

HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 06 August 2024
at Birnie Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Chairman	Mr J Mountford – Dallas	
Treasurer	Mr S Williams – Roseisle	
Secretary		
	Mrs M Evans – Duffus	Mrs L Smailes - Pluscarden
	Mr C Souter - Miltonduff	Mr N Sutherland - Dallas
	Mr A Lyons - Roseisle	Mrs D Kelly - Alves
	Ms H Stewart - Roseisle	Mr W Mustard – Fogwatt & Birnie
	Mr A Wallis - Birnie	Mr C McCarthy - Birnie
Attendees	Councillor Bridget Mustard	Mr A Munro – Birnie Resident
	Ms H Ospazuk – Birnie resident	Mr T Lee – Birnie resident
	Ms J Johnson – Birnie resident	+ 1 other Birnie resident
Apologies	Mr W Duncan – Fogwatt & Birnie	Mr K Milne - Miltonduff
	Ms S Hodder - Pluscarden	Councillor Neil Cameron
	Ms J Kirby - Miltonduff	

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mr W Duncan, Ms J Kirby, Ms S Hodder, Mr K Milne and Councillor Cameron.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 25 June 2024 were approved.

Proposed: Mr N Sutherland Seconded: Mr C Souter

4. MATTERS ARISING

a) Roseisle traffic issues: once the final house in the village is completed an application will be submitted for funding for speed signs and larger signs. Ten years of maintenance is being taken into account.

b) Water levels at Elgin Hill roundabout: Councillor Mustard has been in touch with the Council. The area has been inspected and no problems found. We will wait and see how this goes.

c) Broadband progress: BT Openreach vans have been very much in evidence and cables have been laid in Roseisle, Thomshill and Miltonduff areas but there is no delivery to households in some areas so far and no communication as to what is happening. There are still some black spots. Alves broadband began this morning and the Park Farm area of Dallas should have access in September. An eye will be kept on progress.

5. ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Most correspondence had been circulated to all members but some might need further action.

- 1) JCC meeting 08 August: this will take place in the Supper Room, Elgin Town Hall, at 7.00 pm.
- 2) JCC grant working group meeting on Wednesday 21 August: this has been set up by the Elgin Community Council. Some Community Councils have more expenses than others. The overall grant is unlikely to be increased but there might be some redistribution. It was felt that we should perhaps have representation at this meeting.
- 3) Wind Farm updates: there is not a great deal to add but an application has been submitted for Rothes 3. Clash Gour has been in touch. Not much information was given but it is seeking funding and hoping to establish a Community Fund.
- 4) Community resilience group funding: there needs to be a plan for each area. As Heldon Community Council is made up of nine diverse communities the onus is on each community to produce its own plan. Information and funding is available: see attachments.
- 5) SSEN Community Funding: this is now open.
- 6) SPS Newsletter: this is circulated every quarter but our area is usually quiet. A couple of issues were raised:
 - The road towards the closed Cloddach Bridge is being used as a drag racing track. This has been reported to the police but nothing has been achieved so far. It happens sporadically so is difficult to police.
 - Some issues had been raised in Alves which the police have now resolved.

6. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer presented his report.

Rothes 1:	£ 10,770.19
Rothes 2:	£ 7,946.46
Heldon CC:	£ 2,291.73
Total	£ 21,008.38

£ 118.27 has been received in interest and £1,820.00 has been paid out.

Funding from Fred Olsen is still outstanding. It has been approved but we cannot confirm this approval until we have the money in our account.

The next round of funding closes on 30 September.

The land around the Birnie Village Hall has been purchased and is ready to be turned into a car park.

7. PLANNING ISSUES

All planning details had been circulated. There are no problems of which we are aware.

The Battery Storage area close to Kintrae is still at the pre-planning stage so it is up to individuals to comment at this stage. This will consist of 34 batteries, each the size of a storage unit and as they

present a fire risk they will be situated six metres apart. Chemical emissions could be an issue. We need to keep an eye on this.

8. A.O.C.B. to include area reports

- Fogwatt & Birnie: a question was raised about the Cloddach Bridge. Has ministerial sign-off taken place? The election has led to a pause in progress and concern was expressed that many infrastructure projects are to be cancelled. The Council is making a case for it to be continued as the Community has already invested in this project but we have not heard as yet. Once approval is given by the UK Transport Minister the designing will go out to tender and there will be a consultation at this stage so we will be able to comment.
- Roseisle – Stagecoach buses – the Findhorn to Forres route has been cancelled and other routes are being looked at. M-Connect is being looked at with a view to being extended. A Bus paper is being worked on but progress is slow.
- Dallas: Grass cutting is still a cause for concern but it was pointed out that there is a rota and we do all have this work carried out in turn. In the meantime it is a problem in this area, especially between Kellas and Dallas where it is getting worse at the moment.
- Birnie: grass cutting has been carried out here. Extra bins can be ordered through the Council website.
- A question was raised about the planned review scheme for the Community Councils before the elections for the next four-year session. What does this involve?

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date, time and venue of the next meeting:

Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 7.30 pm at Mosstowie School.