Date: 14th July 2026
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Ace Winches Suite, Buckie Thistle FC, Buckie
Attendees: Ann Mitchell (AM), Alison Durno (AD),), Treasurer - Daska Murray (DM), Co-chair Neilian Toms (NT), Secretary - Sharon Innes (SI), Richard Simpson (RS), Cllr. Sonya Warren (SW),
Apologies: Pringle George (PG), Christine Allan (CA), Ross Ingram (RI)
Pubic present: Richard Cawston & Kelly Dawson regarding Muirton Way planning extension

Minutes of Meeting

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
Welcome, Apologies and Introductions	Everyone welcomed NT chaired the meeting.	
Meeting protocol	Visitors are made aware via agenda that meetings are recorded electronically for the purpose of supporting minute-taking, with recordings erased thereafter.	
Approval of previous meetings minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment by DM and AM. All attendees in agreement.	

Open Business from last meeting	**School Bus Service (Portgordon to Buckie High School)**
	
	• Petition to reinstate the bus service was rejected by the majority of 26 Moray councillors.
	• Members expressed ongoing concerns regarding:
	    ○ Reliability of replacement Stagecoach services.
	    ○ Safety of walking routes, particularly during darker winter months.
	    ○ Speeding traffic.
	    ○ Isolated routes for young people, especially girls.
	• Parents were encouraged to continue logging incidents and service failures to support future reviews.
	• Concern was raised that safety concerns had not been fully addressed despite evidence presented.
	
	Traffic and Road Safety
	
	• Discussion regarding Gibbs Lane and surrounding road proposals.	

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Members questioned changes to council policy and decision-making around road closures and one-way systems.
Concerns were expressed regarding transparency and consistency of council decisions.

<h2>Stagecoach Report</h2>
Members noted:

Some improvements to Stagecoach services.
Newer buses appearing on routes.
Increased service frequency on some routes.

The situation will continue to be monitored.
<h2>Little Norway</h2>
SW had no new information to update the group with. SW will continue to try to get information.
<h2>Celebrating Buckie Event</h2>
Members discussed attendance at the community event.
Comments included:

Well organised with professional displays.
Attendance from the public was lower than expected.
Event duration was shorter than anticipated.
More structured visitor guidance would improve future events.

Action

Feedback to be submitted to organisers.

Future Community Presentations
Community Council has been invited to give presentations to:

Ball Group, Brownie Hall (22 September)
Ball Group , Fishermen's Hall Group (4 November)

</td><td>SW

SI

ALL

ALL</td></tr>
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Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	Purpose is to raise awareness of the Community Council and encourage community involvement. **Website** CT @ ColourJam progressing well with website. Members agreed to pay the invoice £1570. This will be split between Admin and Resilience funds. Members discussed monthly payment for maintaining website until the group take full control themselves. It was proposed that rather than payment advertising on the page could be more advantageous for all parties. **Community Noticeboard** We still have one original noticeboard, currently stored at the harbour area which we need to reinstate. Locations for this and future noticeboards need further discussion. Currently identified as possible locations are • Near Weigh bridge at harbour to display to bus and cruise ship visitors • Buckpool Square • Linzee Gordon Park Moray Council request we provide a map with suggested locations identified so they can confirm the land owners and permission. Also required to provide name of installer once noticeboards have been purchased. **Public Facilities and Signage** Discussion focused on: • Poor condition of tourist and directional signage. • Outdated information displayed around Buckie. • Difficulty visitors have locating public toilets. • Need to improve information for tourists. Suggestions included: • Updating signage. • Installing clearer directional information.	NT ALL SI

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Creating improved visitor noticeboards.
Action

Identify ownership of existing signage.
Investigate costs of replacement and possible funding opportunities
Look into Coastal Communities Fund and Common Good Fund for future funding

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<tr><td>New Business</td><td>
<h2>Muirton Way Planning Extension</h2>
Guests discussed the proposed housing development.
<h3>Key points:</h3>

Original planning consent was granted in 2022.
Questions remain regarding why an extension application has been submitted when planning conditions may already have been discharged.
Members agreed clarification should be sought from the Planning Department.

<h3>Concerns raised:</h3>

Loss of valued green space.
Increased pressure on:
Schools
GP surgeries
Road network
Increased traffic accessing the A98.
Impact on cemetery visitors during construction.
Limited community awareness of the original planning application.

<h3>Agreed Actions</h3>

Community Council to review the planning documentation in detail.
Seek clarification from Planning regarding the status of the planning permission.
Continue supporting residents wishing to submit comments or objections where appropriate.

