



Date: 11 March 2025

Time: 6pm

Venue: Ace Winches, Victoria Park, Buckie

Attendees: Ann Mitchell (AM), Alison Durno (AD), Treasurer - Christine Allan (CA), Secretary - Daska Murray (DM), Holly Mayne-Garrow (HMG), Cllr. John Stuart, Meghan Skene (MS), Cllr. Neil McLennan, Chair - Peter West (PW), Richard Simpson (RS), Ross Ingram (RI), Cllr. Sonya Warren (SW)

Apologies: None

Public Present: Douglas Milton (DMi), Graham Pirie (GP), Helen Wilson (HW), Martin Wilson (MW), Scott Farquhar (SF), Shaw Lindsay (SL)

Minutes of Meeting

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
Welcome and apologies	PW opened the meeting.	
Visitor's questions/ comments	PW acknowledged receipt of comprehensive information from SF relating to the Acorn bio digester in advance of the meeting. Community members highlighted key concerns about the proposal's impact. This included traffic volumes and types (tractors/trailers), seasonal fluctuations, the sites proximity to the settlement, potential future expansion and odours from the facility but also the transport and storage of manure, particularly in warm weather. PW noted that a tour of an existing plant had been mentioned, but the community were not aware of this. It was also indicated that there would be an injector facility, and gas would probably need to be transported which would further increase traffic. There were also concerns about sample disparity. Currently the plant are not planning on processing food waste. The facility would create 4 jobs and provide an annual community benefit fund of £20k. PW encouraged ongoing information sharing ahead of the planning application submission. The public present left the meeting.	
Sub-committee report and plans	<p>Linzee Gordon Playpark - HMG and MS provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of £41,471.85 raised so far. • Upcoming coffee morning on 22 March. Strong support for raffle donations. Ticket sales to be launched on Friday. PW suggested sharing a poster for the Facebook page as well as the noticeboard. • Met Tracey Rae and Sarah Campbell. Can now seek indicative quotes in order to support funding applications. This will also mean that plans can be shared with the community. • Blue tokens at Tesco ends this month. • CA offered to share information from the TSI funding application course. • Tracey Rae has offered to support the group with some funding applications. Some organisations have been unable to support the 	<p>HMG/MS</p> <p>CA</p>

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	<p>project due to being on common good land, but additional attempts may be made as they are near the fundraising target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PW suggested attending the community group gathering on 20 March. <p>Resilience - PW remains hopeful that the community group meeting might help identify or recruit volunteers. PW appealed again for support and ideas as there has been minimal interest from the community. AM, AD, CA, RS and PW agreed to set a date for a separate meeting.</p> <p>Buckie Town Development Group - There is potential to create more activity in the community to benefit local businesses. RS, PW and SW agreed to set a meeting date and extend invitations to local businesses. The meeting discussed the benefit of transporting people across the area so they can enjoy a wider area.</p>	<p>AM/AD/CA /RS/PW</p> <p>RS/PW/SW</p>
Representation on external groups and committees	<p>PW inquired whether any community councillors represent the community council on any local groups as there was no documentation on this available. Some members are involved with other groups, but as individuals rather than community council representatives.</p> <p>PW emphasised the importance that the community council has input at an earlier stage, but also to be clearer on the remit and objectives of other groups and be informed on what is going on in the community.</p> <p>NM noted that some community groups have statutory links or links to Moray Council's strategic plans and suggested inviting the relevant officers who support these functions to a future meeting. PW agreed this would be useful, but noted a broader issue of communication gaps between the groups themselves. There is confusion around the remit of other groups and clarity is needed in order to signpost the community. It was also hoped that the community gathering would improve this situation. NM suggested it may be worthwhile having an independent person chair the gathering.</p>	
Matters arising	No matters arising.	
Community feedback	<p>Buckie Community High School – PW addressed community concerns regarding the lack of funding for maintenance and upgrades at the high school, as well as fears of potential closure. While there is no current indication of closure, a report is due to be presented to the Education Committee in May. Learning estate consultations did not include Buckie High, as plans for an upgrade were in place at that time. Despite funding concerns, learning attainment remains high. A public meeting will be organised with the interim Chief Executive and Andy Hall from Moray Council invited to clarify the situation and explain their recruitment plans for the head teacher.</p> <p>JS left the meeting.</p>	PW

