

Innes Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Lhanbryde Community Centre

On Tuesday 4th March, 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

1. Sederunt: , T Christie (Chair) S. Anderson (Vice Chair), C. Dunbar, P. Fitch, J. Mackie, (Minute Secretary) A.Fettes, C Dunbar arrived towards end of meeting
2. In attendance: T. Cattenach, , Glan Price & Chris Perkins, George Cull
3. Apologies: David Mackay , Kenny Henderson, Clr. M. Macrae, Clr S Morrison.
4. Public Session: George Cull reported problems with Caybriggs Road to Pitgaveny Farm entrance and Kingsmills. Is single track with passing places. LGV's use the road for quarry. Also used by large agricultural tractors. Insufficient width in passing places when large vehicles are on the road, also wheel marks left on roadside verges of houses. JM read out email sent to C.D by Emma Watkins, Information Officer, Moray Council. Said that the Council were aware of problems, had costed necessary works to be carried out, but due to budget cuts don't know when any works would be carried out.
5. Police report. No police report. JM reported that he had witnessed young children riding motorised scrambler type motor bikes across the Lein. On the Saturday, five transit type vans with adults and a number of children racing about the car park area, across rough ground and up towards Old Targets. Took over 25 minutes to get through to Police Scotland on 101. Reported incidents and gave registration numbers of the vans. Police Officer from Lossiemouth phoned back and said that the traffic department was tied up with an incident in Elgin and could not attend. JM suggested the problem was more anti social behaviour and not a traffic issue, as not on a public road but private land and designated wildlife area. Emailed photographs to police of vans and bikes,. JM returned to the location following day. Three vans back with a number of children racing about as before. Took 45 minutes to get through to police who did not attend. Again, sent email with photographs. Got a response that police would pay periodic visits. J<M responded that this was an

ongoing problem, that he had supplied details of vans in attendance and police should take action from that. Reported that following day, the police put out on Facebook they had spoken to one van driver and warned about riding these bikes off road without land owner's permission.

6. Council: No Councillors present. Report received by email from Councillor Williams after the meeting.
7. Minutes of the last Meeting: 11th February, 2025
8. The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record; Proposed by : Peter Fitch and seconded by Sandy Anderson.
9. Matters arising from , JM noted that a few days after the last meeting, and comment from Councillors, no real plans for a tourist tax in Moray, Moray Council had announced that they were to go ahead and look at a possible scheme.
10. Correspondence. Most circulated beforehand. Notification of a SEPA public consultation closing 30th March, 2025, re changes to waste management, water and industrial activities. JM said he would look at it. Notice looking for reps of ICC to be involved in Milnes School estate. Required 2 members and they had to notify Moray Council beforehand to receive a password to examine the papers, which were deemed as confidential until full discussions were completed. PF said he had a look at them but was of the opinion that nothing ICC could add to them.
11. Treasurer's report. None.
12. Tiendland and Community Energy Moray. JM suggested that both items be discussed as one, as there were cross overs Agreed. JM pointed out that in recent years ICC had not received any benefits from any windfarm developments in Moray, despite the fact that there were many within full view of the boundaries. Also said that planning permission had been given for two solar farms within the area but no approach by developers over any community benefit. Gave background to Community Energy Moray, which was set up a number of years previously, when Clashgower Wind Farm was in the early planning stage and developers had indicated that they were willing to allow a community shareholding in the site. Community Energy Moray was set up by JCC and registered with FCA as an organisation that could advise and issue shares. C.D is a member of that organisation which is chaired by Alastair Kennedy, Chair of JCC. At the time of the early discussions, community councils within Moray including ICC had signed a Memorandum of Understanding indicating that they would be interested in joining a future organisation to have a stake in the development. Further informed meeting that the Government policy

was still to have communities take a shareholding in these developments to get funds back into the communities. A stake holding was different too and separate from the community benefit, which is paid out to a more restricted area. Explained that a governing or umbrella body would be required to be set up to act as the shareholding body. It would be made up of directors from different local organisations, including neighbouring community councils who wished to join in. JM suggested that as there were now a number of large windfarm projects being developed that were on the edge of or inside ICC boundaries, that ICC should now look seriously at being the leader in a company that did invest in these development's and identify any other organisation that would be interested in forming the stake holding company. JM produced a list of small local community owned or operated energy businesses within Moray as an example of local community investment. The Principal was agreed and JM offered to arrange a Zoom meeting with the local representative of Local energy Scotland, a Government body that assisted local communities in such matters. CD joined the meeting after this discussion, was informed of it. Was agreed that steps would be taken to maybe speak to organisation who had taken a shareholding in such developments as well as gathering more information for a future meeting of ICC.

