



**Date:** 8 April 2025  
**Time:** 6pm  
**Venue:** Community Room, Buckie High School  
**Attendees:** Ann Mitchell (AM), Alison Durno (AD), Christine Allan (CA), Secretary - Daska Murray (DM), Holly Mayne-Garrow (HMG), Meghan Skene (MS), Chair - Peter West (PW), Richard Simpson (RS), Treasurer - Ross Ingram (RI), Cllr. Sonya Warren (SW)  
**Apologies:** Allan Paterson (AP), Cllr. John Stuart (JS), Cllr. Neil McLennan (NM)  
**Public Present:** Fraser Hay (FH), Helen Sharp (HS)

### Minutes of Meeting

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	PW opened the meeting and noted apologies.	
<b>Visitor's questions/ comments</b>	<p>FH and HS attended the meeting to raise issues at the Yardie (refer to <b>Appendix 1</b>), a designated conservation area. They described a lengthy history of contact with Moray Council regarding an unsafe pavement, without any permanent resolution. FH highlighted breaches of the Nolan Principles and failures in public duty. Several injuries have occurred yet no risk assessments or permanent repairs have been undertaken. Access to the community seating area is restricted.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised about lack of accountability and poor communication, confusion around responsibility and the inappropriate resetting of Freedom of Information records. There are further concerns about costal erosion and inadequate drainage since the road was resurfaced. Residents expressed that Buckie is routinely neglected in terms of funding and prioritisation when compared to other areas. SW acknowledged that budget constraints are forcing difficult decisions.</p> <p>FH has brought these matters to the attention of Karen Adams MSP. PW offered to consider how best to represent this matter with SW and requested FH submit a chronology and supporting documentation.</p>	PW/SW
<b>Sub-committee report and plans</b>	<p><b>Linzee Gordon Playpark</b> – HMG and MS provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of £61,000 has now been raised.</li> <li>• The coffee morning and raffle raised £4,600.</li> <li>• A landfill application has been successful, securing £15,000.</li> <li>• Awaiting the outcome of the Tesco tokens.</li> <li>• New grant opportunities have opened since 1 April. A meeting has been scheduled with Tracey Rae who will assist with applications. Although only one quote has been obtained so far, it will be useful in progressing new applications.</li> <li>• Letters will be issued to potential supporters/following up on leads.</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>Too Cute Baby Bank</b> – MS highlighted that the baby bank was at risk of closing. Following discussions with the owner, it has been agreed that the initiative will continue as a new subgroup of the Community Council, operating under the same name. Around 8 other volunteers have been recruited and will meet to develop a strategy. Temporary premises have been secured until an alternative can be found.</p> <p><b>Resilience</b> – the plan is almost complete, pending confirmation from potential venues identified. Once finalised, the next step will be considering how to make use of the fund to support the plan.</p> <p><b>Buckie Community Growth Group</b> – the group have met and are exploring one idea, which is to establish a farmer’s type market.</p> <p><b>Buckpool Harbour Community Group</b> – it has been agreed the group will also become a new subgroup of the community council. There are plans to remove the padlock from the noticeboards and make use of it jointly.</p>	
<b>Upcoming elections</b>	<p>Ahead of the meeting, PW had issued a community council health check document. While it was acknowledged the document contained a substantial amount of information, particularly for volunteers, PW emphasised that the responsibilities outlined are shared across the group.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the upcoming elections, including how to attract and train high-quality community councillors. PW suggested that a formal induction process would be beneficial, especially for new members, and noted that the document provides a strong starting point for identifying training needs.</p> <p>Community councillors were asked to review the document individually and provide feedback or highlight areas where further support or information is required.</p>	ALL
<b>Matters arising</b>	<p><b>Walking and Cycling Sign</b> – CA queried the proposed sign following contact with the graphic designer. PW questioned whether this was the best use of funds, prompting a wider discussion on whether it might be better to delay for future projects. It was agreed to defer the decision to the next meeting for further consideration.</p> <p><b>Buckie Community High School</b> – PW awaits information on when the public meeting with the new Chief Executive will be held.</p> <p><b>AI Device</b> – DM now has the tablet to support minute taking.</p> <p><b>Local Community Councils Meeting</b> – Findochty and Cullen Community Councils attended a meeting with PW, which was seen as a positive step toward strengthening communication and collaboration between groups.</p>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Community Groups Gathering</b> – Feedback on the event was mixed. Some felt the format meant lack of interaction between tables and limited interaction due to group members being seated together. It was</p>	

