



Findochty Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 4 May 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Attendance

Community Councillors:

Paul Kerrison (Treasurer, chairing), Paul Steel (Secretary), Jeffrey Masterson, Ron Dawson

Guest: Susan Chalmers, Chair, Findochty and Buckie Development Trust (FABDT)

Associate members: None

Members of Public: Three

Moray Council: Cllr Warren

1. Welcome

In the absence of the Chair, the meeting was chaired by the Treasurer, Paul Kerrison. A quorum was confirmed and the meeting duly constituted.

Members were advised that the meeting would be audio-recorded solely to assist with minute preparation and deleted following approval of the minutes, in accordance with GDPR requirements.

2. Apologies for Absence

Anne Braidwood (Chair).

The council wished to record its warmest wishes to Anne for a full and speedy recovery, and looks forward to welcoming her back when she is well enough to return.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by: Ron Dawson | Seconded by: Paul Steel

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Correspondence to Seamus Logan MP

Correspondence was sent regarding residents' concerns relating to climate change and coastal erosion. No response has yet been received.



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Susan Chalmers advised that the Sea Change community art project will host a climate resilience film screening at Fisherman's Hall on 1 July 2026.

Action: Secretary to share event details on the website and social media.

4.2 Route 35 Bus Service and 20mph Correspondence

Correspondence regarding Route 35 reliability, bus shelters, and the 20mph rollout was reissued following delivery issues. No response has yet been received. Cllr Warren provided an alternative public transport contact: Donald MacRae.

It was agreed that Cllr Warren would follow up with the relevant officers. Members were encouraged to continue reporting specific Route 35 failures to the Secretary.

Actions

- Cllr Warren to follow up with relevant officers regarding Route 35, bus shelters, and 20mph correspondence.
- Chair to consider contacting community councils along the Route 35 corridor regarding shared concerns.

4.3 Crooked Hythe Benches

The Secretary confirmed previous contact with the Men's Shed regarding inspection and repairs. Volunteer support may also be available if required.

Action

- Secretary to follow up regarding inspection and repair arrangements.

4.4 Annual Maintenance Plan

The annual maintenance and planting plan is considered under Item 6.2.

5. Community Updates

5.1 Community Police Update

No report was received. A policing update will be requested for the June meeting.

5.2 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported a current bank balance of £7,289 comprising:

- Admin Grant: £1,718



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- Events: £623
- Maintenance: £2,334
- General: £2,613

Income since the previous meeting included:

- £325 from the Lucky Squares raffle
- £50 in donations

Expenditure included:

- £50 Moray gift card raffle prize
- £30 Secretary's honorarium

The report was noted.

6. Items Submitted by Community Council Members

6.1 Governance Documents

Revised Standing Orders and associated governance documents were presented for formal adoption. Documents had previously been circulated to members and no amendments were proposed.

It was agreed to:

- adopt the revised Standing Orders;
- adopt all associated governance documents with immediate effect; and
- require all members to sign the Code of Conduct.

Actions

- Treasurer to submit Standing Orders to Moray Council.
- Members to sign and return the Code of Conduct.

6.2 Maintenance and Planting Plan

The Secretary presented the annual maintenance and planting plan.

It was agreed to approve expenditure of:

- Flowers: £237.96
- Compost: £91.73

Total: £329.69



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The expenditure compares favourably with the previous year. Remaining maintenance work to planters was noted.

Actions

- Secretary to place the approved order.
- Secretary to purchase a watering wand and submit an invoice.
- Treasurer to confirm previous year expenditure for comparison.

6.3 Community Land Lease and FABDT Partnership

The Treasurer updated members regarding discussions with Seafield Estate and the potential partnership arrangement with FABDT.

Advice from the Outdoor Access Officer highlighted potential liability implications associated with works undertaken under any future lease agreement. Susan Chalmers advised that FABDT would require further consideration of insurance and legal implications before any agreement could proceed.

It was agreed that further investigation and legal advice would be required before entering into any lease arrangement.

Actions

- Susan Chalmers to report back following FABDT board consideration.
- Treasurer to await further correspondence from Seafield Estate.
- Legal advice to be obtained before any agreement is concluded.

6.4 Destruction of Expired Financial Records

Following adoption of the Records Retention Policy, it was agreed to securely destroy financial records exceeding the retention period.

Action

- Treasurer to arrange secure destruction of expired records.



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6.5 Defibrillator Fundraising Raffle

Members noted that 65 of the 100 raffle squares had been sold. Promotional activity will continue, including display of the QR code poster in the Town Hall window.

Actions

- Treasurer to display the raffle poster and continue promotion.
- Susan Chalmers to contact the outstanding participant regarding square selection.

6.6 Community Survey and Volunteers

Survey results and associated information have been published on the website and social media.

Volunteer responses and availability were discussed. Members agreed to defer progression of the Local Place Plan until planning volunteers become available.

Action

- Secretary to continue liaison with volunteers.
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7. Reports

7.1 Local Councillor Report - Cllr Sonya Warren.

Cllr Warren provided updates regarding:

- Route 35 service issues
- bus shelters
- 20mph rollout implementation

Discussion also took place regarding possible coordination with other community councils along the Route 35 corridor.

7.2 Community Resilience Group

Members noted that the resilience plan requires updating. A revised draft incorporating wildfire risks has been prepared.

It was agreed to resubmit the updated plan to Moray Council.



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Actions

- Treasurer to submit the updated resilience plan.
- Cllr Warren to assist in identifying the appropriate council contact.

7.3 Member Responsibility Updates

7.3.1 Harbour Advisory Group

The next meeting is scheduled for 8 June 2026.

Action

- FCC representative to attend and report back.

7.3.2 Maintenance and Gardening

Members discussed the donated ride-on mower, which remains unused following attempts to recommission it.

It was agreed to gather further information before deciding whether to retain or dispose of the mower.

Actions

- Treasurer and Secretary to attempt further recommissioning.
- Secretary to contact Cullen Football Club regarding potential interest.

Members discussed concerns regarding deteriorating render on the shed gable end on the Green. As the structure is not council owned and funding is unavailable, it was agreed to defer action until winter.

Action

- Treasurer to provide details to Cllr Warren for follow-up with relevant parties.

7.3.3 Defibrillator

Battery status was noted at 21%.

It was agreed to continue monitoring and arrange replacement when required.

Action

- Ron Dawson to continue monthly monitoring.
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8. Community Feedback

8.1 Grit Bin Request – Findochty Primary School

Members noted the ongoing grit bin request submitted to Moray Council.

Action

- Secretary to continue monitoring progress and liaise with the PSG.

8.2 Environmental and Antisocial Behaviour Concerns

Concerns were raised regarding ongoing environmental and antisocial behaviour issues associated with a local property.

It was agreed that concerns should continue to be documented and referred to the appropriate agencies where necessary.

Actions

- Members to provide supporting evidence and incident details to the Secretary.
- Cllr Warren to provide relevant agency contact details.

9. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)

9.1 School Visits and Picnic Request

Members considered requests relating to school visits and picnic use of community areas during May 2026. It was agreed to provisionally approve the requests subject to final confirmation and appropriate site checks.

Actions

- Secretary to confirm arrangements with organisers.
- Site inspection to be carried out prior to the Mini Hampden picnic.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 1 June 2026 at 7:00 pm – Findochty Town Hall

Meeting Closed

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7:50 pm

These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting of the Community Council.