

## Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 8 February 2024, 7pm by Zoom

### Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Tony Pinner	Finderne
Christine Allan	Buckie	Anne Skene	Findhorn & Kinloss
Ross Ingram	Buckie	Steve Ferris	Forres
Jim Patterson	Burghead & Cummington	Graham Murdoch	Forres
Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford	David Parker	Forres
Les Tarr	Cullen & Deskford	Marion Ross	Speyside
Bruce Edelsten	Cullen & Deskford		

### In attendance:

Group Captain Jim Lee, Station Commander, Lossiemouth  
Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire  
Inspector Neil Morrison, Police Scotland  
Diane Anderson, Senior Engineer, Environmental Services, and Elaine Penny, Traffic Engineer, Moray Council  
Moray Councillors: Dræyk van der Hørn, Marc Macrae, Tracy Colyer, Peter Bloomfield  
Debra Duke (Moray Council) Community Council Liaison Officer  
Catherine Sinclair, Minute taker

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone.

Apologies: Fraser Dyer (Strathisla CC), Andrea Woodhead (JCC Treasurer), Joan Cowe, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Moray, Cllr Derek Ross

### 2. Approval of minutes – 9 November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. Proposed by James Patterson, seconded by Maj Maurice Gibson.

### 3. Matters Arising - None

### 4. Group Captain Jim Lee, Station Commander, Lossiemouth

There have been huge changes on the base over the last ten years with massive growth requiring the base to be more inward focussing than previously. It is a base of strategic national and international importance with vital defence systems and two long-term contractors, Boeing and BAE Systems. There are 4 Typhoon squadrons and 2 Poseidon squadrons. A wedge-tail airborne and early control plane is also due at Lossie this year. The purpose, mission and values were shared and will be circulated. The base is working on increased sustainability, including using synthetic aviation fuel, and exploring a solar farm and possibly a hydrogen plant on non-base MOD land.

The workforce has increased significantly which has caused some challenges including:

- childcare provision, exacerbated by personnel being far from their family networks
- Scottish rate of income tax with many personnel not in Scotland long enough to receive the longer-term benefits such as free further/higher education
- transport links to England

Childcare provision is a general problem for people in Moray. The base has explored various options with Moray Council. Group Captain Lee is about to write to the MOD to request funding for a new facility, a joint facility with Moray Council or leasing a building from Moray Council. There are financial constraints re childcare provision at local and government levels.

The base can now be more outward looking and able to maintain and build on links with the community and more widely. Sarah Riley-Evans is the Community Development Officer for the base. The engagement strategy is being worked on and is due to go live in April.

Major Gibson thanked Group Captain Lee for support at Remembrance weekend events in 2023.

**RESOLVED: Ask Group Captain Lee for his slides to circulate to Community Councils**

### **5. Police Update - Inspector Neil Morrison**

Chief Inspector Simon Reid has moved to Aberdeen and thanks everyone for the help and support over the years. Chief Inspector Mike McKenzie is now CI for Moray. He is local and has served in Moray for many years. Donald Matheson is the Community Officer in Elgin. He is running an initiative in schools on knife crime and drugs with Arrows and other partners. Following the death of the bus driver at Elgin Bus Station, sympathies and thoughts are with the family. There are extra foot patrols to provide reassurance. Work is ongoing with Community Safety partners and other agencies to develop a response. Operation Protector is about to start. It is a nationwide anti-drugs operation executing warrants and supporting vulnerable people, tackling county lines and cuckooing. Talks are ongoing with Moray Council about finding funding for Police resources to deal with the ongoing parking issues in Elgin.

### **6. Lord Lieutenancy updates**

#### **Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire**

Thank you to all concerned with Remembrance weekend events. Please get in touch with any thoughts about how to advertise events and encourage attendance.

All are encouraged to fly the new Banffshire flag. The flags can be flown alongside other flags. There is information on the Lord Lieutenancy website

Outstanding Citizens – please submit any names as soon as possible for this award which includes an invitation to the Holyrood palace gardens.

Kings Award for Voluntary Organisations – nominations open March 2024, see Facebook for details. The Lieutenancy is keen to see nominations from upper Banffshire as coastal areas have previously been well represented.

Fourth Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland will be on tour in September including marches and a beating of the retreat at several Moray locations.

#### **Joan Cowe, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Heldon and Laich** submitted a report:

HRH The Princess Royal visited Moray to recognise the outstanding contributions and achievements of local individuals and groups. Princess Anne presented Reboot in Forres with the Kings Award for voluntary services and gave the KAVS award to Hilary Lamont a long-standing volunteer. Her second visit was to Gordonstoun school to officially open The Queen Elizabeth II room, a green classroom hub. She also visited the Lossiemouth Community Hub and the Lossiemouth 2-3 Group.