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	discussed whether it might be more effective to run similar events independently in future, in smaller groups or on an individual basis. While some felt the event was well attended, PW was keen to find out why broader representation was lacking, noting that only 12 attendees were from groups outside the three main groups.	
<b>Elected Councillors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SW noted the Longmorn application hearing is taking place which might be of interest in light of the recent Acorn application.</li> <li>Concerns have been raised about the use of a Council house as an office and resulting damage to resident's vehicles.</li> </ul>	
<b>Treasurer's report</b>	<p>Funds have been transferred to the new RBS account from the old Bank of Scotland account which will now be closed. It will be considered whether to separate the accounts in due course.</p> <p>The financial statement shows an overall closing balance of £54,138.18 to 8 April 2025, which is detailed within <b>Appendix 2</b>.</p>	
<b>Community engagement</b>	<p><b>Cost of living - new information/actions being undertaken</b> CA advised that free events for parents/children are taking place over the holidays in the Fishermen's Hall and Portessie Hall.</p> <p><b>Website (<a href="http://buckiecc.org">buckiecc.org</a>)</b> – PW has added information on the baby bank and resilience planning. RS queried if figures are available on website tracking but PW explained that for WordPress these are plug ins at additional cost. DM queried if it was possible to improve visibility in search engines. PW will consider this at a later stage, along with publicity in general.</p>	
<b>Planning application responses</b>	<p><b>5 bedroom HMO</b> proposed for Cluny Square. RS declared a potential conflict of interest due to a family connection with the applicant. It was debated whether this would result in further parking pressures, but some also felt that more footfall in the centre is positive. There was a discussion on how best to gather feedback from the community on planning applications, making use of Facebook and the Website. It was agreed to submit a no comment response since no objections were known.</p> <p><b>Parking signage:</b> PW is in discussions with Moray Council about reviewing the placement of parking signage to car parks and improving visibility of restrictions e.g. relocating signs to lampposts.</p> <p><b>Inchgower development sign</b> – It was noted that signage for the development has been installed despite the planning application not yet being approved. It was agreed that PW would highlight this to the planning department.</p>	<p>PW</p> <p>PW</p>

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
<b>Community council groups, sub-committees &amp; initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>JCC</b> – NO meeting has taken place other than a brief meeting about planning for the elections. Next JCC meeting is scheduled for 8 May.</li> <li>• <b>LOIP</b> – Cluny Square project was discussed. RS confirmed that Moray Council advised there are no temporary benches that could be provided until the benches are installed by June at the earliest. PW advised that the project has space for three benches, but four have been ordered. A location will need to be identified for the fourth bench based on community feedback. PW will circulate information by email.</li> <li>• <b>Money for Moray</b> – Request into Scottish Government for Just Transition Participatory Budget Funding. A celebration event will be held on 11 May in Lhanbryde.</li> <li>• There have been no meetings of the Harbour Advisory and the Buckie Area Forum since the previous meeting.</li> </ul>	PW
<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CA advised the rededication of the monument taking place on Saturday is open to the public.</li> <li>• RS highlighted concerns about the condition of the old harbour sea wall but will take the discussion offline and share the details with PW. This also has a history of having been raised with Moray Council.</li> <li>• AD advised the other group is no longer considering a lottery. A AM has experience in applying for gambling licences. AD and AM will prepare a proposal, including costings and an implementation plan, for consideration at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	RS  AD/AM
<b>Date/venue of next meeting</b>	<p>PW advised that the remaining meeting dates for the year will be added to the community noticeboard and can also be shared as a pinned post on Facebook. This will help avoid the need for separate monthly notifications.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 13 May 2025 at 6 pm in the Community Lounge at Buckie Community High School.</p>	DM/PW

Community Council meeting closed at 20:50 hrs.

