



Date: 15 October 2024  
 Time: 7pm  
 Venue: Ace Winches, Victoria Park, Buckie  
 Attendees: Chair - Allan Paterson (AP), Ann Mitchell (AM), Alison Durno (AD), Treasurer - Christine Allan (CA), Secretary - Daska Murray (DM), Peter West (PW),  
 Apologies: Beverly Wood (BW), Ross Ingram (RI), Cllr. Sonya Warren (SW)  
 Public Present: Mike Coull (MC), Gordon McDonald (GM), Kevin McKay (KM), Lucy Blake (LB), Ruth Liddicoat (RL)

### Minutes of Meeting

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
Welcome and apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PW opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in AP's absence, as he expected to arrive late. The guest speaker was then invited to begin their presentation.</li> </ul>	
Guest Speaker - Vattenfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LB and RL provided an update on the current status of the 16-turbine Aultmore wind farm project, which is a redesign of a previously approved 13-turbine proposal. The redesign was prompted by technological advancements and other factors, including changes in subsidy availability.</li> <li>• The latest proposal was submitted to planning in March 2024. Due to its scale the final decision rests with the Scottish Government. However, Moray Council is a key consultee that will consider the proposal in December. If the Council objects, it will trigger a public inquiry. Otherwise, a decision from the Government is expected in the first or second quarter of next year.</li> <li>• Feedback from key stakeholders and the community has been taken into consideration in the development of the proposal. Community feedback primarily focused on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ access to the site which has subsequently been amended.</li> <li>○ utilising the local harbour for component delivery instead of Inverness. Unfortunately, the harbour cannot accommodate the size of some components, and splitting shipments between ports is not desirable. However, there is an opportunity to integrate a development of the harbour within the Council's masterplan. While not guaranteed, this could be an attractive option for onshore wind projects and present opportunities for other industries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• RL provided some statistics based on the assumption that the project was consented. It would provide:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £18.4m community benefit fund over its 35 year lifetime.</li> <li>○ £5.8m contribution to the local economy, excluding Buckie Harbour proposal which would add further value.</li> <li>○ 60 jobs during construction, 30 direct/indirect during operation and up to 10 local apprenticeships during construction.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Offset 177,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.</li> <li>○ Generate enough electricity for 117,000 homes annually.</li> <li>○ Achieve carbon payback within 1.3 years.</li> <li>● RL thanked the community council for their representation in the planning application. CA enquired about feedback received from other community councils and was informed that, while some offered neutral responses, there were no objections. RL noted that approximately 20 responses were in support and 60 were opposed, which is typical for such projects.</li> <li>● CA asked when community benefits would be realised if the scheme was consented. RL explained that many decisions around eligibility criteria, governance, and fund administration would be made in partnership with the community. Assuming no objections, discussions about the fund could begin in 2026, with the fund being fully operational by the time the wind farm is commissioned, around 2030.</li> </ul>	
Visitor questions/ comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Before handing the meeting over to AP to chair, PW asked if there was a specific reason for GM and KM's attendance. Following recent correspondence regarding the Common Good Fund meeting, GM expressed a desire to discuss the Buckie Area Forum's remit and explore opportunities for future collaboration with the community council.</li> <li>● PW then provided an update on the Linzee Gordon Playpark Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The group have raised £20,519.39 in just 10 weeks since becoming constituted, thanks to donations from local businesses and various fundraising efforts.</li> <li>○ Their community consultation will close on 18 October, with 145 online responses so far. An additional 700 people, mostly children, have participated through the "two stars and a wish" format.</li> <li>○ They are awaiting responses from several trusts to which they've applied for funding. PW noted that they should have heard back regarding the Common Good Fund by now and mentioned that the decision had been referred to Elected Members. It was agreed to request an update.</li> <li>○ The cookbooks are complete, with a hard copy expected soon. PW will share this when available for feedback on the community council's representation before placing an order.</li> <li>○ Bottle donations for the Christmas Cracker event would be welcomed, preferably before Thursday.</li> <li>○ At the end of October, the group will meet with Sarah Campbell from Moray Council to review the community consultation results and draft the tender. Quotes and plans are expected to be ready by December, which will allow them to apply for additional funding streams.</li> <li>○ Watch sales have raised over £1000.</li> <li>○ The group are still deciding on registering as a charity because they have not had any volunteers come forward. It might need further consideration if they are unsuccessful with some of the funds applied to so far.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>PW</p> <p>PW</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buckie Rovers / Mersons park               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Moray Council has scheduled a public meeting at 7pm on 22 October at Buckpool Golf Club to discuss the future of Mersons park, a common good asset which is no longer viable in terms of maintenance required.</li> <li>○ MC gave an overview of the history of the Rovers at Mersons park, with the group folding during the pandemic and reforming in October 2023. MC believes the park has potential not only to retain local talent but also to serve other community groups as part of a larger sports hub and requested the support of the community council.</li> <li>○ MC has volunteers willing to form a Committee if required.</li> <li>○ PW felt that given that it is a community asset, there could be a case for the Community Council to oversee the sports hub through a subcommittee but some members were concerned about the liabilities this might involve.</li> <li>○ It was agreed that until the public meeting had taken place it was difficult to fully understand the support needed. GM recommended reviewing the constitution to ensure it allows for owning assets or property. CA also suggested seeking guidance from Tracey Rae. MC agreed to return with an update after the public meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CA asked if the laptops had been returned but AD advised they had been having difficulty co-ordinating a suitable time. PW asked AD to pass on details to follow this up.</li> <li>• Cluny Square Noticeboard - CA asked for an update on the transfer of ownership of the noticeboard. PW advised that the Council could not confirm who it belonged to but there were no objections to the community council taking ownership. The only condition was to keep them informed how they would keep the public safe during the upgrade. PW asked if there had been an update from Forsyth's who had been suggested by AD however there had been no response. PW asked AD to share contact details so that this could be followed up, so that the specification and cost can be confirmed. KM advised that this was definitely owned by the community council historically but CA advised that Debra Duke, CCLO, had advised that the ownership needed to be confirmed.</li> <li>• Admin grant – PW noted that a decision needed to be made on the options proposed. It was agreed unanimously to propose option 1 which was to split the admin grant total equally between all community councils. This would equate to £400 less than the current allocation. PW will respond accordingly.</li> </ul>	<p>PW</p> <p>AD</p> <p>PW</p>
Community Police report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the last report received was still dated 7 August. However SW thought the frequency might be getting changed to quarterly. AP will check this is still being auto-forwarded.</li> </ul>	AP
Community feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP plans to write to the Council regarding "living pavements," which are causing difficulties in areas where property owners have claimed the pavements and laid materials unsuitable for some community members, particularly wheelchair users. PW asked whether the roads are adopted, noting that one reason for refusal could be the responsibility of maintaining the grass on these living pavements.</li> <li>• There was a discussion about the Letterfourie development, which PW explained remains unadopted due to unsuitable road surface materials</li> </ul>	AP

