

**Minutes of JCC Meeting held on Thursday 9 May 2024, 7pm
Supper Room, Elgin Town Hall**

Present:

Name	Community Council	Name	Community Council
Alastair Kennedy	Chair	Steve Ferris	Forres
Christine Allan	Buckie & District	Graham Murdoch	Forres
Colin Burch	Cullen & Deskford	David Parker	Forres
Les Tarr	Cullen & Deskford	Pringle George	Lennox
Bruce Edelsten	Cullen & Deskford	Moira Morrison	Lennox
Peter Taylor	Finderne	Carolle Ralph	Lossie
Steve Christie	Elgin	David Walker	Lossie
Graham Jarvis	Elgin		

In attendance:

Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire
Inspector Neil Morrison, Police Scotland
Moray Councillors: Juli Harris, Amber Dunbar, Donald Gatt, Neil Cameron
Eily Webster, Gary Templeton, Moray Council Planning Department
Debra Duke (Moray Council) Community Council Liaison Officer
Catherine Sinclair, Minute taker

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone.

Apologies: Andrea Woodhead (JCC Treasurer), Jim Patterson (Burghead & Cummington Community Council), Mary Evans (Heldon), Cllr Graham Leadbitter, Joan Cowe, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Moray, Chief Inspector Mike McKenzie, Police Scotland

2. Approval of minutes – 8 February 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February were confirmed as a correct record. Proposed by Christine Allan, seconded by Maj Maurice Gibson.

3. Matters Arising

Resolved: CCLO to confirm that Road Safety Champions role was circulated.

4. Police Update - Inspector Neil Morrison

In response to reports of anti-social behaviour, extra patrols were put on in Elgin, including joint patrols with community safety and other partners. The aim was to deal with any anti-social behaviour and to engage with young people and find out what they would like to do in Moray. Police have also contacted other partners throughout Scotland to see what has worked to reduce anti-social behaviour in other areas. The Community Safety Partners are Police, Community Wardens, Education and Housing. They meet daily to review issues raised. There has been anti-social behaviour at Hythehill Primary School, Lossiemouth and in Burghead. Officers have been working with the schools and other partners, patrolling, and engaging with young people.

Elgin Common Good Fund has paid the Police £10,000 for additional hours to deal with parking and other road traffic offences. In the first 6 weeks, 459 tickets were issued. Fewer tickets are being issued now as more people are parking lawfully. Funding will also cover improvements in CCTV hardware at the station, on the high street and at Elgin bus station. Community Officer Donald Matheson is continuing to run a well-received, schools-based initiative on knife crime.

There have been ongoing drugs related operations and days of action on speeding.

There was discussion on shoplifting, which has been increasing nationally. Police have been advising supermarkets on layout and other means of tackling shoplifting.

5. Community Council update

Buckie Community Council

There are 7 members. M-Connect has been invited to a meeting as people have raised concerns about the service. The Community Council contacted the Police, and they will be happy to attend meetings if an officer is free. A grant of £5000 received from the Ward Councillors will be used for a speed indicator device in Arradoul.

Moray Council is arranging a bike fest in Buckie on 23rd June, and it is hoped the paths posters, leaflets and signage will be completed by then. Work on the website is progressing. A member is to attend learning estate meetings. The Community Council responded to the consultation on Aultmore windfarm. Members helped with a Keep Scotland Beautiful litter pick alongside Buckie Roots. The Community Council is continuing to look at venues for a community hub. Tracey Rae from the Community Support Unit has been very helpful.

Cullen and Deskford Community Council

A request was received to site a memorial bench and while approval was sought, a different memorial bench was installed at the same site. Cullen Community Council want to highlight the importance of taking a co-ordinated approach to memorial benches.

Monthly community lunches continue to be well-attended. The next one will be at Deskford Hall with M-connect providing transport.

Rather than installing an e-shelter, funding received has been used for heritage bollards. The remainder will be used for picnic benches and reglazing the vandalised information board.

Plans are ongoing for a hustings event with neighbouring Community Councils.

Notes and questions on school broadband issues were circulated.

Elgin Community Council

The Community Council wishes to recruit new members.

Parking continues to be an issue despite additional Police hours. Some issues are likely to resolve when North Street re-opens and the pedestrianised area is closed to traffic.