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

Sign/initial:

PW

DM

Date:

22/04/2025

22/04/2025

## **2-Minute Statement: The Yardie, the Seven Nolan Principles, and the Unanswered Public Duty**

Chair, Councillors, and members of the community,

Forgive me, my purpose here is not to criticise—but to clarify. I speak with respect, documentation, and principle. As a resident of Yardie, I stand not just for myself, but also on behalf of neighbours who value public safety, environmental stewardship, and trust in local governance.

For years, Yardie residents—and lately, myself—have submitted emails, photographs, FOIs, and formal concerns about the deteriorating sea wall and walkway in this designated conservation area. I've logged safety hazards, flooding, erosion, and even the removal of a community bench. And the response?

**A fence.**

**A cone.**

And a silence louder than the storm waves breaching the wall.

This is not about blame. It's about principle—and that principle is enshrined in the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life, which all public officials, including council officers, are legally and ethically bound to uphold (Committee on Standards in Public Life, 2021).

With your permission, I'd like to ask seven questions—one for each principle—and I invite that the answers be guided not by opinion, but by evidence.

### **1. Selflessness**

*"Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest."*

Why did Lossiemouth receive a fully funded Coastal Change Adaptation Plan, while Yardie, facing similar risks, still has no visible plan, no public report, and no investment commitment?

If the public interest is truly the priority—what justifies this disparity?

References: Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960; Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.

### **2. Integrity**

*"Public officials must avoid obligations or influences that could compromise their responsibilities."*

When emails and safety concerns are met with vague or unsigned replies, how can we be sure that decisions are free from hidden influence, internal constraints, or avoidance?

If no one will sign their name—who takes responsibility for Buckie's infrastructure? Reference: Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

### 3. Objectivity

*“Decisions should be based on evidence, not preference.”*

What written criteria were used to deprioritise Yardie—despite trip hazards, injuries, and conservation status?

If safety and documentation exist—what justifies four years of inaction?

Reference: Equality Act 2010 – obligation to apply consistent safety standards.

### 4. Accountability

*“Public officials must submit to scrutiny.”*

Why did the FOI of 28 November 2024 exceed the statutory 20-day deadline?

Why were follow-up questions reclassified as new FOIs, resetting the clock? Why are there still no maintenance logs, incident records, or inspection outcomes, despite known hazards?

Is this transparent governance—or procedural deflection?

References: FOISA 2002, Section 10(1); Scottish Information Commissioner guidance.

### 5. Openness

*“Public decisions must be open to scrutiny and accessible to the public.”*

If the sea wall is failing, and the Speyside Way is impacted, why is there no published structural report or plan?

Is Yardie the only area in Buckie affected—or just the one where questions are being asked?

Reference: Scottish Government Records Management Code of Practice; FOISA 2002.

### 6. Honesty

*“Public officials should be truthful.”*

If one email blames Scottish Water, and another contradicts it...

If one states repairs are scheduled, and the next denies it...

If poor drainage and surfacing are visibly unresolved—which version is true?

When public statements conflict, trust erodes.

Implication: Contradiction may constitute misfeasance in public office.

### 7. Leadership

*“Public officials should uphold these standards through example.”* Has any officer stood before this community and said:

“We take responsibility for Yardie’s safety—and here’s our plan”?

In the absence of leadership, how can residents believe they’re being heard—not just logged and filed?

