

Innes Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Urquhart Village Hall

Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

1. Sederunt:

T. Christie (Chair), S. Anderson (Vice Chair), C. Dunbar (Treasurer), P. Fitch, C. Perkins, Cllr M. Macrae, K. Henderson, D Duke (CCSO), A. Fettes.
Public in Attendance: N. Sanderson, C. Price.

2. **Apologies:** Cllr S. Morrison, Cllr B. Williamson, J Mackie, DG Mackay, T Cattanach.

3. **Council Report:** Cllr Macrae said there was nothing to report apart from a warning that the Moray Council budget for next year will be tight.

4. **Police:** C.D. passed on that there have been reports of men in a van acting suspiciously at Greensward and other locations and that two cannabis farms have been closed down by the police.

5. **Public:** None.

6. **Acceptance of previous minutes:** Proposed: T. Christie, Seconded: S Anderson.
Accepted unanimously as a true record.

7. **Matters Arising:** Noise pollution from Calcots Moto Cross Club is being monitored.

8. **Correspondence:** All covered in following items.

9. Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer gave out a forecast for expenditure for 2024-25. (Attached)
Treasurer requested funds for purchase of wreaths and sprigs for Merchant Navy Day (Sept 3rd). The Treasurer praised the conduct of the Sea Cadets and Piper at the Merchant Navy Day parade earlier in the day and proposed that appropriate donations be made. After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed to give:- Sea Cadets: £20, Seamen's' Mission: £20, Piper who led Cadets: £20 gift card.

Action: Treasurer

A new laptop, with necessary software, has been ordered from I.T, Central in Elgin.
All ICC members who have ICC equipment are asked to bring it to the AGM for checking and audit.

Recording contributions to ICC business for demonstrating "value":

P Fitch will be trialling a system for collating information to demonstrate the equivalent monetary value of ICC members' contributions to local government.
Over the next 12 months this should collect meaningful information to justify ICC grant from TMC.

An example of how this could look was provided by J. Mackie. (attached)

When carrying out activities for the ICC, members should email P Fitch with the following information: Your name, meeting title, hours involved, travel time, other time involved (e.g. reading correspondence, reading/preparing papers for meetings), expenses, reason for attendance. Please also record any other time spent on ICC business.

Speymouth West Resilience Group will be banking through a sub account of ICC, as per guidance from JCC.

10. Consultation on Review of the Scheme of Establishment for Community

Councils:

Debra Duke (Community Councils Support Officer) presented information on the review and local development plans. There is a lot to do before the 2025 CC elections.

Members are asked to complete the questionnaire on Survey Monkey (details already distributed by D. Mackay). DD stressed that it is important to answer the questions, and make suggestions, without prejudging whether they will be adopted. There was discussion on what would need particular attention e.g.

What needs to be in CC handbook for new members?

Are there clarifications needed in Standing Orders to streamline conduct of meetings e.g if Chair not present?

Do ICC boundaries need to be adjusted to fit with Milnes School catchment?

Does the expansion of South Elgin around the Sports Centre require adjustment of boundaries?

TC suggested that there should be a meeting to discuss proposals for the Community Plan before the next ICC meeting and this was agreed.

Suggestions to David Mackay by end of September and meeting to be last week September or first week of October.

Debra Duke said that she could supply large scale maps of boundaries, school catchments etc. to aid discussions. Requests to her with sufficient notice please.

“Vote for Democracy”: Debra Duke shared information about this initiative which proposes setting up a Scottish Forum for Community Councils to amplify the voices of CCs and make local democracy more effective. One of the proposals is to set up Citizen Assemblies and there was some concern over whether this might dilute effectiveness of CCs rather than enhance it.

After some discussion it was decided that ICC is broadly in favour of the initiative but needs more information on the details before committing to it.

DD said that she would reply and ask for clarifications.

An email from DD contained useful links and attachments on both these consultations.

11. Pylons and Hydrogen Plant: TC, PF and AF reported back on a public meeting on the impact of pylons, windfarms and substations. They felt that it was a balanced and useful meeting with local MPs taking part.

