



Findochty Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 7th July 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Attendance

Community Councillors:

Anne Braidwood (Chair), Jeffrey Masterson, Ron Dawson, Paul Steel

Associate members: None

Members of Public: 4

Moray Council: Councillor Warren

Apologies: Paul Kerrison; Paul Steel attended from 6.30 pm

1. Welcome

Chairperson Anne Bolton Braidwood welcomed everyone to the meeting. One apology was received from Paul Kerrison. No one has yet come forward to fill the vacant secretary position.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2nd June 2025: The minutes were reviewed and accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by Ron Dawson.

3. To Discuss Community Police Update (bi-monthly reporting)

No update has been received this month.

4. To receive report from Treasurer

Report presented by Chair.

The current balance stands at	£7,291.27
Administration Grant:	£1,819.03
Events Fund:	£623.10
Maintenance Fund:	£2,315.07
General Fund :	£2,354.07

Income since last meeting:

Donation:	£30
Crowdfunder:	£480.20
Income Total:	£510.20

Outgoings since last meeting:

Maint	£26.95	Urinal blocks
Maint	£16.00	Signs for toilet block
Admin	£30	Secretary Honorarium
Maint	£22.61	Compactor Travis Perkins
Maint	£109.76	Direct 365 – Deodorisers x 2 + refills
Maint	£8.82	Amazon – 8-pack batteries (for deodorisers)
Maint	£9.65	Amazon – water carrier (maint)
Maint	£32	Screwfix – Mortar Mix (Compass Rose)
Maint	£30.98	Amazon – wheely bin lock
Admin	£47	ICO renewal (GDPR requirement)
Maint	£577.85	P.A.L.S. – community flowers
Maint	£36	Crooked Hythe Artwork (clockstudio)
Maint	£25.26	Travis Perkins – fenceposts for noticeboard
Maint	£32	B&Q – padlock and hasp for mower shed
Maint	£302	Return surplus to Common Good Fund
Outgoings Total:	£1306.88	

All bank signatories have now been updated. These are: Chair, Treasurer and Ron Dawson.

5. To consider Community Feedback received prior to the meeting

- a) **Heritage Sub-Committee Formation** – Discussed and agreed as a good idea. Interested parties were asked to leave their email addresses for further coordination.
- b) **Development of area near Keystore** – Also supported. The new heritage sub-committee will explore and propose a plan.
- c) **Installation of gates across public paths/rights of way** – discussion took place about being comfortable going through gates which looked part of someone's property. Signage of public paths was not good and members of public who attended meeting felt very strongly about the essence of the village being compromised. We have received a response from

Moray Council after an initial query to them and they require more information for that particular issue. Members of public reported many more rights of way which need questioning, they also reported a council officer has visited and said not a problem as no-one uses the rights of way. There are guidelines available as to what can and can't happen. Those mentioning further consideration (apart from original query on Main Street property) were:

- a. Property at bottom of Station Road
- b. Duke Street; a number of closes
- c. Netherton Terrace
- d. Church House (top of steps)
- e. School Hill; not now passable
- f. Others

Further discussion took place regarding properties building extra structures attached to their properties and also improved signage of closes and rights of way.

- d) **Community Resilience Training** – FWSC contacted Paul Kerrison about collaborating on training opportunities. In response, the Community Resilience Group offered its support to FWSC.
- e) **Speed Limits in the Village** – After a resident shared safety concerns about speeding near the harbour with the Treasurer, the matter was discussed by the Council. Paul Kerrison advised that proactive steps were being taken, including a formal letter to Moray Council advocating for a 20 mph speed limit in the village.

6. Harbour Public Toilets Update

The upgrade to the toilets has now been completed and feedback has been positive. Jeffrey Masterson reported lack of toilet rolls. **Action: Anne Bolton Braidwood to email Sharon Mair at Moray Council.**

7. Community Council Website

The website is gaining visibility. Over 2,200 Google search results in last 28 days; and planning applications is the most viewed page.

8. White Mannie

The refurbishment is now complete, apart from bronze inscription plaque. Paul Kerrison has contacted a specialist company. They advised the corrosion at bottom of the plaque would need to be addressed by professionals if it got worse. Otherwise they have produced a book which details the appropriate materials and techniques. The book is available on Kindle for £9.99; it is requested we purchase the book to enable cleaning of the plaque safely. This was **AGREED**.

9. Updated information board for Crooked Hythe

The board has been sent to Vinyl Vision in Elgin for refurbishment at a cost of £45 + VAT. During discussions, a proposal was made to add "Slipshore" to the design. One member of the public in attendance suggested including "also known as Slipshore" on the Crooked Hythe sign. However, it was noted that the families associated with the sign are content with its current form. After consideration, the consensus was to retain the original design, respecting both the family's wishes and historical accuracy.

