



*The City and
Royal Burgh of
Elgin
Community Council*

**Minute of a meeting held on Tuesday 10th June 2025
at Elgin Community Centre**

Sederunt: **See attachment A**

Alastair called the June meeting to order, welcoming members, guests and reading the apologies

ITEM	CONTENT	ACTIONS
Guest 1 Claire English Planning Dept MC	<p>Claire joined MC in 2022 and is now lead for the Cultural Quarter of the Growth Deal. There are 8 projects under the deal with a civic asset included in each, Claire is currently working on Elgin Town Hall and the Grant Lodge.</p> <p>Elgin Town Hall (ETH) which is category B listed is in the first phase. The proposed redevelopment is aimed to making the hall more 'fit for purpose' although inside it will still look like the ETH we know – only improved.</p> <p>Plans include a new foyer and box office, sound proofing in the supper room which will remain largely as it is, and a new loading bay at the rear so that equipment for events can be loaded and unloaded easier.</p> <p>SSEN are to divert Electrical cabling around the building. The tendering process for the works is now closed and it is hoped to have the preferred contractor on site by the end of August 2025. The project which is estimated to come in between £12 – £16 million will take two years.</p> <p>Grant Lodge has lain pretty much empty since the library vacated the building over 23 years ago. This and having survived two fires the building is in remarkable condition but will require some intense work to make it fit for future use. It is intended to make the ground floor fully accessible for all with a lift to the first floor, which will be used as a gallery and</p>	

<p>Guest 2 Mark Crowley and Sophie Dinak-Martin Community Wardens</p>	<p>for temporary exhibitions. Plans also include making use of a light shaft in the attic. Funding for this will partly come from the remainder of the main budget once ETH is completed this is anticipated at being around 44% of that budget and via funding applications.</p> <p>Planning applications should be submitted by the end of the summer with the outcome of this and funding applications hopefully being known by the end of the year. Work is expected to commence in 2027.</p> <p>Mark and Sophie have come along to introduce Ash Smith; Ash is a CW covering other areas in Moray but will be assisting in Elgin to provide holiday cover etc.</p> <p>There are no new updates other than to mention that the Youth Bus is nearing completion and will be out for its first run between 5th and 12th July, a timetable is to be confirmed.</p> <p>On other matters – one of the biggest complaints received is about the use of E – bikes and scooters, both of which are not allowed on public roads and will be confiscated if the user is caught using them on these. This also applies to private ground where no permission to use them has been given.</p>	
<p>1.Previous Minutes</p>	<p>Proposed: Diane Burgess Seconder: Alastair Kenedy</p>	
<p>2. Matters Arising</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>3. Road Safety</p>	<p>No updates</p>	
<p>4. Finance B</p>	<p>The account is healthy; all expenditure has been paid.</p>	
<p>5. Planning</p>	<p>Following recent meetings, James is now ready to present his report on the planning application for a new sand and gravel quarry with additional concrete plant at Birnie. He said that ne had been pleased with the way that the residents of the Birnie area had dealt with this application and the level of work they have put into researching etc.</p> <p>He then went through the key points in his findings and the increase to traffic to the south end of New Elgin and beyond that this application will create should it succeed. Having put all of his points together he announced that his submission to the council on this application will be one of</p>	

	OBJECTION. This was supported by the rest of the CC members and welcomed by those from Birnie who were present. Alastair thanked James for taking this on, and reminded those present that it is due to his methodical approach to applications such as this, that James has much respect from the CC and the planning dept.	
6. Levelling Up	Graham was unavailable to report on this, Alastair provided a brief update. It has been decided that there should be representatives from Faith, Resident and Charitable groups on the Neighbourhood Board, Alastair said that it could be argued that the Charitable groups were represented, the Residents group mentioned is the Moray Tenants Forum which only represents the views of council tenants and may be seen to be biased, and he is sure that there are members of different faiths already involved.	
7.Elgin Christmas lights.	Alastair, Steve and Brian have discussed this issue both with the CC members and privately. Alastair and Steve have met with members from the BID team to discuss possible options for the Christmas lights, the switch on and any associated events. What is clear from that discussion is that the cost for the lights plus anything else is likely to leave little change from £100,000 . Other Groups have been approached about taking this on, but the answer has been a resounding NO. There maybe an announcement from BID in the next couple of weeks , failing that we need to get the community behind any takeover.	ONGOING Decision at next meeting on July 8th
8. Resilience	Brian has rewritten the terms of reference, and previously the Resilience leaflet which has been updated. He is currently seeking costs for storage of equipment and insurance of the same.	Ongoing
9. Seagulls	This issue never goes away, and the recent response from Naturescot was far from enthusiastic. The suggestion that people should be able to identify the species of gull attacking or defecating on them is absurd. The Minister responsible for Naturescot has announced a ‘Gull Summitt’ is to be held. It is the CC’s desire that we get a seat at that table – Steve will email MSP’s and request a place.	Steve AGENDA
10. Elected Members	The elected members gave a report on recent meetings within the council – including the new 20mph limit that is due to be introduced in various areas. There was also mention of the construction of a pre school nursery for pre-school children from service families. There also followed a	

	brief discussion regarding the disparity of cost for childcare between Scotland and England,	
11. AOCB	<p>Alastair, Alison and Steve are to meet with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Neil Gray on Friday. Questions have been sent to him ahead of that meeting with one or two others being put together for the meeting itself.</p> <p>M – Connect – issues with buses being delayed or not turning up, Alastair will contact Stephen Robertson and invite him to our next meeting.</p>	Alastair
NEXT MEETING	TUESDAY 8th July @ 7pm, ELGIN COMMUNITY CENTRE	

