



**Findochty
Minutes
Date: Monday 30**

Community Council

September 2024

Time: 7pm

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Attendees -

Community Councillors: Cheryl Birtwistle (CB), Jeffrey Masterson (JF), Ron Dawson (RD)

Associate members: Paul Steel (PS)

Members of Public: 3

Moray Council: Cllr Sonya Warren, Debra Duke (Community Council Liaison Officer)- minute taker

Community Police: Not in attendance

1. Welcome from Chairperson.

CB welcomed everyone to the meeting. The previous chairperson had resigned at the last meeting. All agreed that CB should chair the meeting. The CCLO was able to take notes.

2. Vote to co-opt new members.

Two persons had expressed interest in becoming community councillors. Ashleigh Campbell had had to give her apologies for this meeting. Stephen Birtwistle (SB) was in attendance at the meeting.

APPROVED

- Stephen Birtwistle was unanimously coopted as a community councillor.
- Unanimously agreed to approve Ashleigh Campbell's cooption at the next meeting.

3. Election of new Chairperson.

This item was postponed.

4. To receive Community Police Update.

No police were in attendance. Report for this period had not yet been received.

5. To note update from the Primary School.

The school had just been inspected recently, results in a few months. At the Moray and Banffshire Heroes awards, the school won the School of the Year award and a local child won Young Fundraiser of the year.

6. To approve the minutes held on 19th August 2024.

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

7. To approve the Treasurers monthly report.

Treasurer was absent. There had been issues getting the banking approvals changed. He had said he would like to step down from the role. Therefore the CC was also looking for a new treasurer. The CC also needed an additional signatory.

8. To discuss Consultation on Review of the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils.

The CCLO presented information about the Review of the Scheme of Establishment Community Councils. The Scheme was the document that Moray Council approved that established Community Councils and set out the rules for how they ran. The document was always reviewed in advance of elections. The next Community Council elections were due in October 2025. Moray Council's Corporate Committee had approved the timeline for review at its meeting in August.

The CCLO asked members if they had any comments that they wished to raise about the Scheme itself. Were there areas that were not clear, that needed amending or changing? Were the boundaries of the CC suitable? Maps of the Findochty and District CC were handed out. Maps of the Local Development Plan (LDP) 2020 were also handed out. It was noted that the LDP was in the process of being completed for the period 2027 to 2037. It might be that some boundaries and land use might change between now and the new LDP in 2027.

During discussion it was noted that some properties that the residents identified as Findochty residents were actually in Portknockie CC area. It was therefore agreed that a recommendation be made to move properties Sunnybank and Bloomfield to Findochty and District CC.

APPROVED:

To respond to the consultation that Sunnybank and Bloomfield be moved to the Findochty and District CC area.

9. To discuss JCC Admin Grant.

Costs for community councils had been raised at the Joint Community Councils for Moray. It had been requested that all CCs provide information on their expenditure including all costs such as expenses that might not currently be reimbursed.

There were areas within Findochty that volunteers maintained, but currently did not claim expenses for, this might change in the future. The CC fundraises for additional costs and spending.

It was queried if the current admin grant was split equally, which would be approximately £874 per CC, only 5 out of a possible 20 CCs get more than this amount currently.

Currently the JCC meetings were normally held in Elgin. Offers to hold these meetings in other venues had not been taken up. An online meeting was normally held in February due to weather and road conditions. Hybrid meetings could be looked at but required investment in equipment.

Findochty and District CC felt that the amount they received covered the costs incurred.

10. To consider Community Feedback from email and Facebook received prior to the meeting.

The Sterlochy Bridge had been repaired with new render.

Proposed base station installation- the plan was to upgrade the phone mast and improve service provision for O2. The applicant was seeking views before planning was submitted. Information to be passed on to any groups that wanted to make comments.

Liney works- likely to start in November.

Harbour toilets- condition on men's toilets was not good. No soap available in any. Requested a soap dispenser to be installed. Issue had been passed to team for response as they need checking on a more regular basis. They are currently checked daily at about 11am. Toilets have to be provided for harbour users.

11. To discuss Community Council Maintenance Storage.

The ride on mower was currently being stored by a member of the public. The Men's Shed had agreed that land next to their shed could be used for the CC to erect a shed for storage. A request for Common Good funding would be made to help towards this. Quotes for sheds would be gathered by PS and CB.

12. To discuss Community Resilience.

Paul Kerrison and Nancy Kerrison as members of the Community Resilience Group were in attendance. They had attended a webinar on 25 September by Ready Scotland. They could share the presentation once it had been received. They had made contact with Auchtinloch CC who had shared their plan.

The CCLO said that Moray Council was encouraging community resilience groups to use the same template as this made it easier for officers using the documents. There was also an event for Moray on 7 November at Inchberry where any members of the resilience group would be welcome. Reminders about things that householders can do to improve their own resilience could

be sent out. Also at community events people could be reminded to sign up to priority services registers if they were eligible.

13. Reports

a. To note reports from Local Councillors

Councillor Warren- Buckie recycling centre would now be closed on Mondays.

Ongoing work on the budget to identify savings and maximise income. The Council and Older Persons champion were writing to the Scottish Government about winter fuel payments and applying for pension credit. Age Scotland was a good service if anyone needed help making a pension credit application.

M Connect- a Saturday service would be starting. There had been a large increase in usage of M Connect services. It will also be able to take group bookings.

Buckie High School have indoor bowling mats for free if any group is interested.

Repairs to drains at East Church Street were underway. Scottish Water needed to complete work before Moray Council. Completion due November 2024.

Anaerobic digester got permission.

A98 problems with connectivity as the number 38 bus service no longer served this area.

b. To note report from Town Hall

Town Hall pop up café still doing well. Three month break from end of November.

c. To note reports from Community Council Sub groups

- **Harbour Advisory Group**

Dredging was a priority. Dredger from Buckie here when it could be.

Pontoon final bit sorted. Wall and steps fixed. Electricity supply to pontoons would have had to have been in the plans and it would have increased the fees. There had been a request for lighting as this was a safety issue.

Recent oily water had been caused by rape seed pollen.

Next meeting date would be in November, exact date to be confirmed.

- **Christmas Lights**

No update.

Switch on would be held on 24 November.

- **Maintenance/Gardening**

Current work included strimming and removing plants from pots. Base of new shed had been levelled.

New bench funded by Rotary in Buckie as the branch had closed.

- **Defibrillators**

Two pads had expired.

Training provided by Wild Cats was great. They would be happy to return to carry out awareness sessions.

14.AOCB - To discuss any other matter not raised elsewhere on the agenda that can be added as agenda items for future meetings.

Complaints had been made about resurfacing on Seaview. This had been spray on tar and did not look good. Photos of this to be sent to Councillor Warren.

Dog waste bag stations- bottles would not stand up to winter weather. SB to find out if the Men's Shed could provide a better solution. Reports had been received that there had been an improvement in dog waste so this initiative would continue.

15. Date, time and venue of next meeting

Monday 4 November, at 7pm in Findochty Town Hall