10. To discuss Community Resilience

- a) Paul Kerrison attended the Town Hall Trustees meeting to discuss resilience planning.
 - a. Battery storage remains a long-term goal, but funding cannot be applied for this year.
 - b) Thermos flasks have been purchased using funds donated by Buckie Firefighters Charity Fund. Thermos flasks and walkie talkies are being stored within village locations and our emergency grab bag remains stored on the town hall campus
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11. Reports

To note reports from Local Councillor

- a) No committee meetings due to recess.
- b) Cllr Warren visited BCHS and confirmed it remains a good learning environment despite building issues. The Chair concurred after a similar visit.
- c) Consultation on BCHS is ongoing, with options under review. Some buildings may be demolished; a new school appears unlikely. Recruitment challenges persist, though a new headteacher has started.
- d) Village Maintenance:
 - a. Annual weedkilling should take place twice yearly. Residents raised concerns about the village's appearance.

- b. A resident has been conducting early morning weedkilling in public areas; status unclear (Paul Steel to follow up).

e) Harbour Update:

- a. The Selkie may receive a new excavator, but a dredger is not feasible.
- b. Concerns were raised about prioritisation (Burghead vs. Buckie/Findochty).
- c. Harbourmaster Plan (due later this year) includes stakeholder consultation on deepening the basin for potential cruise/cargo use.

To note report from Town Hall – all well and nothing to report from Ron Dawson. Things were operating as normal.

To note reports from community council sub groups

Harbour Advisory Group

- a) Additional pontoons are currently available.
- b) The Harbourmaster raised concerns about paddleboarders, particularly children, not using proper safety equipment. A FWSC member attending the meeting confirmed their full compliance with regulations.
- c) The Harbourmaster delivered a Water Safety talk at BCHS.
- d) The dredger Selkie has broken down and requires a new excavator.
- e) Discussions are underway regarding a new dredger to meet future depth requirements.
- f) Oil deposits have been observed in the harbour.

Christmas Lights Committee

- a) The committee had a meeting on Wednesday 2nd July. The meeting was to discuss a planned fundraiser.
- b) A tombola is being held at the Town Hall on Friday 5th September 6pm for 6.30 start; £5 for books.
- c) The annual switch on will be Sunday 23rd November.

Maintenance/Gardening

- a) Planters:
 - a. Plants have been installed and payment processed.
 - b. Planters relocated from the sub-station (at a resident's request) to the refurbished harbour toilets.

- c. Following a request from the resident's husband, it was agreed to return the planters to their original location.
- b) Noticeboard:
 - a. Cork backing has been installed for the new noticeboard near the Post Office and Keystore.
 - b. **Action: Anne Bolton Braidwood to send a thank-you letter to donors Mr and Mrs Scott.**
 - c. **Action: Purchase two additional keys (Paul Steel has given one key to Anne Bolton Braidwood).**
- c) Compass Rose:
 - a. Pressure washing completed by Ross from The Admirals (thanks to Ross for assistance).
 - b. Repointing and minor touch-ups completed.
 - c. Approved: £20 for paint to refresh NSEW points.
 - i. Note: While one resident advocated leaving NSEW unpainted (originally added impulsively), the majority agreed repainting would improve visibility.

Defibrillator - Ron Dawson reported the battery was still showing as operational with two bars.

12. AOCB To Discuss any other matter not raised elsewhere on the agenda that can be added as future items for next committee meeting

- a) **Bus Shelter Refurbishment** - The bus shelter near the Quarry area (on the Buckie approach to the village) requires sanding and repainting. Ownership of the shelter was unclear, prompting discussion about whether the Community Council has authority to proceed with maintenance. Cllr Warren recommended consulting Nicola Moss at Moray Council (Nicola.moss@moray.gov.uk) to confirm responsibility before undertaking any work.
- b) **Addition to Welcome Sign** - Anne Bolton Braidwood proposed adding "to Findochty" to the village's boat planter welcome sign. Following discussion about the spelling ("Findochty" vs. "Finechty"), it was agreed to use "Welcome to Findochty" to maintain consistency with existing tourist signage in the area.
- c) **Community Council Laptop** - Anne Bolton Braidwood reported the community council laptop is no longer functional, as it cannot run current software and hardware upgrades are

impractical. With both the Chair and Treasurer using their own devices, there is no immediate need for a replacement secretary laptop.

Regarding disposal, Cllr Warren recommended Reboot in Forres, an organisation that repurposes old hardware. The community council agreed to contact them about recycling the laptop

- d) **BCHS Update** - Cllr Warren reported she had been on a similar visit the Chair and Treasurer
- e) **Dog Waste Management Update.** - Paul Steel presented a new 3D-printed dog waste bag dispenser designed by a local resident. He will install and maintain the units at designated locations. Anne Braidwood will provide the supply of waste bags to Paul for this initiative.
- f) **Community Concerns - Doddies Road** - A resident raised concerns about general village maintenance, with particular attention given to Doddies Road. The ongoing construction of a long-term building project has resulted in accumulated debris near the roadway. While Paul Steel acknowledged the material likely originated from the worksite (still incomplete), neighbouring residents expressed concern about the impact on adjacent properties, especially a nearby tourist caravan park. The matter will be formally reported to Moray Council through standard reporting channels.
- g) **Lighthouse** - Henry Marshall has acquired paint for lighthouse maintenance, and Harbourmaster Darren Bremner has been informed. The Community Council should confirm with Mr. Marshall whether our involvement in the painting project would be appropriate or helpful.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 4th August 2025 at 6:00 PM

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Meeting Closed at 7:45 PM