



Date: 8 September 2026
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Ace Winches Suite, Buckie Thistle Football Ground, Buckie
Attendees: Ann Mitchell (AM), Alison Durno (AD), Treasurer - Daska Murray (DM), Co-chair Neilian Toms (NT), Secretary - Sharon Innes (SI), Co-Chair Richard Simpson (RS), Cllr. Sonya Warren (SW), Mark Bayliss (MB) Police Inspector, Police Scotland,
Apologies: Christine Allan (CA),
Pubic present: Dougall Simpson (DS) on behalf of himself

Minutes of Meeting

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions	Everyone welcomed NT chaired the meeting. Noted that RI was absent with no apologies	
2. Meeting protocol	Visitors are made aware via agenda that meetings are recorded electronically for the purpose of supporting minute-taking, with recordings erased thereafter.	
3. Approval of previous meetings minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment by DM and AM. All attendees in agreement.	
4. Treasurers Report	SI and NT approved Financial Procedures document presented by DM. All attendees in agreement. All agreed that remaining Linzee Gordon funds shall be transferred to Moray Council towards replacement of football goals. Balance 31 st August 2026 £22,663.04. Breakdown available on treasurer update	
Guests	Police Report and Community Policing Police Report MB discussed the updated police report format. Members considered the revised layout to be much clearer and more useful than the previous version, particularly the inclusion of	

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	preventative advice and information relevant to the community. Members particularly welcomed the preventative content, including advice intended to reduce risks such as vehicle theft and burglary. It was agreed that the report would be useful to share more widely with the community, subject to confirmation of what information could be made public. Detailed operational information and specific drug-related figures may need to be excluded or presented at an appropriate level. Action: Explore whether an appropriate version of the police report can be published on the Community Council website. Police Presence and Anti-Social Behaviour Members raised concerns regarding: • Reduced public access to Buckie Police Station. • Difficulties contacting the station directly. • Anti-social behaviour occurring during the night. • The community's uncertainty about who to contact when incidents are serious but not necessarily emergencies. MB explained that Buckie continues to have officer coverage seven days a week, but the front office is not staffed 24 hours a day. Staffing levels are constrained by available resources and budgets. For an ongoing incident involving violence or an immediate emergency, the appropriate route is 999. Members discussed whether clearer communication about police contact arrangements could be provided to residents. Mental Health and Police Resources The meeting discussed the pressure placed on police resources by mental-health-related incidents and the limited availability of appropriate support services. It was noted that police mental-health training is limited and that officers frequently have to respond to situations involving vulnerable people where other support is difficult to access.	SI

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	Police Scotland works with Penumbra through a referral/support arrangement intended to provide longer-term assistance to people experiencing mental-health difficulties. Future Police Attendance MB advised that he intends to remain in the area for a longer period, providing greater continuity, and that a Sergeant will be allocated to cover Buckie and attend Community Council meetings where possible. If a Sergeant is unavailable, a Constable may attend instead. It was agreed that police attendance at every meeting is not necessary, but that the Community Council should provide a route for residents' concerns and feedback to reach the police. Action: Police/community issues raised through the Community Council should be collated and passed to the attending officer for follow-up. Weeds, Street Maintenance and Community Clean-Up A substantial discussion took place regarding the condition of pavements, verges, roundabouts and public spaces. Concerns included: • Significant weed growth. • Weeds along pavements and around roundabouts. • Grass cuttings being left on paths. • Accumulation of leaves and debris. • Lack of clarity over responsibility for maintaining certain areas. • The cost and practical difficulties of community volunteers undertaking large-scale maintenance. • Disposal of waste generated by volunteer work. Members felt that the issue affects the appearance of the town and contributes to a perception of neglect. Community Approach	SI

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	The meeting considered a community-led approach, rather than attempting to clean the whole town in one operation. The suggestion was to divide the town into manageable areas and encourage residents and local groups to undertake short, focused clean-up sessions. The experience of Portgordon, where community clean-up activities have been organised as enjoyable community events, was cited as a positive example. Potential involvement was discussed with: • Buckie Roots. • Local community groups. • Schools. • Youth organisations. • Brownies/Cadets and similar groups. • The Men's Shed. • Other local clubs and volunteers. The possibility of arranging council collection of waste generated through organised community clean-ups was also discussed. Actions: 1. Contact relevant council/community contacts regarding waste collection arrangements. 2. Establish what areas are currently maintained by the Council and/or Buckie Roots. 3. Explore a partnership approach for community clean-up activities. 4. Investigate successful approaches used by other communities. 5. Consider a twice-yearly concentrated maintenance programme.	SI AM ALL ALL
5.Open Business	No update on Little Norway Project Community Website and Communication The new BDCC website was discussed.	SW

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	The website is substantially ready, although there were difficulties accessing the administrative account and passwords. The email system has been established and the website is awaiting final confirmation/approval. The website is intended to become a central source of: • Community information. • Police updates. • Consultation information. • Local projects and initiatives. • Maps and QR-code-linked information. • Community notices. Action: Resolve the outstanding website login/access issue and complete the website setup. Community Notice Boards An update was provided on the proposed community notice boards. Three potential locations were discussed, including: • Linzee Gordon park • Buckpool Square. • The harbour area to catch tourists cruise/bus tours Permission/location issues remain to be clarified. Moray Council has requested notification of the precise location and installation arrangements. The possibility of relocating existing notice boards rather than purchasing entirely new ones was also discussed. Members agreed that the boards should primarily function as community notice boards, rather than solely as tourist information boards, and should be used for local events and community issues. Action: Confirm suitable locations, permissions and installation arrangements and progress procurement/relocation Progress Tracker	DM, SI & NT CT SI