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	<p>(lock block) but also because of the living pavements. KM added that a road is unable to take larger vehicles because of the living pavement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The factoring and ground maintenance arrangements for Inchgower were also discussed. PW clarified that the residents successfully challenged the transfer of the ground maintenance contract to another company. KM added that after 10 years the residents in Letterfourie will become liable for anything to the roads if not adopted. PW advised that he had seen a copy of deeds but this obligation had been in place from the date of purchase.</li> </ul>	
Elected Councillors feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not discussed – no councillors present.</li> </ul>	
Cost of living – actions being undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA noted that the update was much the same as the previous meeting with the hub and Salvation Army continuing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community lunch at Fishermen’s hall set for 28 October.</li> <li>Moray CAB available by phone.</li> <li>The Friendship Club have a Halloween event on 30 October in the Town Hall which is free to attend.</li> </ul> </li> <li>AP asked for feedback on the Community Council’s website, which includes a section for cost of living information. DM asked about the current administration of the website but there is something needs to be amended before it becomes live.</li> </ul>	
Treasurers report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA provided update relating to position at 29 August. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admin grant £7,617.80.</li> <li>Resilience £9,317.74.</li> <li>Letterfourie play park £10,000 paid to Moray Council.</li> <li>Linzee Gordon play park £11,969.39. CA queried the difference from the Sub Committee update and PW agreed to check this is the amount raised rather than donated. DM confirmed some donations are likely to be pending, having been included in recent correspondence from Ocean Winds and William Grants suggesting payment is yet to be received.</li> <li>CA noted that the £5,000 for the speed activated sign is being held onto as discussed at the previous meeting. AP advised SW was following up on this.</li> <li>NHS overpayment – still have £2,000.61 despite raising this several times.</li> <li>CA advised that there is £420 for the walking and cycling poster.</li> <li>CA asked if there were any volunteers for the wreath to place the order with the Legion. AM and PW agreed to lay the wreath.</li> <li>CA sought confirmation that travel expenses to normal meeting point was permitted. PW advised that because there is no fixed place of work that would mean expenses could be claimed for attendance at meetings. It was agreed to allow expenses to be backdated from October 2024 but it would be up to individual community councillors to make a claim. Honoraria payments can be claimed £40 per meeting for the Minutes, and mileage is 45p per mile.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>PW</p> <p>SW</p> <p>CA</p> <p>AM/PW</p> <p>ALL</p>
Community resilience planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting took place with PW, AP and the minister. There is a national resilience meeting planned for November. The issues with the format of the plan will need to be addressed. AP will send a copy of the plan</li> </ul>	AP/PW

