are working up to take over from IX(B) out in Estonia at the end of the month.

RAF Lossiemouth is also seeing a return to hosting more regular hosting of major multinational

exercises like we used to do;

Ex FORMIDABLE SHIELD is taking place at present which involves French Navy Rafale, E-2C and US Navy P8; Royal Norwegian Airforce P8 will be also exercising later in the week with our own P8s and it is likely German Typhoons will also be making a brief visit later in the week!

Whilst our aviation enthusiasts were delighted to see so many different aircraft and visitors, I do want to thank the local community for their patience with the increased disruption this may have provided.

All our visiting guests will be staying in local hotels so the wider region secures an economic benefit from this activity as well.

#### Growth:

Investment in RAF Lossiemouth's infrastructure continues at pace with the following notable activities;

Circa 400 new Single Living Accommodation is progressing with first couple of new Jnr rank blocks coming online at the end of the year representing a step change in how SLA is delivered with Jnr Ranks getting exactly the same room size and facilities as an Officer.

Visible from the Hopeman to Lossie road is what currently looks like a white giant mechano set which is our new US Navy P8 facility;

Together with some dedicated accommodation and logistic facilities, the US Government is making significant investment into RAF Lossiemouth in recognition of our strategic location which will allow them to deploy their own fleet of submarine-hunting P8s for lengthy periods.

Work on the new E7 facilities have commenced with a number of Moray-based businesses gaining contracts including all steel works coming from Keith;

8 Sqn personnel have started to arrive albeit in very low numbers initially whilst the bulk are out in Australia being trained on their new aircraft type.

1st E7 is expected to arrive at RAF Lossiemouth early 2024.

#### People:

Delivering such a high operational tempo against a demanding infrastructure programme is placing undoubtable strains on all at Team Lossie so many thanks to those in this meeting who support our people either directly or indirectly by making Moray a great place to live, work and stay;

RAF Lossiemouth took an active role in the Coronation activities with personnel marching in the RAF contingent, providing security and logistics support and of course, providing typhoons for the sadly cancelled Coronation Flypast.

Childcare and ability to access full time childcare, including out of hours to enable parents to work remains our top risk for operational output; We welcome the expansion of provision at Lossie 2-3s, great news for the town and are pleased to advise the RAF Lossiemouth Childcare Centre will likewise be seeking to expand our provision in the next few months.

Our annual Friends & Family Day is being delivered slightly differently for 2023 and being run on Saturday 22 July as a more generate opportunity for the Team Lossie family to come together and relax noting the pressures I have highlighted above.

'Lossie-Fest' will have some element of flying display activity which is all tbc at this stage and there will be the requirement to close roads for a short period.

Full comms will come out on this as planning evolves but, just to clarify, this will not be an open to the public event due to the security and insurance elements of running an open air show vice a private workplace event.

Sarah also asked if the Lossiemouth Community Council would like a short presentation from our new arrivals 8 Sqn.

Carolle has responded that we would be interested in the presentation and Marian suggested that we invite other organisations such as the LCDT and LBA to attend, everyone agrees that this would be a positive thing. We will follow up with Sarah Riley-Evans to organise this.

### **Community Groups Updates**

Marian had a brief conversation with Crinan Dunbar and he's interested in a meeting with the local community groups. We will look into organising this.

### **LCDT:**

Fiona Conti is the new chair, she was elected in a democratic vote after their AGM. She is hoping that going forward we can have a positive working relationship, which is something that we want as well and are happy to work towards this.

Carolle, Lily and Fiona met together and had a positive meeting. One of the things was discussed was the monument that funding was set aside for at the new bridge. This funding is leftover from the Beatrice Fund grant for the bridge. This had been spearheaded by a former member of the trust who has moved from the area and no one has taken it back up. The trust are wanting to move forward with this again and if we have any suggestions on people to help please put them forward.

If members of the community think that they should be members of the trust but have not received any communication from the trust please tell them to get in touch with the trust.

The limit on attendees for LCDT meetings is no longer in place, they welcome anyone who wants to attend to do so. Dave will start attending again.

Active Travel Route: they have new trustees in place. Please see report from Moray Council that was distributed by email last week for updates on their views.

Skate Park: They have waited 19 weeks for their pre-planning application which still has not come through. Neil will chase it up after Fiona B gets him the contact information for their contact at Moray Council.

Station Park: The new LCDT offices will be located overlooking Station Park and are almost ready to be occupied. They have had to bring in new tradesmen but the project is back on track. They are meeting with HIE next week to start the CAT process for Station Park.