The £20 million levelling up fund for Elgin will be overseen by Elgin Town Board. There is a ten-year plan with 3 subgroups: safety and security; housing; transport and connectivity. There is Community Council representation on each subgroup. A plea was made that all Board members should be Elgin residents however 1 Keith & Cullen and 1 Forres Moray Councillor sit on the Board.

Stagecoach issues are affecting Elgin too. There have been 3 changes of management in 6 months. Stagecoach is recruiting drivers but tend to lose some to summer bus tours.

Finderne Community Council

There are 5 members. There is a new footpath in Rafford. A response is being formulated to a planning application for 12 houses at Brockloch, aiming to represent the mixed views of the community. The Community Council also continues to monitor windfarms.

Edinkillie junction has been reworked. Local farmers raised concerns with Moray Council about flooding and icing risks but have not received a response.

Broadband is still terribly slow in areas of Finderne. A meeting is being held 20th May attended by Richard Lochhead, a member of Scottish Government and Openreach. If other Community Councillors wish to attend, please notify Finderne Community Council.

SSEN provided £20,000 of resilience grant funding. This has raised the question about the need to insure assets. Discussion was held. Community Councils should contact their insurer directly regarding assets. If a Community Council should ever cease to exist, any assets would be held in trust by Moray Council.

RESOLVED: Individual Community Councils should contact Zurich insurance directly with any specific questions about insurance and compiling an asset register

Forres Community Council

There are 7 members of a possible 12 with one to two people potentially interested in joining. Partnership work on the Forres Resilience Plan is ongoing. A shelter marshal has been appointed. In the event of an emergency, he will take paperwork to the local safe space.

Parking issues continue, particularly parking near pedestrian crossings.

Learning estate issues and the location of Forres Academy are issues of concern locally. Work is ongoing on a bid to the Culture and Heritage scheme for grant funds to develop the town centre.

Cancellation of Stagecoach buses is continuing to affect work and education and is likely to hinder net zero targets. Richard Lochhead is due to meet with Stagecoach regarding late and cancelled buses and has asked for issues to be raised. Steve Ferris has emailed Richard Lochhead and Douglas Ross.

There have been problems recently transferring emails and information from one email address to another due to a change of secretary. Google mail / Gmail plan to make two factor-authentication compulsory which will cause issues for groups of people using a single email address. Discussion was held. Could Moray Council host a separate domain for Community Councils, bearing in mind that it is important that Community Councils are independent of local authorities?

RESOLVED: CCLO to investigate possibility of Moray Council domain hosting

Lennox Community Council

Two highways officers are to attend a meeting by Zoom regarding the new pedestrian refuge islands in Fochabers. The school had requested a zebra crossing. Three pedestrian refuges were put to consultation but four were installed. The fourth is between two bus stops and is causing traffic issues.

Portgordon harbour and basin has become sealed off due to boulders and gravel from the river Spey. Discussions have been held with Cllr Marc Macrae about effective solutions for these issues, and the threat posed by coastal erosion.

The Community Council is in contact with Vattenfall re the windfarm development and Buckie Harbour extension.

Portgordon Hub has permission to make the house next to the hub (old pub) into an Air BnB however the grant for this was withdrawn by Scottish Government due to lack of funding. It will be challenging to find alternative grant funding.

Large warehouses have been built at Portgordon maltings as part of their expansion.

Lossiemouth Community Council

Volunteers continue to run the toilet, maintain public gardens, and do litter picks. Beatrice Offshore Windfarm fund provided a grant for the toilets. The Ward Councillor grant will be used to replace lights at the square and to repaint a mural which volunteers are currently cleaning. Soup and sweets continue to be well attended, collections for Ukraine are ongoing and a successful indoor car boot sale was held. A volunteer has cleared the path onto West beach. Local Place Plan work continues.

Parking is an ongoing issue. Stagecoach bus cancellations continue to cause issues. It is expected that M-Connect will attend a meeting soon.

There have been many meetings with Moray Council and the Crown Estate regarding coastal erosion. A Christmas tree project is being considered for East beach erosion.

6. Lord Lieutenancy updates

Maj Maurice Gibson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Banffshire

Nominations for the Kings Award for Voluntary Organisations open June 2024 for the 2025 awards.