13. Pylons. T Christie Chair informed the meeting that the final line of the pylons seemed to have been reached. An amended time table had been drawn up.

14. Hydrogen plant proposal for Marypark. JM reported that he had had several meetings with different residents and businesses in the Spey valley regarding the proposed development. There was a serious concern amongst individuals and businesses that very little information was available about the plant and the volume of water that would be extracted from the Spey valley. Informed the meeting that following discussions and exchanges with Speyside Community Council, Glenlivet community Association and Ann Davidson from TSI Moray Climate Change group, they had all decided that there should not be a public meeting until such time as the full planning application was lodged with Moray Council. JM made the following proposal:- " In light of the decision of TSI Moray Climate Change team not to support an event in Speyside to discuss with the community plans for a hydrogen production plant at Marypark. ICC proposes that they develop and write a letter of observations on their consideration of the proposed plant detailing what ICC and members of the community consider to be matters/questions that need to be addressed by Moray Council should any plans be submitted by the developer. Furthermore, that should

a public meeting be held in the future to discuss such plans, then ICC should be represented at that meeting to raise any concerns that ICC may have in respect of possible changes in river flow that would affect flooding in Garmouth and Kingston and any impact it may have on Kingston beach." Following discussion there was unanimous acceptance of the proposal.

15. Petition to the Scottish Government. JM gave an overview of information he had gained through his research about the production of hydrogen using freshwater. That research showed that it took $10 \frac{1}{2}$ litres of water to produce 1 kg of hydrogen and a further 10 to 25 litres of water for the cooling system. 1 kg of hydrogen would propel a tractor unit for an articulated lorry or an eight-wheeled truck for 6 miles/11 kilometres. Information made available by the developer at Marypark at a public meeting in Aberlour in November, 2024, indicated that they would be extracting at least 500,000 litres of water a day from the catchment of the River Spey. He highlighted the fact that the water flow in the River Spey was not constant and could vary from day to day depending on weather factors. Noted that in recent years as more and more water was extracted from the Spey catchment, problems now arose in that the river did not have the power to wash gravel out to sea, and that was causing serious problems at Garmouth and Kingston Beach. He advised that through FOI he had ascertained that neither the Scottish Government nor Moray Council had commissioned any studies into the environmental impact of using freshwater to produce hydrogen, therefore the impact over a wide area from the centre of any water extraction point could be severe. As this scenario would be played out across many parts of Scotland, it became a National problem and not just one for the Spey catchment. He made a suggestion that ICC could petition the Scottish Government over the issue and proposed the following as the wording of a Petition:- **" Production of Hydrogen from freshwater sites. To ask the Scottish Government to put a moratorium on the production of hydrogen from freshwater until environmental studies have been done to identify any and all environmental problems associated with the use of high volumes of freshwater and what impact that would have on the environment, local economies and society. "** The issue was discussed at great length. Options for the submission of the petition hinged around what organisation or individual could or would submit the petition. Options included submission by ICC, Speymouth Environmental Partnership or JM on his own. Eventually AF suggested that ICC should submit the Petition as it was a statutory body with an interest in the proposal for Marypark. The vote on that proposal was unanimous and JM asked to duly submit the Petition.

16. Kingston Beach works observation. JM advised that the works carried out with Government funding by Moray Council had been completed the previous Thursday. The edge of the eroded public park had been cleared of washed up gravel and wood. Trucks had carted approximately 800 tonnes of gravel from Speybay Golf course and that they had been tipped along the edge of the eroded bank and a bund about 18" high build along the top and edge of the park. JM noted that attempts to have the gravel washed into Portgordon Harbour used were thwarted as that site was "outwith" the SSSI area of the beach. Noted that the donor site for the gravel used was also outside the SSSI area. Since the completion of the works, there had not been a Spring tide and the sea had been reasonably calm with offshore winds. However, noted that a small area of the works was beginning to slide into the sea.
17. VE 80th Anniversary. Noted that the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe was on 8th May, 2025. JM produced flyers promoting the sale and display of flags and lamp post signs. He proposed that a flag be purchased to fly on the Merchant Navy Flag Pole erected at Kingston by ICC and that Lamp Post signs be purchased and one placed at each war memorial within ICC area. Unanimous decision to purchase and supply as discussed.
18. AOCB. CD informed meeting that Moray Council had adopted a Moray Nature Trail network. However, as the Council had no money to develop, it would be in place on maps only with no works done on it. CD advised he was a member of the group..
19. The meeting closed and the Chair thanked everybody for attending.
20. Next Meeting 7 30 pm Tuesday, 2nd April at Lhanbryde Centre.