### **2-3 Group:**

They have given up their lease on the Youth Café and will need to vacate by the end of June. The new hub should open in August.

In the fall they will be offering wrap-around care for children at St. Gers or self walkers from Hythehill.

They are in the process of registering with the Care Inspectorate and a partnership with Moray Council to offer full day care/nursery for eligible two year olds.

They secured funding for a mental health first aid course offered through Green Ribbons which Kristi and Dave attended along with members of the Men's Shed, staff from the Lossie 2-3 Group and staff

from the RAF Lossiemouth Childcare Centre.

Through the week they have a Buggy Walk group, the Health and Wellbeing Group, Peep Classes, the Soup and Sweet and have a new Mental Health group starting up soon.

**Men's Shed:** They had a successful open week last week and have three new members. The shed is now waterproof and they are looking at the possibility of extending to being open on an evening.

**Ukraine Relief:** We are now sending a van every fortnight. The group is still accepting donations and raising funds.

### **3- Minutes of April Meeting:**

No updates on the canal bridge, we have not had any responses from the reps for the canal owners.

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

**Breakwater:** Kristi distributed the conclusions of the 2015 report from JBA Consulting and the April 7 2015 report from Moray Council. The breakwater only has 2-8 years of life left according to the JBA report and at the time had estimated costs of up to one million for repair or two million for replacement. These were only rough estimates and they suggested that it go to the outline design stage for more accurate costing.

Moray Council elected to do nothing at the time and monitor the sedimentation and that they commission a more detailed study when the break water deteriorates to the point it's function is degraded.

We need to keep this on the agenda as it will be a safety hazard for the community and we need to make sure something is in place before it fails.

**Toilets:** The toilets have been open for six weeks and we have raised over £600.

There's been a few incidents of minor vandalism with soap being dumped over the men's toilet floor.

Gina proposed we hire a plumber to replace the taps and Kristi and Carolle seconded this.

Carolle is worried about the state of the Esplanade toilets and will follow-up with Moray Council on their cleaning and maintenance.

**Dial M For Moray Bus:** Peter has used the service and found it a good experience.

It will have limited hours, 9:15-14:30 Mon-Fri. It is also limited on where it can take you, we cannot get to Kinloss on it and people from the Forres Zone cannot get to Lossiemouth using it. The transport forum will look into it more as there are still several issues. While there are many benefits for it there is also a lot of potential for abuse of the system.

**Data Privacy Payment:** Gina has proposed changing this to a direct debit, Lily seconded this.

**Schools Community Projects:** The schools all have various projects underway. The high school's Blather with a Bairn event is coming up. St. Gers is working on a Read to the Bairns project and Hythehill has a group coming to help at the Soup and Sweet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.

The high school will be presenting their projects on 13 June to members of the community council and the prize for the best project will be given at their awards night.

**Youth Café:** The project is going for 12 weeks total, there's two more weeks left with Hythehill and then five weeks with St. Gers and the last week will be a combined night.

If the project is to continue after the trial we will need to find someone to take it forward. There is only one Moray Council youth worker who works in the community the rest are assigned to schools.

The Town Hall Committee is looking at options for the space after the 2-3 Group leaves. Carolle doesn't want to contact them again about the space as she feels that they are being harassed a bit.

**Lossie Local:** We will submit an article it is due by the 24<sup>th</sup>. The Men's Shed and 2-3 group will also look into submitting something.

**JCC Feedback:**

Locality Network: It feels like they are asking more and more from the volunteers.

Local Places Plan: This is a way for the communities to propose plans for their locality. We need to get a timescale so that we will know how long we have to develop a plan. We will develop a plan with other local groups.

**Roads Meeting:** This was a very positive meeting. Carolle, Lily and Kristi attended, it was a follow up to the meeting the four councillors had with the Roads Department last month. Double yellow lines with passing places will be installed on Stotfield Road along the golf course and along the playing fields on Coularbank Road.

Double yellow lines will be installed on the junctions on Queen Street around the Square and in front of the barber and bakery and they will look at extending the pavements at the corners next to the bus stops.

They will be putting in a camera at the round about by the Premier Shop to observe parking issues as we've had complaints.

Another disabled parking spot will be put in on Clifton Road.

The Gregory Place Carpark signs on the Elgin Road will be upgraded for visibility.

They explained why they can only extend the lowered speed limit to the old railway line and their plans to change the entrance and exits at the cemetery. See April 2023's minutes for more details. We were happy with the proposed changes. They did say that they will be widening Inchbroom road at the curve as it's too narrow and quite dangerous.