<h3>Buckie High School</h3>
</td><td>DM & SI</td></tr>
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Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	• no funding in place yet to confirm or deny the SNP claim for a new school. • Will continue to monitor for updates **Seachange Murals** Discussion was held on the proposal images for public toilets Majority felt • Pink sky does not reflect Buckie. • Twin distillery pagodas are inaccurate – Buckie has only one. • Overall style is too cartoon-like. • Seabirds are out of scale. • The design does not clearly show how it represents Buckie's resilience to climate change. • We appreciate the inclusion of Buckie's fishing heritage. • We welcome the reference to Buckie's historic links with Norway. • We value the recognition of the surrounding woodland and local wildlife. • The murals in Forres and Lossiemouth are nicer Feedback to be sent to Susan Chalmers on the group's behalf **Dog Park Proposal** A proposal was introduced to develop a secure dog exercise area. Discussion covered: • Strong public support. • Possible locations. • Land ownership. • Planning requirements. • Funding opportunities. • Need for secure fencing and parking. Potential links were made to wider green space planning. **Action** • Investigate planning requirements.	 NT & SI

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	• Explore suitable locations. • Continue discussions outside the formal meeting. • Look into Coastal Communities Fund and Common Good Fund for future funding – have proposals ready, small, medium and large as funds are up to £50,000.	
Sub Committee reports and plans	**Cruise Ship Welcome Programme** **Discussion** • Positive feedback received from visitors following the June cruise ship visit. • National Geographic vessel expected to return three times next year. • Need to develop a clear framework for organising future welcomes. • Questions remain regarding responsibility, funding and coordination. • Consideration given to purchasing a marquee for future events and wider community use. • Reimbursement of **£90** approved for NT who made personal payments made to one Highland dancer and two pipers (£30 each) for the recent welcome. • Members discussed the principle of paying performers versus relying on volunteers. No final decision reached. **Actions** • Develop a written framework for future cruise ship visits. • Arrange a separate meeting to discuss funding and long-term planning. • Investigate funding opportunities, including Common Good Fund. • Seek earlier notification of cruise ship passenger numbers where possible.	NT & AM
Reports from local group activity and initiatives	**Environmental Issues – Wastewater Treatment Works** • Members reported receiving numerous complaints from residents regarding strong odours from the wastewater treatment works, particularly during periods of warm weather.	

Agenda Item	Discussed	Follow up / Action by
	• It was noted that Environmental Health has advised that complaints should be submitted individually rather than anonymously, as this assists with investigations. • Members agreed to encourage residents affected by the odour to report incidents directly to Environmental Health. • **Action:** Community Council to consider issuing a public notice encouraging residents to submit complaints to Environmental Health. **Anti-Social Behaviour** • Complaints were received regarding anti-social behaviour in the Bijou car park area during weekend evenings and early mornings, including excessive noise, vehicle horns, shouting, bad language and dangerous driving. • Concerns were raised about the difficulty of contacting local police outside office hours, with residents unable to access Buckie Police Station and non-emergency reporting methods considered unsuitable for incidents requiring an immediate response. • Members expressed concern about the lack of visible police engagement with the Community Council and the community. • It was suggested that Police Scotland be invited to attend a future Community Council meeting to discuss local concerns and reporting procedures. • **Action:** Invite a Police Scotland representative to attend the next Community Council meeting. • **Action:** Ensure Police Scotland continue to receive Community Council minutes to keep them informed of local issues.	NT & RS SI SI
Treasurer Report	Report was issued with balance of account **£23,975.98** **Treasurer's Report** • The Treasurer reported a current bank balance of **£23,975.98**. • Following attendance at a governance and treasury training session, it was recommended that the Community Council strengthen its financial procedures regarding payment authorisation.	

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It was proposed that the Treasurer be authorised to approve:
Individual payments of up to £250; and
A maximum of £500 in delegated payments per calendar month.
Expenditure exceeding these limits would require approval by the Community Council and be recorded in the minutes.
The Treasurer will review recent transaction values and prepare a draft Financial Delegated Authority Policy for consideration at a future meeting.
It was noted that the proposed limits will be reviewed after an initial trial period and amended if necessary.
Actions
Treasurer to draft a Delegated Authority/Financial Controls Policy for approval at the next meeting.</td><td>DM</td></tr>
<tr><td>Next Meeting</td><td>Tuesday 14th July 2026 at Ace Winches Suite 6.30pm</td><td>AD</td></tr>
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Community Council meeting closed at 20:45 hrs.