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	An Excel-based progress tracker has been created with separate sections for projects such as tourism and the dog park. The intention is for members to update the tracker as work progresses so that actions do not have to be repeatedly discussed from the beginning at each meeting. A shared location such as Dropbox was suggested to allow members to access and update the document. Action: Continue developing the shared action/progress tracker and ensure members can access and update it.	ALL
6. New Business	Potential Industrial/Biogas Development Concerns were raised regarding the possibility of a proposed industrial/biogas development being considered in the wider area. It was noted that a previous proposal elsewhere (Elgin 23/00709/APP) had been refused and that the developer may now be considering alternative locations. Members expressed concern regarding: • The visual impact of large industrial infrastructure. • Heavy vehicle movements. • Potential impacts on residents. • The use of agricultural land. • Environmental and transport implications. The discussion reinforced the perceived importance of completing a Local Place Plan so that community priorities and land-use preferences are formally documented. Action: Continue gathering information and ensure relevant community concerns are considered as part of the Local Place Plan process. Local Place Plan / Local Development Plan	ALL

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	The preparation of a Local Place Plan was identified as an important priority for Buckie. The discussion highlighted that a Local Place Plan could provide the community with a formal opportunity to influence future development and planning decisions. Members discussed: • Protecting important green and agricultural areas. • Future housing requirements. • Housing suitable for older residents. • Town-centre regeneration. • Retail development. • Accessibility. • Dog-walking facilities. • Transport and road infrastructure. • Community facilities. • The future use of existing sites rather than continual development of new land. The importance of having community priorities documented before planning applications arise was emphasised. It was noted that an accepted Local Place Plan can become a material consideration in planning decisions. Preparation and Consultation The group discussed using existing Local Place Plans from other communities as examples. Cullen and Deskford were identified as having produced a useful example. There was also discussion about involving FAB DT (Susan) and potentially obtaining professional assistance to help produce the plan. Members agreed that broad community consultation would be essential and that schools and younger residents should be encouraged to participate. Actions: 1. Obtain and circulate examples of completed Local Place Plans, Portgordon and Cullen 2. Speak with relevant community development/planning contacts.	NT ALL

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	3. Investigate whether professional support or funding is available, TSI may be able to assist. 4. Develop a consultation process for the Buckie community. 5. Identify key priorities to be included in the plan.	DM ALL ALL
7. Sub-committee reports and plans	Dog Park Consultation The dog park consultation is currently underway and runs until 31 October 2026. The consultation began on 31 August. Members reported strong community engagement, including approximately 179 online responses at the time of the meeting, with approximately 88.8% recorded as being in favour. There has also been interest from people volunteering to: • Join a steering committee. • Assist with future maintenance. The consultation was regarded as a useful model for future Community Council consultations, including the Local Place Plan. RS noted that Aberchirder have received £110k from Just Transition fund which covers a range of topics which may be relevant for Dog park progressing. Tourism / Cruise Ships An update was provided on cruise-ship visits. Two dates were discussed for 2027 including: • Tues 29th June – passengers expected to come ashore and participate in tours. • Sat 10th July – vessel expected to remain overnight, with passengers not expected to come ashore. There may be two or three additional visits, with dates to be confirmed.	

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	Members discussed the importance of receiving earlier notification of cruise visits and establishing appropriate arrangements for welcoming visitors. A possible welcome arrangement involving a table, water and small gifts was discussed. Action: Continue liaising with the relevant cruise contact and obtain advance information on future visits. Future Use of Merson Park The meeting discussed future arrangements for Merson park and associated facilities, including the retention of the Council-controlled play area and potential development/use of surrounding land by Buckie Community Sports Hub. Members identified a number of outstanding questions concerning: • Future car parking. • Football facilities. • Maintenance responsibilities. • Dog walking. • Youth development. • The relationship between community groups and Council responsibilities. It was agreed that relevant parties should be invited to a future meeting to answer outstanding questions. Action: Invite Michael Coull representative of Buckie Community Sports Hub to a future meeting. Linzee Gordon Park football goals The meeting discussed proposed changes to football goals at Linzee Gordon park to use remaining funds from playpark development. Concerns were raised about:	AM AD

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	• The proposed location and orientation of new goals. • Potential impact on neighbouring properties. • Safety issues, particularly proximity to roads. • Whether like-for-like replacement would be more appropriate. • Existing drainage/flooding problems within the park. Members supported replacement of unsafe/broken equipment but expressed a preference for retaining a suitable layout and avoiding unnecessary additional costs. Action: Follow up with the relevant parks officer, Grant Speed, to obtain clarification on the proposed layout and keep the Community Council informed. All agreed that remaining Linzee Gordon funds, £262.86 shall be transferred to Moray Council towards replacement of football goals.	DM DM
AOB	Common Good Fund – Rubbish Bins Three rubbish bins were identified as requiring replacement/upgrading. Concerns were raised that existing bins allow rubbish to be blown out by the wind, creating additional litter and cleaning requirements. Bins with pest guards were suggested as a more suitable replacement. The possibility of using the Common Good Fund to finance replacement bins was discussed. Action: Establish whether Common Good funding can be used for replacement bins and identify priority locations.	DM
Next Meeting	Tuesday 13 th October 2026 at Ace Winches Suite 6.30pm	AD

Community Council meeting closed at 21.00 hrs.