Please notify Major Gibson if any Banffshire Community Councils are planning any alterations to D Day remembrance plans so they can be accommodated. Please notify Major Gibson of any Banffshire based D-Day events so the Lord Lieutenantcy can be represented. Nominations for honours are open all year round. The Lord Lieutenantcy can provide support and advice when making a nomination.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland has been given the freedom of Moray. Balaklava Company will accept this on behalf of the regiment at an event on 8th June 11.45am on Elgin High Street.

7. Moray Local Development Plan 22027 - Eily Webster

Eily gave a presentation and update. Work on an evidence-gathering report has been ongoing over the last 12-16 months. The report has been approved by Full Council and will now go to Scottish Government for independent assessment.

Key issues arising from the plan are demographic – the aging population and small households; climate change and the nature crisis; supporting economic growth and town centres. Local Place Plans will feed into the development plan. The team is looking for input on how best to engage with people.

8. Review of CLD plan- Kevin McDermott

Kevin McDermott had prepared a brief presentation with voiceover but there were issues with the audio. The plan is due for renewal this year, and anyone involved in Community Learning and/or Development can input into it. There are surveys for groups and individuals. Not all questions have to be answered. Community Councils are asked to discuss this and to promote the surveys.

RESOLVED: Community Councils to put review of CLD plan on their agendas. If possible, CCLO will circulate the transcript of the presentation

9. Review of Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils

i. Key dates

As the consultation on the Scheme Review may have to be paused due to a General Election, the CCLO suggested work begin sooner rather than later.

ii. To discuss and set up sub committee

The CCLO has been making notes on the existing scheme and welcomes any suggested amendments. The handbook should be updated, any small tweaks to boundaries made e.g. so a new housing scheme does not straddle two Community Councils. National Scheme guidance is available. Graham Jarvis (Elgin) and Bruce Edelsten (Cullen) volunteered to sit on the subgroup.

10. Treasurers Report

i. Appoint new treasurer

No report. Steven Christie (Elgin Community Council) has agreed to be the new treasurer and will report at the next meeting.

ii. Approve spending as required

It was agreed to approve any spending required.

11. Resilience Plans update

The CCLO met with Dyke and Elgin resilience groups. It was noted that sharing local information and ensuring households are prepared and able to look after themselves in an emergency are important parts of resilience planning. Please contact the CCLO for any advice or information on resilience planning.

12. CCLO update

The CCLO attended the Local Place Plan meeting where Findhorn Ecovillage and Portgordon gave updates on their progress. There were some great mapping ideas, and it was useful to see how information was gathered. The CCLO can liaise with Moray Council GIS to print large maps if needed. The Parish Online website is free for the first 12 months and can be used to make online maps with different layers to support Local Place Plans. Sandra McCallum from the Community Support Unit is now the Digital Infrastructure Officer and has a role to support digital connectivity. She will be contacting Community Councils and can give support with voucher schemes for eligible households with poor broadband. The CCLOs met to discuss tailored Planning training for Community Councils. There are plans to do online training in June.

13. Feedback from Sub-groups

- i. **Money for Moray** – there have been several meetings, discussions with SCDC about revenue funding for applicant groups. Members are still waiting to hear about any grant funding that may be available this year. Lossiemouth Scout Hall now has solar panels thanks to their Money for Moray grant.
- ii. **Safer Travel Moray** – No update.
- iii. **Community Energy Moray** – This BenCom was set up to look at public investment in Clash Gour wind farm but is also looking at extension to other local windfarms to see if there is any money that could be made available Moray-wide.
- iv. **Transport Forum** – plans to map community transport in Moray continue. This is a big undertaking, but the existing map is missing a lot of information. The forum plans to formally launch later this year. Stagecoach cancellations and the 32 bus to Roseisle have been discussed. So far, Stagecoach has not responded to invitations to attend meetings.
- v. **Admin Grant Subgroup** – there have been several meetings to discuss how the Community Council admin grant could be more equitably distributed. Elgin Community Council have agreed to pay for a venue and travel expenses for all Community Councils to attend a meeting to finalise this work. It is important that as many Community Councils as possible attend this meeting.

14. Closing remark - Thanks to all those who attended.

15. AOCB – There was a brief discussion on the reformatted agenda and how best to engage with Community Councils not currently attending meetings.

16. Date of next meeting – 8 August 2024 - venue to be confirmed.