

**Speyside Community Council**

**APPROVED Minute of Meeting Held**

**On Wednesday 28 February 2024**

**At 7pm**

**Speyside Sports and Community Centre**

**Community Council Members:**

B. Davies, M. Middlehurst, D. McLean, A. Bagnall, M. Ross

**In Attendance:**

M. Grant (E.C.H.C.), S. Willox E.C.H.C.), C. Spencer (Rothes Council), D. Peace (Rothes Council), K. Ross (Rothes Council), A. G., P. D., J. R., D. G. (Members of the Public), B. Ross (Archiestown Village Council), W. Cameron (ACA), P. Winchester (ACA), C. Davis (IDCA), I. Blackhall (IDCA), Councillors Gordon, Harris and Ross

**Apologies:**

F. Dyer (SCC), G. Sarab (SCC), N. Slessor (SCC)

**Welcome:**

MR welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented on previous meetings where insightful debate had enabled SCC to play its full part in representing the communities within the area.

**Previous Minutes:**

C. D. (IDCA) requested clarification on the heights of the proposed wind turbines at Teindland. Subject to that clarification the previous draft minute was approved.

**Proposer** - B. Davies

**Seconder** - M. Middlehurst

**Matters arising and not overtaken on the Agenda:**

- Further update on Rothes Castle – N. Slessor reported that vandalism has resulted in further damage to the Castle walls. Although RCW is actively engaged in removing litter, it is disappointing that some members of the public think that it is OK to dump rubbish because someone else will clear it up. Whilst putting a waste bin in situ may help – it is possible that it could be set fire to, as this has happened in the past.

On 25 March 2024, Historic Environment Scotland, Moray Council, SCC and RC will be meeting at the Castle to review repair works that may be required to the Castle walls and also to discuss the restoration works to The Pavilion.

- Cllr Ross informed the meeting of the outcome of the request for grit along the mid-section of the Auchinroath road. This will be done in due course, when staff resources are available.
- Cllr Ross had been asked to enquire why path gritting around Rothes and Aberlour Primary Schools did not happen before the beginning of the school day.

Gritting takes place once all major routes have been gritted and only then will paths be treated. There are grit bins near Rothes Primary which can be accessed by the public. ACA requested a grit bin near Aberlour Primary. Cllr Ross to take this forward.

K.R. (RC) requested clarification on the registered status of the grit bin on Breich Street (access to the cemetery). There was also a request that consideration could be given to putting contact details on the grit bins. Cllr Harris to take this forward.

### **Correspondence:**

- Moray Council – Community Owned Speed Indicator Devices. MR reported on discussions that had taken place with Bidwells (Simpsons Maltings) and the Community Council.
- Moray Integration Joint Board – seeking to appoint 2 new representatives. Details to be forwarded to those who expressed an interest.

- Outfit Moray, First Aid Courses – funding is available for Community Resilience Volunteers. Details to be forwarded to those who expressed an interest.
- Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum – 4 new members sought. Details to be sent to those who expressed an interest.

**Reports:**

- Treasurer: Current Account - £7871.78  
It was decided to permit an overspend of £400 for flood resources to the Tearooms. £10,000 had been received from SSEN.

Proposer: D. McLean

Secunder: Alison Bagnall

- MR reported on the online NPF4 Webinar- Scotland's Planning System and the Road Ahead.
- Joint Community Council (JCC). MR reported on the meeting of 8 February.

\*There had been a presentation from the Station Commander at RAF Lossiemouth. An increase in the workforce had raised issues surrounding childcare, the differential in tax rates and the lack of transport connectivity to south of the border.

\*Police update – Operation Protector is about to start. This is a nation-wide anti-drugs operation executing warrants and supporting vulnerable people, tackling county lines and 'cuckooing'.

\*There are on-going discussions with Moray Council about funding for police resources to address parking issues in Elgin.

\*The Police, together with partner agencies are working on ways to address anti-social behaviour.

\*The Police are also going into schools to talk about the dangers of knife crime and the use of illegal drugs.

- A request from Moray Council, Senior Engineer (Transportation) for Community Road Safety Champions – these would be conduits between MC and the community regarding road safety but not necessarily speeding. There was no expression of interest.
- Moray Nature Network Core/Steering Group – D.McL expressed interest in this.

**Police Matters:** CSP Report – previously sent.

**Planning Matters:** Weekly Wards lists previously forwarded to members.

- Moray Local Development Plan 2027 – Evidence Report – Schedule 5 ENERGY  
The Cabrach Trust and SCC have received a direct request from MC to respond to this item.

**Business:**

- **Forestry Updates:** D. McL gave updates on the following-
  - \*Bardonhill - the application for grant funding has been approved by Scottish Forestry.
  - \*Elchies – the plan seems to be well balanced and includes a significant number of broadleaves.
  - \*Lyne of Carron – the final design shows that forestry will be on the hill, which is currently moorland. The number of sitka spruce has been reduced. There are no agricultural complications.  
It was decided to write to Scottish Woodlands to commend this plan.
  - \*Draft Moray Forest and Woodland Strategy – SCC provided input.
  - \*Glen of Rothes – the Soil Association has requested a consultation Response re: Scottish Woodlands’ application to be certified as good forest managers.
- **Insurance cover for resilience volunteers:** CCs are insured with Zurich. The Communities’ Department has written a document called ‘Emergency Planning and Insurance Cover – a guide for community

groups who are part of CCs'. This only applies to sub-groups of a CC ie members of Speyside Resilience. Other groups will need to refer to their own insurance documents.

**AOCB:**

- MC's Housing Policy for the allocation of 1 bedroom properties, particularly in Rothes. Cllr Gordon to take this forward.
- Speyside Resilience Group – need to write a Terms of Reference.
- Vandalism of toilets at the Tearooms. MM gave excellent advice on how to encourage Police involvement to reports from community organisations i.e if you have CCTV evidence, send it with your communication.

**Future Programme:**

**Consultations: Moray Council – None**

**Scottish Government –**

- \* Scotland's Draft Circular Economy and Waste Route Map to 2030 (Closes 15/3/24)
- \*Guidance on Inclusive Design for Town Centres and Busy Streets (Closes 29/3/24)
- \*Climate Change – Draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 (Closes 24/4/24)

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, 27 March 2024**

**Meeting Closed at: 8.30pm**