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	to PW to transfer onto the new format. PW advised that it is important to register attendance for the meeting to receive funding.	
Community Council groups, sub-committees & initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website – the website is nearing completion. Sponsors can pay £25/year to have their name on website. Annual running cost will be £70/year. PW acknowledged that work was ongoing but highlighted some potential errors, including the logo links to a non-existent website, not operating as expected on a mobile phone and links not working. AP advised there will be an option for training to update the website before it launches. PW highlighted a potential error in the email address on the Facebook page.</li> <li>• CA provided an update on other community groups and initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ JCC – next meeting due in November.</li> <li>○ Money for Moray – £300k available through the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting fund (JTPB), with up to £50k available per group. Around 30 groups applied across Moray but none from Buckie or Portessie. Young person’s JTPB event for approx. £33k.</li> <li>○ LOIP – the newsletter is now available with copies at the Hub and the library. Meeting last Tuesday also discussed North East Quadrant of the square and will be updated on this. FABDT, BAF and LOIP members continue to seek opportunities for the new Hub premises, but unfortunately the necessary upgrades to the former Bank of Scotland building mean it is no longer a viable option.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• AD provided an update on the Harbour Advisory. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The weighbridge is still not functioning properly and HGVs are having difficulties manoeuvring. Discussions have taken place around the need for yellow lines and relocation of a gate originally on the roadside, but was moved to inside due to a lamppost, but has reduced room for HGVs.</li> <li>○ A request has been made for vessels to reduce speed when exiting the harbour until they are past the Mucks to prevent debris from re-entering the harbour. Discussions took place about the future development of the harbour, which ties into earlier conversations regarding the Masterplan.</li> <li>○ AD suggested exploring interest or donations for the fishing nets, instead of paying for their disposal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	PW
Planning applications - responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments/concerns raised.</li> <li>• CA noted that Debra Duke, CCLO, had recommended at the previous meeting responding to planning applications even if it was to indicate “no objections”. This moved onto a short discussion about the consultation on the Scheme of Establishment, which closes on 23 October.</li> </ul>	
Correspondence to note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP noted correspondence from Moray Council on the parking issue outside businesses in the town centre. Yellow lines are not an option because legally they are not permitted to change them but were happy to work with the community council to provide a cost for installing parking signs for the car parks nearby.</li> <li>• CA noted a recent email from Chair of the JCC, Alistair Kennedy, who had issued information on the consultation of the Forestry and Woodlands strategy. There will be an event at the Forres Enterprise on 24 October.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP thanked GM and KM for attending and acknowledged the advantages in working together for the benefit of the community.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GM provided an overview of the Buckie Area Forum (BAF) who encourage community groups to come together in the area. Those that choose to be involved come to their meetings, usually with a guest speaker.</li> <li>○ BAF want to concentrate on the development of the new Hub. They have funding until end of next year and lease their premises. They raise their own funds and are part of the community planning board.</li> <li>○ BAF receive referrals from organisations, such as DWP or schools, and decide whether the household is suitable for receiving food vouchers. They have recently decided to assist in accessing pension credit, which in turn can give access to the winter fuel allowance. They work in partnership with community councils and community organisations. They receive no financial assistance from Moray Council. GM welcomed anyone to visit.</li> <li>○ PW asked how BAF generate income. GM confirmed much of their income came from having managed the town hall when the Council considered closure. CA noted the consultation on the hub is currently online and encouraged everyone to fill it in. The Forum is unique to Buckie but can be joined by individuals or groups. Meetings are held on Zoom due to geographical spread.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP informed the meeting of his intention to stand down as Chair, but remain as a community councillor.</li> </ul>	
Date/venue of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 November 2024 – 7pm, Ace Winches Lounge, Victoria Park, Buckie.</li> </ul>	

Community Council meeting closed at 21:55 hrs.

I declare this is a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Sign/initial:

AP

DM

Date:

10/11/2024

10/11/2024