

Innes Community Council

Minutes of meeting of Tuesday, 6th June, 2023

At Lhanbryde Community Centre.

(Opening of the meeting delayed because of confusion over the previously agreed starting time.)

Present Alexander Anderson (Vice Chair), Angus Fettes, Peter Fitch, Crinan Dunbar, (Treasurer),
Kenny Henderson, James A Mackie, (Acting minute taker)
Councillor Marc Macrae.

Apologies Toby Christie (Chair) David Mackay, (Secretary)

Council Report. Councillor Macrae said little of importance happening within Council currently. Highlighted fact that Moray Council were holding an open meeting in Fochabers Institute 3 pm to 8 pm on 22nd June, 2023 re Local Development Plan. All invited to give their views. He reported he had attended a meeting to resurrect the Milnes Area Forum. Only six members of the public attended the meeting. Questions have and were asked about the role of Area Forums and if they covered the same topics/areas as Community Councils.

Police Business. No police officers present. No monthly Police Report received. JM informed meeting that he had had a meeting with local Police Sergeant re removal of trees from River Spey opposite Essil Farm. Police advised nobody had permission from CES to remove any timber or trees. Also as area was SSSI, Naturescot had advised criminal offence for anybody to remove trees/timber/plants from that area. During visit to Queenshaugh, chainsaws head operating on east bank of the river. Police attended and traced two males cutting timber. Police enquiries continuing with Crown Estates Scotland.

Minutes of last Meeting Minute Item 6. PF questioned amendment rewording of previous meeting re flood prevention. JM explained that original minute said CES had organised a meeting of agencies etc when in fact discussion had been about ICC funding such a meeting and inviting Dr Hamish Moir. Discussion over funding such a meeting including donations from Lennox and ICC. Amendment was not proposed by PF.

Minute Item 7. Should be David Wakely.

Proposed subject to amendments Alexander Anderson. Seconded Kenny Henderson.

Matters Arising.

Minute Item 7. Trees on Essil Road at Grey Lag House. Questions asked if road closure order would be necessary. Councillor Macrae suggested that application would be issued on application by Moray council. CD commented that there may be a need for an order to cut down trees as legislation had been altered in recent past.

Item 10. Milltown. No further information available. Developer changed recently. CD to ascertain whom and to look for community benefit. Suggestion original planning consent may have expired.

Item 11. Secretary had contacted "Pele" at Mosstodloch about proposals and community discussion group. "Pele" had been in full agreement with idea but had said he was unable to assist. Secretary had circulated flyer with his contact details but had not had any response so far. Was agreed that ICC now go ahead and try and convene/organise a group of 9 people from Mosstodloch to form a community Group. Feed back from Mosstodloch and within ICC was that future proposals for Mosstodloch must include a new road from Cowfords Roundabout on the A96 to Garmouth Road round north side of existing housing and school. Consensus that road must be built first to attract future commercial development along that road. Feed back from Jones workers was that within that company fears that if housing build between existing housing and proposed road, occupiers of new houses would complain about traffic and noise in same manner as complaints about current situation on Garmouth Road.

Item 12. Secretary had reported that he had emailed a representative from the organisation developing/consulting on new power lines. He had not received any response. Consensus in meeting that Moray was becoming "a rat run" for power cables taking green energy to other parts of the UK with no benefit too Moray. Highlighted to meeting similar concerns in Mearns and Highland Region. Also noted that Moray had one of the highest charges for electricity whereas power that crossed through it was sold cheaper elsewhere in the UK. Discussed possibility of forming a Moray Group to challenge line of pylons and compare costs etc with underground cables. JM proposed that ICC write to JCC asking that it forms a group to look at the issues of pylons and to maybe liaise with other areas with similar complaints. Unanimous agreement on proposal.

Item 13 (2). Councillor Macrae pointed out that Moray Council has no legal obligation nor duty of care to provide a school crossing officer. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that children access and egress from school safely.

Correspondence

Noted that secretary had circulated some correspondence. Comments that Weekly Planning Application reports from Moray Council have not been seen in recent months. Are they still produced. Comments that details of meetings circulated from CCLO often posted after date of meetings. Comments from members that this was a recurring problem and had been questioned in the past. Often the CCLO does not receive the notification until the day of the meeting or even afterwards. Secretary asked to contact CCLO with observations.

Treasurers report

CD, the Treasurer produced latest state of the accounts for ICC.. The Moray Council payment of £441.47 had been recently been paid into the bank account. Total expenditure for latest period of the accounts had been £602.88 leaving a bank balance of £1671.12.

Mosstodloch

Comments as per response under matters arising under Minutes from previous meeting

New Power Lines.

Comments as under matters arising from minutes of previous meeting above.

River report

JM gave an updated report on the activities of the Speymouth Environmental Partnership. Removal of washed down trees from the river bank was an ongoing concern. Reports had been made to Police Scotland who up until recently had basically ignored the problem. All washed down trees and timbers are the property of the land owner. In this case CES. CES had been advised of the removal of the these trees and timbers. CES had agreed several times in recent years that nobody had permission to remove these trees and timbers. Noted that CES had not made a complaint of theft to Police Scotland. JM also reported that he had a meeting with the local Police Sergeant recently and explained the problem over the apparent illegal removal of trees and timber form the river. Also Naturescot had confirmed that as the river and its banks from the mouth to upstream of Fochabers was part of a greater SSSI, it was illegal for anybody to remove live or dead trees and any timber from that area. While showing the area of concerns re tree removal, chainsaws were heard coming from the river. Police Scotland attended and have reported that they have traced 2 males. Further enquiries are being made with CES and Naturescot. Noted that males detained and others had been driving tractors/vehicles over areas of the river bank used by ground nesting birds. That is illegal between 1st May and end of July each year.

CES had written to TB as Chair of SEP earlier in the year offering that they CES were prepared to facilitate a meeting between Moray Council, SEPA, Naturescot and Dr Hamish Moir to discuss the issues. CES have provisionally arranged the meeting to be held at CES premises near Fochabers on 28th or 29th June, 2023.. SEP have asked that District Salmon Fishery Board be invited as well.

In building a case for grant applications JM had been advised by a retired architect that any dealings/approaches to Moray Council should be done through a planning consultant rather than an architect/project designer. JM had been put in contact with the company CH Johnstone in Inverness. Following conversations, a consultant from that company had offered to speak initially with Planning

Department of Moray Council to ascertain the Councils approach to the proposed project. Initial contact was offered free of charge. JM proposed that the offer be accepted. Agreed unanimously.

JM and AF reported that the river was at extremely low water levels but was still eroding into the lands of Queenshaugh. River undercutting the bank which was then falling into the river. Noted that the channel on the eastern bank had not increased in size nor in the % of water flowing down it as a % of the whole river.

AOCB

CD reported that JCC had organised a successful show by the Just Transitioning Home Energy Committee in Elgin Town Hall. JCC now planning a number of similar meetings in Moray including one at Lhanbryde Community Centre.

Noted that the Coronation ceremony at Garmouth to unveil the chair purchased with money from Moray Rotary Club and ICC was well attended with very favourable comments from all. Noted a good article about the ceremony with good mention about ICC and with photographs in the Northern Scot.

Agreed that the next meeting of ICC would be at 7 & 30 pm on Tuesday, 1st August, 2023, in Lhanbryde Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9 pm.