**Fundraiser:** It's been suggested that we hold another quiz night, maybe a Pie & a Pint Quiz Night. We will look at options for this.

**Litter Picks:** The Brownies, Boys Brigade, High School, and Heritage Association all have litter picks planned over the next few weeks.

## **5- Correspondence:**

We have received an email from the Member Pioneer at the Co-Op asking for suggestions on community groups for their fundraising and donations. We agreed on the Men's Shed and Skate Park

## **6- Community Councillors Issues:**

Lily- The garden group is getting the beds ready but will need support in July for the watering at the Esplanade. We will put out a shout for help closer to the time.

1629 may have an outdoor tap that they can use, Dave will look into this.

Kristi- We need clarification on the licensing laws and firing air soft guns in the town. We had a lot of complaints from the area around Fairisle Place of loud bangs and gun-shots, someone was firing a gun of some sort to scare the seagulls away. There were also air cannons being used in the fields for the same reason. Neil will look into this for us.

## **7- Councillors Updates:**

**Bridget:** asked who is responsible for the new football pitch and keeping in clean as she's had a lot of complaints about the seagulls and the mess they are making. This is a Moray Council facility, they do have a bird scarer system but someone keeps turning it off so it's not effective. Moray Council may need to look into a cover of some sort.

We also had complaints in the community about the state of the pitch and the fact that people are having to pay to use it when it's not being kept up properly.

**Neil:** Highlighted the upcoming Energy Fair.

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

The Ukraine fund has been closed out, the last was donated for fuel.

Louise will invoice Gina for the wages for the Friday Night Youth Café.

We have decided to cancel Zoom for now but will resubscribe as needed.

Admin.	472.43
Toilets.	1648.57
LCC project.	4279.80
Gardens.	2545.03
Resilience.	3204.85
Youth Cafe.	1500
School crossings.	7811.09
Tullochs.	4000
Food Larder.	246.22
Pensioners.	430.95

Total. 26,138.94

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

Peter Wilson has not had a chance to get the Seawall cleaned, Carolle said the Frankie will take their power washer down and clean it. They will also see about getting the stones at the West Beach cleaned up.

We also need to speak to Maureen Halkett about how we can support the West Beach Wheel chair.

**10- Planning Issues:** Kristi and Marian will handle the planning issues for now, at this time we do not have any.

### **11-AOCB-**

Dave asked if motorbikes are allowed on the beach as there's been a number of them recently. They are not allowed but the police do not have the resources to enforce this.

Marian attended an Asylum Support Meeting on behalf of the Rotary and had this to report:

Moray Council has established a special team, Asylum and Refugee Rehabilitation Team, to support, facilitate arrival and accommodation of asylum seekers. This is a Home Office scheme with Mears Housing Gp leading throughout Scotland, Moray Council is a support organisation.

Every asylum seeker undergoes a screening process before relocation to accommodation country-wide, eg Elgin, comprising the collection of biometric information, identity and security checks and details.

The Eight Acres hotel will not exceed 51 individuals due to hotel capacity and as of Thursday 11 May there had been 17 arrivals. Three meals per day are provided. There is a 7-day per week on-site Welfare Manager.

All arrivals in Elgin will all be young single men (over 18).

- Single men less strain on the local economy.
- No women in Moray as there are no maternity services in Moray.
- Inappropriate to place families in hotels.

The priority is Health, Clothing and Community Engagement (in terms of providing information and education to the community). Following that, but also concurrently, will be English classes, finding volunteering opportunities and integrating the individuals into community life through sports and hobbies. Asylum seekers are allowed to volunteer but not permitted paid employment or to fill a paid vacancy as a volunteer. Furthermore, the arrivals face significant challenges:

- Language barriers - very basic English may be their common language.
- Risk of mental health issues - Many of those seeking asylum will have been travelling for months if not years and seen and experienced things we can hardly imagine.
- Adjusting to cultural norms in Scotland
- Many asylum seekers fear Police
- Some health subjects may be considered taboo as are some aspect of stereotypes eg role of females, hierarchy and authority, Police etc
- Victims of hate crime.
- Target of activists group
- Risk of exclusion and data exclusion.

Finally, asylum seekers are in the UK seeking a better life. The likelihood of them causing a disturbance and coming to the attention of the Police is minimal, as Asylum Seekers who come to the attention of Police will lose their right to asylum.

**11- Date and Time of Next Meeting: 19 June 2023, 19:00 in the Youth Cafe**