

**Lossiemouth Community Council
Minutes of Meeting 16 February 2026**

Date: Monday 16 February 2026

Time: 19:00

Location: Zoom

Chair: Carolle Ralph

Attendees: Carolle Ralph, Lily Mulholland, Gina McNicoll, Marian Evans, Maureen Halkett, Dave Walker, John Cowe, Neil Cameron, Bridget Mustard, Alison Read

Apologies: Kristi Lunt, James Allan, Louise MacBride

Agenda:

1- Police Update:

No police representative present. Only issue raised was continued complaints about parking beside the playing fields despite the double yellow lines on busy match days.

RAF Update:

Families day will be 25 July this year.

Minutes of 19 January 2026 Meeting and matters arising

West Beach Car Park

Carolle and Gina met with MKA the company appointed by the LCDT to carry out an assessment of the car park and feedback to the community. The Coastal Communities Fund to commission this work.

They also attended a full stakeholder meeting on 3 February feedback will be given once the report is completed. It was felt to be a useful meeting by all in attendance.

Coastal Communities Adaptation Group

Gina attended this group on our behalf. This group is set to come up with an online resource for communities to plan and act locally across Scotland and is funded by the Scottish Government and Moray Council. There will be several more meetings with Verture the organization tasked with moving this forward before the end of March 2026.

Sand Dune Restoration Project

Sadly 2 days after we met with Will and Fergie on 20 January, there was a particularly bad storm and high tides, this lasted for two weeks and as a result the inside of the dune restoration project was torn away including the marram grasses. We have since had further meetings and discussions and the work which had been planned for early this month has been postponed to mid March at the earliest. Whilst it is disheartening, it is evident that the work done last year did protect the dune on 3 sides. Rather than move on to phase 2 it is our intention to repair the existing dune before we proceed.

Louise has obtained funding from the Eco Youth Grant to assist in the project and we have the funds from HIEF over two years which will assist us moving forward. The high school are keen to work with us through March as they did with the mural last year. This is great and we

will come up with a plan about their involvement.

Library

Carolle received an email tonight which states that those who responded to the reviewed opening hours who responded to the proposed new opening hours are in favour of them. Pending committee approval. it is therefore likely that as from March 30, Lossie library will be open 24 hours per week. Tuesday 12 to 7, Wednesday 10 to 5.30, Thursday 10 to 5.30 and Saturday 10 to 2pm.

Play park

Gina advised the meeting that the play park re development on **Commerce Street** is finished and is awaiting signing off, there may be some issue with the turf and seeded areas but this will be monitored. All agreed it will be a great addition to Lossie.

Station park play park is in a bad way, several pieces of equipment have deteriorated since the last assessment. There is a possible budget for repairs/replacement of £2000 from Moray Council but this is not much and it may be we need to look at fundraising.

It was noted that we may be competing for the same funding pots as the Skatepark group. LCDT will consider whether they can be involved at their meeting on Monday.

Arthur's Bridge

Carolle expressed concerns that we read about the poor state of the bridge in the media and asked why it was not being repaired as per information received. Letter sent as follows to our elected members.

"We were shocked to learn through the Press and Journal article on Friday 6 February, that Senior Moray Council officials say they are "closely monitoring" the condition of Arthur's bridge amid warnings of "further deterioration". This has potentially major implications for Lossie folks.

This bridge is a key route for our community and enables people to travel to and from the A96 and Lhanbryde, and all the surrounding villages. If this bridge deteriorates further and has to be closed, this would mean travelling via Elgin as our only option, increasing congestion in the already busy roads there and adding 20 to 30 minutes onto journeys for work and leisure. This is something we do not want to see happen and we are looking for assurances that every measure is being taken to protect this route for our community.

In 2020, a weight restriction notice and traffic lights were put in place. This reduced the weight from 26 tonnes to 7.5 after inspection found defective joints.

We are further aware that the bridge was originally scheduled for a £7 Million replacement in 2024 and now 2 years on nothing has happened we assume because of budgetary restrictions? Clarification on this would be helpful please.

We would wish to ask what measures, if any, have been put in place to ensure that HGV's and coaches are not using the bridge. We have reason to believe, from eye witness accounts, that heavy vehicles continue to use the bridge thus potentially causing further damage to the structure. If this is indeed the case, it gives cause for further concern.

We have, since Friday, had some discussion about what could be done to stop this happening and one of our members suggested that a camera be put up and number recognition used to impose a fine on any vehicle using the bridge over 7.5 tonnes? Large fines might help stop this happening and would help pay repairs."

We asked the councillors to pursue this as as yet we have had no response to Carolle's letter above. She will also wrote to the chief executive.

St Gerardine's church

Carolle has had several meetings and discussions about the artifacts from the kirk in particular the Drainie Memorial and the Kinneddar Pillar. It is likely that Rebecca Russell will be able to look after them until we get a long term plan in place.

It was agreed we needed to clarify ownership of the artifacts and discuss insurance if we would be liable or not.

Red Squirrels

Concern has been expressed by members of the public to us and to our elected members that several of these protected species have been killed on the Inchbroom Road. We have been advised by planning that the developer no longer needs to build a squirrel bridge across the road because of a change in plans submitted several years ago.

The meeting agreed we needed to do what we could to protect this special creature and Dave undertook to write to Nature Scot and the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrel group for advice.

West Beach Seawall

Maureen has written to Will Burnish about the hole on the revetment which she has also circulated photographs demonstrating the sandbags now uncovered and further damage to the barrier. She is concerned about the coastal path and the fact it is also dangerous. Will advised her that there would be no budget in the coming next financial year and it would be April 2027 before work could be done. The meeting agreed to go and visit the site to gather further information before deciding on what to do.

Mural

Is covered in black foam after the bad weather last week, Carolle tried to remove some of it but it may need a brush. She has written to Marc for advice before we attempt to clean it.

Group Updates

LCDT

Alison said draft copy of MKA report has been received today but not yet had time to read it. Small amount of money granted from Moray Health and Wellbeing Fund.

Councillors update

Nothing to report other than some discussion about the rubbish going to Aberdeen to save landfill tax locally and also the future of the recycling depot in Lossie is still uncertain.

Community Councillor Matters

Discussion on the sports centre user group which Lily attended on our behalf. Meeting agreed that we needed to encourage numbers attending swimming pool and also quereid the use of Moray Engage as a tool to obtain feedback. Councillor Cameron agreed to contact MC and

ask how well it was used. Continued issues about lack of parking there is undoubtedly affecting users of the facilities.

Treasurer's Update:

Nothing to report, toilets will be opening soon and we will have increased expenses soon.

Planning Issues: Marian raised concerns that there is an ongoing saga about an application which had complaints and apparently the evidence of this can no longer be found on the MC Planning system. She also noted that we don't always think we are receiving all applications as buildings appear we knew nothing about. Councillor Cameron said he would look into this matter.

Malcolm Campbell from Laich of Moray Active Travel Route then joined the meeting.

Malcolm said the fundamental longstanding issue with the route moving forward has been the Moray Golf Club. He noted that he had had contact with the new general manager at the Moray Golf Club. He was hopeful of meeting with him and the new Captain and Vice Captain in the coming two weeks.

He said what was proposed was only a minor realignment of the hole on the golf course and if it could be agreed that would take the project forward at last.

Apparently there is to be some change of holes near Silversands due to the proximity of caravans and increased complaints.

They really need more members on board and also better links with community groups as they apply for funding in the future.

Malcolm agreed it was important to keep up the social media side of the project to ensure people know they are still working hard.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 16 March on zoom