



Date: 11 February 2025
 Time: 6pm
 Venue: Ace Winches, Victoria Park, Buckie
 Attendees: Ann Mitchell (AM), Alison Durno (AD), Beverly Wood (BW),
 Treasurer - Christine Allan (CA), Secretary - Daska Murray (DM), Chair - Peter West (PW),
 Richard Simpson (RS), Ross Ingram (RI), Cllr. Sonya Warren (SW)
 Apologies: None
 Public Present: Holly Mayne-Garrow (HMG), Jessica Slater (JS) and Meghan Skene (MS)

Minutes of Meeting

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
Welcome and apologies	<p>PW opened the meeting.</p> <p>PW informed the meeting that HMG and MS had expressed an interest in becoming members of the community council. A clause under the provisions of the Moray scheme for Community Councils requires 14 days advance notice prior to co-opting new members. However, the current members agreed unanimously to pass a resolution waving the 14 day requirement, as specified in clause 8.2.3 of the Moray Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils 2021-2025, to co-opt them as community council members.</p>	
Visitor's questions/ comments	No visitors present.	
Sub-committee report and plans	<p>The Linzee Gordon Playpark committee (HMG, JS and MS) provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of £33,776 raised so far. • £500 donation received from Associated Seafoods. • Selected to benefit from Car Show calendar sales, which was rounded up to £1,500. • Bonus ball raised £2,000. • Rejected from Lotto fund due to not owning or maintaining the land. • Meeting planned with Tracey Rae and Sarah Campbell regarding the procurement officer appointment. Quotes are needed to seek further funding opportunities. • Coffee morning scheduled for 22 March. • PW will share details of a funding application course. • PW suggested a meeting with Elected Members, Tracey Rae, Debra Duke along with the Linzee Gordon Committee to gain further support with their fundraising efforts. <p>Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW has not yet heard from Rev. Jaco. 	<p>PW PW</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email was received offering £300 worth of resilience items. Suitable storage space needs to be identified. • PW suggested a separate meeting to progress matters and called for members to get involved or suggestions for volunteers. RS offered support. <p>Other Sub Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with other community organisations scheduled for 20 March to network and collaborate/work better together. • PW highlighted the potential for a ‘tourism’ subgroup to generate increased footfall for existing businesses and encourage new businesses to set up. The website may have a role in this. It was agreed to establish a subgroup and select a more appropriate name. 	ALL
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA noted a disappointing turnout at the Cluny Square consultation event. • Parking problems near St. Peter’s School. The details requested were not supplied. However, advice has been given by relevant bodies and the school have been encouraged to remind parents/staff about considerate parking. Police will also visit occasionally. • Treasurer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CA had previously expressed a desire to stand down. RI has agreed to take on the role and will need to be added as a signatory to the account. ○ Considering a new bank account following the introduction of charges for community accounts. There is a complication in that community accounts do not appear to make provision for community councils, but it is not clear without opening an account. The meeting agreed that PW should explore opening an account with RBS to assess whether fees apply. • VE day promotional items – it was generally felt that funds could be better spent elsewhere. PW felt there was potential to fundraise for events that would result in a greater benefit to local organisations or charities. 	PW
Community Police report	Position remains the same - The last report received was dated 7 August (for July). SW thought the next report would be available in April due to resource issues. The upcoming JCC meeting on 13 February may provide clarity.	
Community feedback	CA noted ongoing litter issues, particularly with alcohol bottles discarded in the Buckpool area. Letterfourie playpark has been vandalised - shrubs will be cut back to improve visibility and the waste team have also been contacted about the litter issues. A warden visit has been requested due to concerns about road bikes. PW suggested giving some thought outside the meeting about how best to make the community more alert to such issues.	ALL
Elected Councillors feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget savings still needed. Expecting increases in charges such as Council Tax to help meet the shortfall. Recruitment issues have impacted service delivery, and the cost of delivering services remains under scrutiny. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemetery timings have been highlighted however there was a consultation and limited feedback received. Out of 12 funeral directors, only 7 responses were received of which 2 expressed concerns about the proposed burial times. • North Pier closed to the public due to surface concerns but harbour users will have access. • North High Street out for tender and work is expected to commence in the new financial year. • SW seeking a timeline from Scottish Water who need to address issues at McLaren's Brae. • Some street lighting has been out. Some are on permanently until a part becomes available. • School estate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consultation underway for the Milne's school estate. ○ The high school needs £40m in repairs but they expect this will only last for 10-15 years. However, undertaking repairs may affect eligibility for LEIP4 funding to help build new facilities if this becomes available. ○ ASN review is due. 	
Treasurer's report	<p>CA provided an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admin grant £6,587.77. • Own account £2,107.61. • CA and PW contacted Nicola Moss about the £5,000 speed activated sign but neither received a response. • Linzee Gordon play park balance is £22,280.89. • Still have £419.60 reserved for the walking and cycling signage. PW will email to discuss as the weatherproof aluminium quoted for may be better situated elsewhere e.g. the North East Quadrant Fence. The quote is no longer valid and CA needs to provide measurements. • NHS overpayment of £2,000.61 has been returned but is still to be claimed. • PW has set up a phone number for contact about the noticeboard. The meeting agreed to a £20 top up to keep the phone active. 	
Community engagement	<p>Cost of living - new information/actions being undertaken There was no new information however it was noted that the high school are collecting prescription glasses and bras.</p> <p>Website – only a few responses with feedback were received so it was assumed that the website is ready for launch, but PW encouraged further feedback (buckiecc.org) and requested photographs for all community councillors. It was agreed that PW would set up email addresses to add to the website for each community which automatically forward on to personal email addresses. This would avoid having to check for new emails regularly, but replies would need to come from the cc email in order to retain an audit trail if anyone resigned.</p>	ALL PW