The Moray Community Foundation is a local Charity founded in 2023. The Foundation aims to be the fund of last resort for people who are hit by the cost-of-living crisis. It builds on the success of the Moray Emergency Relief Fund which raised £ 285,000 from around 200 donors to help 620 families and individuals during the pandemic. Donations can be made to Moray Community Fund, Sort Code 832006, Account No 18895301. A Donation form can be downloaded from the Foundation Website: <https://moray.org>

The Lieutenancy of Moray welcomes the opportunity to participate in Citizenship Ceremonies.

Nominations and garden parties – nominations for honours are encouraged and welcomed.

## **7. Community Council Road Safety Champions - Moray Council Senior Engineer (Transportation)**

Road Safety Plans are reviewed every 5 to 10 years. Moray Council have a duty to analyse road safety data, help identify patterns, and take steps to reduce and prevent accidents. Although they only receive information when someone is hurt in an accident, they will also investigate other patterns of accidents when reported. Road traffic accidents are rare, and Moray is relatively safe. Most accidents happen on Moray's trunk roads and involve drivers from Moray. In contrast to the rest of Scotland, 30% of accidents happen in towns in Moray, compared with 60% nationally.

Scotland's Road Safety Framework uses a safe systems approach (safe road use, safe vehicles, safe roads and roadsides, post-crash response) with the aim of reducing accidents. The safe speeds element of the safe system is often what Community Councils make contact about. Moray Council has also found that where communities participate in a proposed solution, acceptance and understanding is better. If, for example, land needs to be purchased to put in a pavement, this request tends to be more favourably viewed if it comes from the community, rather than Moray Council.

The proposed Community Road Safety Champions would include one member from each Community Council. They will be trained and will have direct access to Moray Council staff. Moray Council will benefit from local knowledge and connections. The role is to be an intermediary between Moray Council and communities and have knowledge about the information Moray Council gathers and acts on. Champions could provide advice to residents such as managing trees and hedges for improved visibility and driver awareness. There was discussion on reporting potential issues and near hits, unreported incidents, and poor condition of roads. The volunteer is not expected to be proactive, but to be an information conduit.

There was discussion on Speedwatch. Volunteers have been trained, but local Police would not support it. It is a Police Scotland initiative and no area in Scotland is running it currently.

**RESOLVED: A role description will be circulated to all Community Councils**

## **8. Treasurers Report**

### **I. Appoint new treasurer**

Andrea can no longer continue as treasurer. The Chair cannot also be the Treasurer. It is not a very onerous task. All to ask fellow Community Councillors to consider the role.

**RESOLVED**

**Ask Community Councils to find a new Treasurer**

## **9. Resilience Plans update**

Updates provided from individual CRGs:

- Forres now has pumps, a generator and emergency lighting available for local use.
- Speyside has ordered flood resources. A pump is available, and builders will install flood barriers and snorkel air vents. This was a joint effort between Speyside Community Council and Aberlour Community Association.
- Rothes Council have appointed two co-chairs who attended a recent meeting and want to create a resilience plan for Rothes.
- Portgordon has a resilience plan meeting 20<sup>th</sup> February
- The newly formed resilience group in Elgin is about to meet.

Rhona McNicol provided a lot of support for resilience planning but will now be focussing on her role as Milnes and Heldon and Laich Community Support Officer so contact the CCLO in the first instance.

## 10. CCLO update

- i. Sophie Ward, Moray Council's Climate Strategy Change officer is setting up a Moray Nature Group and would like a Community Council representative. Debra will circulate the information.
- ii. There is a national Community Councils conference in February.
- iii. The Democracy Matters consultation deadline is 28<sup>th</sup> February
- iv. Local Place Plans – several Community Councils are involved in plans. The last quarterly meeting was held 29<sup>th</sup> January. Planning and the Community Support Unit are supporting this work. This is a big task, and the first time it has been undertaken in Moray, so a lot of work is involved.

## 11. Feedback from Sub-groups

- i. **Money for Moray** - Just Transition Participatory Budgeting project is completed, and most of the funds have been awarded to successful capital project applicants. The revenue funding has been more challenging but is underway. The Future is Green – young people's participatory budgeting project is online with good projects to be voted on. Thanks to Fiona Herd for her support with this. There will likely be a 2024 participatory budgeting event.
- ii. **Safer Travel Moray** – No update. The group has not progressed. There may be some crossover with the proposed Community Road Safety Champions.
- iii. **Community Energy Moray** – No updates meantime. The next meeting is coming up.
- iv. **Transport Forum** – The forum members are mapping transport provision in and out of Moray, which is a massive piece of work. They will start in Cullen, asking those attending community lunches and then network more widely and into other areas of Moray. There was discussion on continuing high levels of bus cancellations, driver shortages and retention issues. Stagecoach do not attend Transport Forum meetings.
- v. **Admin Grant Subgroup** - have met twice. Debra circulated a spreadsheet to all Community Councils to collate expenses. It is important to build a picture of the true costs of running Community Councils now and over time. Smaller Community Councils are particularly encouraged to get involved as they are the ones most impacted by the current funding mechanism. Debra has had some replies and is using accounts information to build a picture. She has also costed attending 3 meetings a year in Elgin for each Community Council. Quite a few Community Councils show in the red. Although Community Councillors may be willing to absorb some costs, finances can be a barrier to inclusion. Everyone is encouraged to log their expenses. Elgin Community Council offered to host a meeting for the group and pay travel expenses for those attending.