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Elected Councillors	<p>Communication - There was a discussion about the benefits of sharing information between elected members and the community council. PW noted that the 'Democracy Matters' session had highlighted that many community councils felt unsupported. To prevent this from becoming an issue in future, PW emphasised the importance of maintaining strong connections and also the importance of elected members attending community council meetings.</p> <p>Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget – 10% increase in council tax agreed. NM felt it was important to get messages out relating to sources of financial support. • Buckie High School - NM and PW met to discuss Buckie High School and noted that security concerns had been addressed at the building. NM has also written to the Chief Executive seeking a meeting about the future of the school and awaits a response. • Roads updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Road policing units have been in Rathven following speeding concerns. There will also be a reduction in the speed limit to a 40pmh, where previously it went from a 60mph into a 40mph and back to a 60mph. ○ Gates knocked over by a bus at March Road have been removed. ○ NM and JS will propose that Findochty becomes a 20mph. ○ McLarens Brae is closed for repair. ○ Updates have been issued around the Bowling club road. ○ Linzee Gordon – issues reported with sunken ironwork and a large pot hole. • Policing updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parking – councillors supported funding to increase enforcement following concerns around inconsiderate/unsafe parking from businesses and the emergency services. NM noted this was additional resource and no one was taken away from other work. Mixed feedback received; businesses were benefiting from increased footfall but some felt that a slightly longer one hour restriction would be more appropriate for certain businesses such as hairdressers and dental appointments. PW intends on following up on the parking sign quotes for the nearby car parks. It was noted that it may be worth considering extending the restriction to include Cluny Square. SW noted over 80 tickets were issued and felt positive PR was needed around working together to address parking issues. ○ There was a discussion around CCTV. ○ There was drug related police activity over the weekend. 	PW

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluny Square – SW advised there has been discussions around heritage based design features and it was hoped the seating would be installed by the summer holidays. • Noticeboard – NM shared positive feedback but some suggested reinstating the map or possibly a more modern version with QR codes. PW explained that while decisions were still to be made, it was intended that the front would be for community council business and the back could be for others to use. PW intended on putting back in the map but it takes up a large area of the board and thought one option could be to add the map to the website. PW noted that minutes were also in the noticeboard, but that it may be a better use of space to include a summary on the noticeboard and signposting to the library for the full version although it would need to be considered who would pay for the printing. • SW reinforced the importance of the submitting a response to significant planning consultations, even if “no comment”, so that elected members are clear on the community council’s position. PW will check with Neal MacPherson in planning if correct contact details are being used as it was not clear if some correspondence was received about the application in question which was out of the ward but would have been relevant. • SW noted the cost of all road repairs in Moray stands at £76 million yet there is just a £3.6m budget allocated, therefore constant re-prioritisation is inevitably taking place. Setting the budget has been particularly challenging, with rising costs adding further pressure to maintain existing services. DM raised community concerns about the inability to pay for brown bin permits in instalments. However, as this is a non-statutory service, no payment plan mechanism is currently in place. 	PW
Treasurer’s report	<p>Ahead of the meeting PW issued the new financial summary. A copy of the financial summary will be included with the minutes. The new account for online banking is now approved, the funds from the old account will be transferred across shortly.</p>	
Community engagement	<p>Cost of living - new information/actions being undertaken CA informed the meeting that Dave the Chef, from the community lunches, is running free confidence to cook sessions. PW suggested promoting these on the Facebook page/website/noticeboard to increase awareness.</p> <p>Website (buckiecc.org) – PW urged continued sharing of information/ ideas.</p>	
Community council groups, sub-committees & initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JCC – a sub committee will form to look at how to prepare for the upcoming elections in October. Efforts will focus on sharing information to encourage new representation. • LOIP – The most recent meeting on 4 March covered updates on the Cluny Square project and the upcoming community group meeting. Unfortunately, the SSE funding application was unsuccessful. However, another funding source secured a digital 	

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	<p>jobs board, now available in the hub. Additional funding was also approved to reflect increased food prices so the confidence to cook sessions could go ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money for Moray – Discussions on Year 4 have taken place with NESCAN and TSIs from Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, and Moray. Confidence remains high that the initiative will proceed, with preparations underway for the Scottish Government. The aim is to launch earlier to allow groups more time to apply. The Girl Guides also received £1,200 for the youth participatory budgeting initiative. • Harbour Advisory – Discussions included the future of the old pilot boat and the closure of the North Pier due to a trip hazard. The Harbour Masterplan was reviewed, including potential changes to the mooring structure to accommodate more small boats. Parking remains a concern. The weighbridge installation has been delayed until April 11. The dredger is currently out of service due to a parts shortage, with hopes for a resolution soon. • BAF – The forum met on 12 February, with NHS representatives attending to confirm that Seafield and Muirton are not at risk of closure. Concerns were also raised about the significant travel distances required for residents to access cancer treatment and vaccinations. 	
Planning application responses	PW will make sure that planning applications are being received and ask if it is possible to break it down a bit more to flag significant planning applications that are likely to be relevant.	PW
Correspondence to note	PW is in discussion with Findochty, Cullen and Lennox Community Councils to encourage communication between the groups regularly.	
AOCB	Technology / AI – DM has researched various AI-driven note-taking solutions but favours the iFlytek system due to its built-in note-taking capabilities and the absence of ongoing subscription costs associated with other options. While there are some limitations to the version of AI software that are not entirely clear, the system includes a 30-day trial period for evaluation. The estimated cost is approximately £520, which includes a case, pen, and additional pen nibs. However, DM intends on following this up after encountering difficulties completing the purchase due to the bank repeatedly blocking the payment.	DM
Date/venue of next meeting	The next meeting is scheduled for 8 April 2025 at 6 pm in the Community Lounge at Buckie Community High School. It was confirmed that in future meetings will be held at this venue which is free of charge.	All to Note

Community Council meeting closed at 21:35 hrs.

I declare this is a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Sign/initial:

PW

DM

Date:

23/03/2025

23/03/2025