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Community council groups, sub-committees & initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JCC – Next meeting on 13 February. • LOIP – Discussed the forthcoming community group meeting and funding. • Money for Moray – Youth and Adult Just Transition Participatory Budgeting (PB) have taken place. Evaluation/celebration event on 22 February in Lhanbryde for the past three years’ applicants. • Harbour Advisory – Next meeting is on 10 March. • BAF – Next meeting is on 12 February. 	
Planning application responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been a quiet period but one has appeared in the email. PW encouraged responses, even if “no comment” so it is clearer how to action. • SW emphasised the importance of educating the community on submitting feedback at the right time, rather than after the planning application’s approval. 	ALL
Relationship between Elected Members and community councils in Scotland	<p>In 2023 there was a Scottish Government enquiry about community council’s in Scotland. A recent online ‘Democracy Matters’ session was held to discuss opinions and views on how community council’s operate. This included a presentation on their findings followed by a Q&A session. Some of the issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members not taking part in community council meetings and a feeling that there should be ways of addressing non-attendance; • Difficulty building relationships with Elected Members; and • Perceptions that Elected Members viewed community council’s as rivals or didn’t value their input. <p>A steering group has been set up to drive forward a review on community councils which will consider funding issues, training and access to support.</p> <p>PW asked whether there was anything the community council should do to improve communication with Elected Members as it was felt that their input is beneficial. An example would be in helping improve understanding about how the common good fund operates and how community input has been considered as part of decision making processes.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be better to have a wider representation from Elected Members at community council meetings. This would help community councillors gain a better understanding of their involvement in community or Council matters, and how they gather community feedback. It was agreed that PW will write to Elected Members to encourage future attendance and share information about their roles.</p>	PW
Correspondence to note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Hub – email received thanking for support for Community Asset Transfer. • Local Spaces Improvement Project Funding – PW will share information on a funding opportunity to access up to £2,500 to improve local spaces. This is not applicable to Parish Councils (Community Councils are not mentioned) but it might be of interest to community groups. 	PW

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vattenfall – PW will share information on the current situation with the windfarm application and comments would be appreciated. • Buckie Men’s Shed – A letter had been received from a local resident over membership refusal but they have since expressed their dissatisfaction on social media. 	PW
AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology / AI – PW had previously suggested recording meetings to make it easier for DM to take part in the meeting. PW found a iFLEYTEK device which transcribes a recording and summarises, which would make it easier for DM to then edit into a minute and distribute. The recording would only be used to support the production of the minute and deleted. The device cost in the region of £500 but can also be used as a digital notebook. SW suggested looking into Plaud and AD noted there is a pen which has similar functionality. If DM was unable to attend, the device could still be used to take the minute. It was agreed that DM would research options and if it was felt this would be useful, arrange for and be reimbursed for the purchase of an appropriate device. • British Heart Foundation – an offer of a free defibrillator was received which might be of interest to community groups. PW will share information and encouraged feedback. • October Elections – PW noted the need to consider the implications such as calling for new members or if there are too many members, the triggering of an election. • CA queried the creation of a local place plan. PW will meet Colin from Cullen Community Council to get more information about what is involved. • CA queried the Little Norway project. PW suggested this be considered as part of the ‘Tourism’ subgroup. It may be necessary to have a more detailed discussion about the project and its history. 	DM PW
Date/venue of next meeting	The next meeting is set for 11 March 2025 at 6 pm in the Ace Winches Lounge, Victoria Park, Buckie.	

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:

23/02/2025

23/02/2025