A

Attendance record

Meeting date **10th June 2025**

NAME	ATTENDING	APOLOGIES
Alan Bell	✓	
Alastair Kennedy Chair	✓	
Alison Stockley	✓	
Anne Mitchell	✓	
Brian Irvine Vice Chair	✓	
David Chapman	✓	
Douglas Clark	✓	
Diane Burgess	✓	
Graham Jarvis		✓
James Wiseman	✓	
Joyce Bremner		✓
Steve Christie Treasurer	✓	
Jim Talbot	✓	
Amber Dunbar Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Elaine Kirby Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Jereme Fernades Cllr Moray Council	✓	
John Divers Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Peter Bloomfield Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Sandy Keith Cllr Moray Council	✓	
Debra Duke CCLO Moray Council	✓	
Mark Crowley & Sophie Dinak-Martin Community Wardens	✓	
Claire English Planning @ Moray Council	✓	
David P&J		
Sean Angus Press		
Pat Patterson	✓	
Lisa McWilliam	✓	
Representatives from Stop the Birnie Quarry	✓	
Representatives from Heldon CC	✓	
Rep from Leiths quarries	✓	



Attachment **B**

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Finance Report

June 2025

Opening Balance (29/06/ **£7,842.48**

Expenditure

Elgin Town Hall (13 & 28 May) £x,x96.00

Minutes £x,x40.00

Ink £x,x26.49

Paper 5 @ £3.40 £x,x16.99

Elgin Town Hall £x,x48.00

Information Commissioners Office £x,x52.00

Fair trade monies paid out / remainder transferred to interest acc £x,392.13

Total expenditure **£x,671.61**

Income

NO INCOME

Current Balance (main Account) **£7,170.87**

Interest collection account (balance) **£566.83**

Steve Christie

Report prepared by Steve Christie 29th June 2025

Attachment **C**

Hello, Inspector Meikleham. Thanks again for your response.

I was in town today at roughly 1.10pm and could scarcely believe how many vehicles were driving through the Plainstones, or parking there. I took photographs of three of the vehicles. The first seems to park often on the Plainstones. The driver told me that if his vehicle wasn't endangering my safety that I had no business speaking to him. He told me he would see me next time he parks on the Plainstones and walked off.

The third vehicle was driven by a lady taking someone who has a Blue Badge to the bank. The lady assumed that the Blue Badge allowed her to use the Plainstones to help her passenger to access the bank. My understanding is that Blue Badges don't allow vehicles to sidestep parking restrictions. However, I'd be grateful if you could clarify just what the rules are for Blue Badges holders. Thank you.

Kind regards

Douglas Clark
City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

OFFICIAL

Good Evening Mr Clark,

I can confirm that blue badge holders are **NOT** allowed to enter the Plainstones area of Elgin High Street for any reason including dropping off blue badge holders to shop premises. Enforcement by police officers are required at the time and both officers would need to witness the vehicle being driven into the Plainstones area.

Extensive media messaging in conjunction with Moray Council has previously been issued confirming all these details.

Government guidance issued previously states that Police CCTV should not be used to enforce parking restrictions.

The legislation is as follows:

HIGH STREET (PLAINSTONES) (HIGH STREET JUNCTION WITH NORTH STREET TO JUNCTION WITH COMMERCE STREET)

This is a pedestrianised area. Moray Council (Elgin Town Centre) Pedestrian and Traffic management Order 2010 states:

“No motor vehicles except for load and unloading of goods **OUT WITH** 11:00am and 4:00pm, and permit holders during 11:00am and 4:00pm.”

The exemptions are:

Up to 3 cars connected with a funeral on the Plainstones at any one time.

Emergency Services access to any area,

A vehicle working on a building or demolition work – with a granted permit.

A Doctor attending an appointment.

Those with an access exemption permit – given out by Moray Council (NOT A BLUE BADGE).

Postal vehicle.

Refuse vehicle.

Vehicle converted to take money or valuables i.e bank bullion vehicle.

Most importantly – any vehicle loading or unloading goods from a shop etc.

The last example clearly causes the most difficulty. It allows individuals to believe that they have permission to use the road if they are shopping at a particular shop. However, this is not the case. Drivers are allowed to drive on the road to visit any premises on that road, to collect something previously purchased / bought or unload something they are returning. They are not permitted to park outside a shop, whilst they use the premises, or in the likelihood they will return to the vehicle with goods. This is not consistent with the meaning of loading and unloading. This exemption is largely meant for the use of the business owners, NOT customers.

I understand that previous scoping exercises undertaken by Moray Council have determined a position not to decriminalise parking in Moray due to costs associated with this. Respecting the position of Moray Council there are benefits to decriminalising parking enforcement which would allow the local authority greater control over enforcement of parking restrictions in its area. Local knowledge can also enable a local authority to tailor parking enforcement to meet specific needs, taking into account wider traffic management issues aligned with other policies such as town regeneration and road safety.

The financial constraints and significant increase in demand currently faced by Police Scotland require us to make hard choices and ensure our focus and resource is aligned and committed to national and divisional priorities in which parking enforcement does not fall.

Police officers do patrol and issue tickets by way of enforcement and I can assure you we will continue to do so when there are no more significant priority issues or incidents that must be

dealt with. Our ability to undertake parking enforcement will always be balanced against relentless operational demand and incidents which by virtue of assessment of threat and risk to individuals must always take precedence for our officers. Many calls to police now see significant time spent responding to and protecting vulnerable persons at points of mental health or other crisis. We will also always prioritise calls and activity where officers target violence, sexual crime, damage to property, antisocial behaviour, and criminals who prey upon the vulnerable in our community. This must remain the priority for local officers as we keep people safe across Moray.

I trust foregoing to be of some assistance and please let me know if I can assist any further.

Kind Regards

Andy Meikleham