



**Findochty Community**

**Council Minutes**

**Date: Monday 10th February 2025**

**Time: 7pm**

**Venue: Findochty Town Hall**

**Attendees -**

**Community Councillors:** Anne Braidwood (AB), Cheryl Birtwistle (CB), Jeffrey Masterson (JF), Ron Dawson (RD), Stephen Birtwistle (SB)

**Associate members:** Paul Steel (PS), Paul Kerrison (PK)

**Members of Public:** 2

**Moray Council:** Cllr Warren

**Community Police:** Sergeant Matheson

**1. Welcome from Chairperson.**

AB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Stuart and Cllr McLennan. AB advised the committee that Lorna Simpson had resigned from her position on Community Council which left a vacant seat. Paul Steel expressed his interest in being co opted, this was unanimously agreed. AB advised she was going to reach out to John Gardiner as he has not been in attendance for some time.

**2. To receive Community Police Update.**

We were joined by Sergeant Matheson who introduced himself. He advised that he would be moving on from his position and will be replaced by Sergeant Bain. He advised reports will be taking a new format and will be Bi monthly.

He advised for the month of January for Findochty there have been - 11 calls, of which 2 resulted in a crime being committed and reported.

**3. To approve the minutes held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

**4. To receive Treasurers Report.**

PK provided the report and advised outgoings since last meeting £30 honorarium and £50 for website hosting. No income received.

The current balance is £7,103.52

This is made up of

Admin Grant - £1,749.79

Events Fund - £837.52  
Maintenance Fund - £2,682.34  
General Fund - £1,833.87

**5. To discuss Funding/Fundraising.**

PK and AB advised that following a recent email, they had found potential funding for refurbishment of toilets. The public toilets by the harbour are council owned but maintained by the harbour. AB and PK advised their plan to apply for the funding with the intention of a deep clean and freshen up of paintwork. Discussion was held regarding Moray Councils strict cleaning guidelines and use of chemicals. PK and AB plan to visit the toilets to see what work is required to enable them to apply for quotes and submit their bid. Discussion was held over possible funding from British Heart Foundation for another defibrillator within the village, suggested locations were The Men's Shed and Primary School. CB will gather further information.

**6. To consider Community Feedback from email and Facebook received prior to the meeting.**

We received an email from a community member regarding faulty street lights within the village which had resulted in a resident being injured. This had been reported several times by residents in the street starting back in December and then onwards. This light remains unfixed. Cllr Warren was also aware of the situation and has been asking for an update. She has been advised that there is a fault under manufacturer's warranty, so replacement parts are awaited through warranty. Concerns were raised due to several calls being made reporting this issue, however only an email report was listed for this fault when Moray Council were contacted with a complaint.

**7. To discuss Community Council Training.**

AB advised that there are several courses available to Community Councillors free via Open University, including things such as digital skills, fundraising and business skills. She encouraged members to have a look at what is available to utilise.

**8. To discuss Community Council Website.**

PK advised our website was now up and running and had seen a little traction. PK has been utilising community Facebook pages/groups to promote the website. PK has worked alongside Peter West from Buckie Community Council and our hosting has cost £50 for 4 years. The 3 office bearers now have email addresses attached to the website. Paul has been able to put some fantastic historical photos on the website thanks to permission from the University of St Andrews On the condition they are for non commercial use.

**9. To discuss Community Council Resilience and Adoption of Sub Committee.**

PK updated us on the work of the resilience team. The plan has been

submitted to Moray Council for consideration and approval. Iain Addison of Addison Tyres kindly came forward as a 4x4 driver for the plan. PK advised he damaged to secure funding for the emergency resilience bag. It is hoped this could potentially be stored in the Town Hall, but this will be checked and confirmed. The resilience team put a bid into the local fire station following their recent charity Christmas run for funding towards the bags and walkie talkies. AB to reach out to see if their bid has been successful to enable purchase of walkie talkies. The adoption of the Resilience Group as a Sub Committee was agreed.

## **10. Reports**

### **a. To note reports from Local Councillors**

Apologies were received from Cllr Stuart and Cllr McLennan. Cllr Warren advised that the budget was due, a proposed increase of 10% Council tax had been put forward and redesigns rather than cuts were being looked at. Savings will still be needed for next years budget. Concerns had been raised regarding timings for funerals, a consultation had previously been put to funeral directors regarding this. Following the concerns since these changes a proposal of slightly later times of 11am and 2pm has been put forward. Concerns were raised regarding litter along the top road coming into Findochty from Portknockie. SB raised concern over loose chippings which could be hazardous to motor vehicles which have washed down Station Road. Cllr Warren advised SB to report this hazard online.

### **b. To note report from Town Hall**

The Town Hall held their AGM last week. No other updates.

### **c. To note reports from Community Council Sub groups**

- **Harbour Advisory Group**

No updates.

- **Christmas Lights**

AGM is on 19th February at the Men's Shed

- **Maintenance/Gardening**

Discussion regarding The White Mannie, community member Andrea Woodhead advised that someone attends every year in March time and has been seen painting The White Mannie. It was agreed that Community Council to contact Harbour Master to check with them and Andrea will advise Community Council if man attends in the following month, to allow decisions to be made regarding works required.

PS has been carrying out strimming work and tidying around the village. He has started works for the edging for the boat feature at the top of the village.

Still awaiting confirmation regarding insurance for the new maintenance shed. CB to chase this up. CB and AB will look at completing an application to common good fund.

It was agreed for PS to purchase 5 to 10 new shrubs each month to place around the village in locations agreed with Seafeld Estates.

- **Defibrillator**

Invoice not yet received.

**11. AOCB - To discuss any other matter not raised elsewhere on the agenda that can be added as agenda items for future meetings.**

New dog waste bag dispensers have been made by SB. SB advised he has been chatting with Peter West of Buckie Community Council regarding engagement.

AB advised of resilience group plan for a public consultation on 11th April including representatives from SSEN, the fire brigade and Moray Firth Partnership .

The new Seashore Hub is being delivered on Tues with AB and PK taking delivery.

Washed up tyres and debris to be reported to council for uplift, CB and SB to arrange this.

Discussion of meeting schedules to be confirmed.

**Date, time and venue of next meeting**

Monday 3rd March at 7pm in Findochty Town Hall

Meeting closed at 20.37.