There was discussion on the relative merits of underground and overground transmission. There was a feeling that Moray gets the downside from the pylons but less of the benefits because of the inability to add interconnectors to 400kV lines. The provision of power is part of essential infrastructure so permission for larger

schemes will not come before local Councils but be determined by central government.

There is a proposal for a Hydrogen production plant at Ballindalloch which will abstract water from the Spey. The impact of this on the river, on the Whisky distilleries and other industries will need careful investigation.

The Chair reminded everyone that he has business interests in windfarms so he will withdraw from any discussions on the subject that might pose a conflict of interest.

12. **Resilience Group:** NS reported that they had decided to delay application for SSE grants until the next round, which is in March 2025, as there needs to be input from a larger group of people to give weight to the application.
Purchase of portable power banks and solar panels will still be pursued through the Just Transition Fund, as a joint proposal with Garmouth and Kingston Community Association.
A suggestion from the SWRG meeting to provide a boardwalk between Lein Road and Burnside Road in Kingston was discussed. This could prevent Kingston being cut off in high tides so would be a significant contribution to resilience.
NS has made preliminary enquiries about funding from 'Paths for All', who were supportive and offered to give assistance in drawing up eligible plans.
As the path is part of the Moray Coastal Trail core path, improvements would probably be welcomed by Moray Council.
Other potential funding sources were suggested and CD suggested contacting Royal Engineers at Kinloss to see if they would assist.
Action: NS to contact landowners beside the path, Moray Council core paths Officer, Kinloss barracks and Community Association to see if this is a viable project.
13. **Secretary -New laptop:** Dealt with at item 9 above.
14. **Calcots: (update):** Dealt with at item 7 above.
15. **Station Road, Garmouth (update):** The collection of old cars and parts is being tidied up.
16. **Merchant Navy Day:** See item 9, Treasurer's report. Next 7th September 2025.
17. **A.O.C.B.:**
 - a) **Trees on Glebe Road, Mosstodloch.**
K. Henderson pointed out that these trees are over growing and shading properties, but Crown Estate have not pruned them. Householder at No.1 has had to cut them back over their property.
Chair agreed to contact Strutt-Parker to see what could be done.
 - b) **Spey fishing rights:**
Crown Estates have sold the rights from Spynie Kirk to the sea to Gordon Castle Estate. TC, on behalf of Gordon Castle Estate, stated that there will be no change in the leases of Fochabers Angling Club and Garmouth & Kingston Angling Club. The estate will also seek to maintain and improve the nature reserve at the river mouth.
18. **Next meeting:** 7:30pm, 8th October 2024, Urquhart Hall

Item 9. Treasurer's Report

Innes Community Council

Expenditure forecast for 2024 – 2025

New Laptop		£450.00
Virus checker	Norton Standard year	£65.00
Microsoft Windows	Office 635 personal	£100.00
Zoom membership	Pro version	£130.00
Hall hire	For normal CC meetings per year	£400.00
	Special meetings	£100.00
Wreaths	Armistice Sunday and other national events. Merchant Navy Day	£160.00
Printer supplies	Cartridges	£100.00
	Black	£86.00
	Colour	£25.00
	Paper	
Honorariums	Secretary	£200.00
	Treasurer	£50.00
Inspection of accounts	For independent inspector	£50.00
Entertainment	Coffee with others at non monthly meetings	£100.00
Travel	Milage @ 45p per mile (JCC and other public meetings)	£100.00
Web page/Facebook	Registration, set up, annual maintenance	£200.00
Support for resilience groups	Printing and promotion costs	£300.00
Drone	Licenses	£10.00
	Batteries	£120.00
Entertainment/coffee	Meeting with outside organisations/statutory bodies	£100.00
Promotional works	Leaflets/support to other organisations/donations	£400.00
	Flyers/questionnaires over local issues	
		(£2366.00)

Currently Sec, treasurer and chair pay for phone calls, internet, computing supplies and paper. Also use own houses or cafes for external meetings with outside bodies e.g. CES, SSEN, Scottish water and wind turbine companies.