## RESOLVED

**The subgroup to meet again and propose a date for a meeting in Elgin**

## 15. Community Council update

### Buckie Community Council

Has 7 members including a great new secretary who is very efficient. One new member joined last week and there is a potential for one more to join. The last meeting was held virtually because of bad weather, although not all members can join online.

They are working on walking and cycling path signage and leaflets with Clock Studios and developing a new logo and website for the Community Council. There was a meeting with Emma Gordon regarding work in Buckie square, removing old railings and bike stands and placing benches. Emma is happy to collaborate with the Community Council re signage in this area.

Issues of concern include speeding and potholes. A meeting was held with Moray Council about speeding in Arradoul.

The Locality Planning is ongoing. The list of potential community hub buildings has been narrowed to two. An event is planned to gather community views on the proposals. Cobbles from the harbour are available for community groups.

#### Burghead and Cummington Community Council

The Christmas Lights group has returned as a subgroup of the Community Council.

Discussions are being held about a freshwater shower may be installed and other improvements for access at the slappy are there are sea swimmers there daily.

A portable sauna is applying for permission to use the area near the slappy.

A subgroup is looking at the Station Hotel as a potential community hub.

Work is ongoing on the Local Place Plan.

Volunteers are sought to join the community resilience group.

#### Cullen and Deskford Community Council

There are no Deskford representatives at present, but it is hoped that one will join soon.

The Connect Cullen newsletter was issued. It has taken off well, far bigger than first planned. Around 40 people still attend the fortnightly community lunches, and the community centre is also running Wednesday afternoon teas for similar numbers.

The Community Council is looking into a wheelchair accessible ramp at the beach.

Memorial benches must go through Moray Council Planning department.

Colin Burch has invited all neighbouring Community Councils to consider having a collective hustings event for the upcoming General Election.

Network bandwidth issues are ongoing at the primary school. It is unlikely this only affects Cullen so could other Community Councils make enquiries so a group approach could be taken with Moray Council.

### **RESOLVED**

#### **Colin Burch to circulate bandwidth issues information to all Community Councils**

#### Elgin Community Council

Indiscriminate parking continues to dominate meetings.

It is the 800th anniversary of Elgin Cathedral this year. The Community Council is looking at having an event, possibly tying in with Elgin Museum.

Mail delivery is an issue in Elgin. Some people are having to go to the Royal Mail depot to collect their post but cannot park there because of all the post office vans.

Work on the New Elgin Locality Plan is ongoing.

#### Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council

There are 8 members, thanks to having 1 associate member and 2 co-opted members.

One member is the representative for the quarterly meetings of the NHS local oversight group for healthcare provision and the updates are useful.

There were complaints about noise and fumes after a motorsport event held on the airfield.

This feedback was given to the organisers and there should be some mitigation next time.

The Community Council received the Armed Forces Covenant Bronze Award in appreciation of work they have done alongside the base.

The resilience group has 30 members, has divided the area up into manageable sections and is gathering information on assets and needs and drafting an information leaflet. There are concerns about road closures into Findhorn during e.g. flooding or accidents. There are

plans to initiate talks with Moray Council and Kinloss base to investigate an emergency route through the base.

Findhorn church held its last service on 7<sup>th</sup> January and has now closed. There is interest in a Community Asset Transfer of the church.

#### Forres Community Council

Forres Cultural & Heritage Scheme is being developed.

Illegal parking is an ongoing issue.

Ongoing cancellations of bus services are continuing to cause problems. In snowy weather, the buses did not go through town. Stagecoach puts this on X (formerly Twitter) but not all passengers use it, so some were left waiting at bus stops and having to make their own travel arrangements. This is being taken up with the MSP.

The Community Council is working on a new website with the Scottish Tech Army.

Work is underway on the Local Place Plan. Laura Cameron, the new Community Support Officer is coming to the next meeting and the Community Council is in contact with Michelle Gillibrand from FACT.

There are 7 members, and it is difficult to recruit more.

#### Speyside Community Council:

Resilience plan work is ongoing in Aberlour.

Work is ongoing with Moray Council and Historic Environment Scotland to repair the pavilion at Rothes Castle. There are plans to remove the tin roof, slate the roof, and install guttering and eventually put seating in.

The Community Council dealt with a planning application for 70 homes including 39 houses in Aberlour and lodged an objection. There were concerns that there will be an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on the A96 to the bus stop. This must have been approved as they have now received planning application for phase 2 of the development.

There is a new co-opted member and 18 people attended the last meeting.

**16. Closing remark** - Thanks to all those who attended.

**17. AOCB** – None

**RESOLVED: The Chair to look at changing Agenda order to allow more time for Community Council updates**

**18. Date of next meeting** – 9 May 2024 venue to be confirmed.