## Final Reflection

If these seven questions had been answered clearly, publicly, and in principle—would I still be standing here, four years and many emails later?

I do not seek sympathy.

I do not seek favours.

I seek scrutiny.

Not as accusation, but as accountability.

And hands up—if I've misquoted anything, or got any fact wrong, I'll gladly correct it. An FOI or review of my correspondence with the council will confirm the key facts.

I may be wrong. But I believe public service should mean just that: service to the public.

Thank you.

Fraser Hay

## In Summary For Councillors

- **Ongoing risks** to public safety, infrastructure, and coastal access at Yardie have been documented for over **four years**.
- **Multiple emails, FOIs, and formal reports** have been submitted—yet clear action, response, or visible plan remains absent.
- **Lossiemouth has received strategic investment and planning** for similar risks; Yardie has not.
- The situation is now examined through the lens of the **Seven Nolan Principles**, which all public officials are duty-bound to uphold.
- **Seven fair, evidence-based questions** are posed—not to criticise, but to encourage accountability, consistency, and transparency.
- Relevant legislation includes the **Occupiers' Liability Act 1960, FOISA 2002, Planning and Conservation laws**, and the **Equality Act 2010**.
- This is a **principled civic request**, not a complaint—offered in good faith, with openness to correction and shared learning.
- **The community deserves clear answers**, visible leadership, and action—not silence or procedural deflection.
- If internal leadership is unwilling or unable to address these questions, the case may warrant **external review** (e.g., SPSO, Audit Scotland).
- Above all, this is a call for **fairness, openness, and service to the public**—not just in Yardie, but across Buckie.

## APPENDIX 2

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR				BUCKIE & DISTRICT		COMMUNITY COUNCIL	
Income/ Expenditure Account for period		01.10.2024			to	30.09.2025	
		Accrued to 11/2/2025					
Admin A/C		Balance Brought Forward				46885.33	
Income	Opening Balance		Income '24/25'	Expenditure	Current Balance		
Administration Grant from Moray	8,061.60		602.39	3,018.10	5,645.89		
Linzee Gordon Donations	11,969.39		19,612.56		31,581.95		
Walking leaflet	419.6			0.00	419.60		
Resilience	9317.74				9,317.74		
to reconcile							
letterfourie	10000			10000	0.00		
sids signage	5000				5,000.00		
nhs funding	2061				2,061.00		
Cash Float	56				56.00		
Other			0.00	0.00		20,214.95	
	46,885.33		20,214.95		54,082.18	67,100.28	
Expenditure [sample headings]	Admin grant YTD	Other YTD					
Upkeep of CC flowering barrels	100.00						
Room hire	175.00						
Auditor/Independent Examiner's	0.00						
Travel Expenses	87.20						
IT costs (Website)	0.00						
One.com fee	0.00						
Stationery	0.00						
Telephone and mobile Costs	0.00						
Honoraria	1,119.95						
Bank charges	13.25						
Publicity, promotional, ceremonial	1,522.70						
Letterfourie Park			10,000.00				
Resilience	0.00						
	0.00						
To recobile	0.00						
Total Admin	3,018.10						
	0.00						
	0.00						
	0.00						
Publication of agendas & minutes	0.00						
Walking & Cycling Path Leaflets &	0.00						
Consultations	0.00						
Active School Project	0.00						
	3,018.10		10,000.00			13,018.10	
		Bank Surplus				54,082.18	
Cash in Hand (Treasurers float)						56.00	
		Closing Balance				54,138.18	

As prepared by	



## APPENDIX 2

General A/C					Balance Brought Forward	1556.07
Income	Opening Balance		Income '24/25'	Expenditure	Current Balance	
Donations	0.00		623.04	0.00	623.04	
Other			0.00	0.00		2,179.11
	0.00		623.04		623.04	2,179.11
Expenditure						
	0.00		0.00			0.00
					Bank Surplus	2,179.11