



Findochty Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 3 August 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Attendance

Community Councillors: Anne Braidwood (Chair), Paul Steel (Secretary), Paul Kerrison (Treasurer), Ron Dawson

Apologies - Community Councillors: Jeffrey Masterson

Associate Members: None

Members of Public: Three

Moray Council: No representatives in attendance

Apologies - Moray Council: Cllr Sonya Warren

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting, confirmed the meeting was quorate, and advised that proceedings would be audio recorded solely to assist with minute preparation. The recording will be deleted following approval of the minutes.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Jeffrey Masterson and Cllr Sonya Warren.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 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 Crooked Hythe Benches

A quote for full hardwood replacement of all slats was considered prohibitively expensive at approximately £2,000 for materials alone. The preferred approach is to replace the ten identified rotten slats only. Further quotes are being obtained.

Action: Secretary to obtain quotes for ten replacement slats and report back at the next meeting.

4.2 Community Land Lease / FABDT Partnership - Seaview Road Picnic Area

The formal land lease is not viable as FABDT will not consider the informal path, which represents approximately 80% of the area. The question of picnic benches at the Seaview Road site is separate from the lease and can proceed independently. Members agreed that good quality wooden benches are preferred, with the possibility of including a smaller bench for children. A Common Good Fund application will follow once costs are confirmed.

It was agreed: to proceed with obtaining costs for picnic benches at Seaview Road and submit a Common Good Fund application.

Action: Treasurer to compile costs and prepare a Common Good Fund application for picnic benches at Seaview Road.

4.3 Ride-on Mower

The mower has been got running. Members discussed the history of the asset and concerns raised by a resident about disposal. No Community Council member is currently able to operate the mower and it is overinsured relative to its replacement value. It was agreed that the original donor should be contacted as a courtesy before any disposal decision is taken, and that a community callout will be considered thereafter.

It was agreed: that the Treasurer will contact the original donor in the first instance.

Action: Treasurer to contact the original donor regarding the future of the ride-on mower and report back at the next meeting.

4.4 Route 35 Bus Service

Letters have been sent to Timothy Mackay (Moray Council Transportation) and Stagecoach North Scotland. No substantive responses have been received; Mr Mackay is currently on annual leave.

Action: Chair to chase Timothy Mackay and Stagecoach North Scotland for responses.

4.5 Grit Bin - Findochty Primary School

Moray Council has confirmed willingness to install a grit bin subject to a condition that it not be used on the adjacent unadopted road, which falls outside the council's road network and belongs to Seafield Estate. Members considered this condition unenforceable and unhelpful, as the road is the primary access route to the school for pupils, parents, and staff. The Parent Support Group has not responded to two follow up emails. Ward councillor intervention is sought.

It was agreed: that the Treasurer will write to all three ward councillors requesting their intervention.

Action: Treasurer to write to ward councillors regarding the grit bin and unadopted road safety issue at Findochty Primary School.

4.6 Shed Shelving - Insurance Position

Zurich Insurance and Moray Council have both confirmed that the shed shelving and paint storage cupboard can be added to the insurance schedule. Representatives of the Men's Shed raised concerns about the storage of materials near the polytunnel and noted the shed was originally provided for mower storage only. Given the ongoing mower discussion, it was agreed that shed use should be discussed with the Men's Shed committee before any further items are stored there.

It was agreed: that no further items will be stored in the shed pending a discussion with the Men's Shed committee on acceptable use.

Action: Secretary and Chair to liaise with the Men's Shed committee and report back at the next meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported the following financial position:

- Bank balance: £7,559.78
- Admin Grant (ring fenced): £2,197.00
- Events Fund: £623.10
- Maintenance Fund: £2,035.00 (including £500 ring fenced for defibrillator)
- General Fund: £2,703.00

The full annual admin grant was paid as two payments, adding £616 to the balance. A donation of £90 was received, representing the Secretary's honorarium returned to the fund. The Common Good Fund stands at approximately £4,000, of which £3,000 is available; the pétanque court and Seaview Road bench proposals are the primary candidates for drawdown.

It was noted: the report was accepted.

6. Community Updates

6.1 Community Police Update - Inspector Bayliss

The Chair read the bi-monthly report for June and July 2026. Key points:

- Findochty antisocial behaviour: officers are taking a robust approach, gathering evidence and reporting to the Procurator Fiscal. Longer term solutions are being explored.
- Illegal e-bike and e-scooter use reported across the area including Findochty. Several machines seized; a targeted operation is planned.
- 24 road collisions across Buckie and Keith; no fatalities.
- Drugs warrants in Buckie and Portknockie recovered controlled drugs with a street value in excess of £300,000. A further £13,000 recovered in Keith.
- Four housebreakings or attempted housebreakings in Buckie; one in Keith.

It was noted: the report was received and noted.

7. Community Feedback (Submitted in Advance)

7.1 Graffiti - 'No Zionists'

A resident wrote to FCC regarding graffiti on a privately owned wall. FCC replied confirming that Police Scotland had advised the graffiti does not meet the threshold for a hate crime, and that neither FCC nor the local authority can require removal of graffiti on private property. The graffiti has since been painted over by a member of the public.

It was noted: no further action required.

7.2 Seamus Logan MP - Climate Correspondence

A reply has been received from Seamus Logan MP, approximately twelve weeks after FCC's original correspondence. The MP advised he had added his name in support of Early Day Motion 93 on climate crisis communication.

It was noted: the response was received and noted.

8. Items Submitted by Community Council Members

8.1 Common Good Fund

Planned uses including the chemical storage cupboard are on hold pending resolution of the shed use question. The pétanque court and Seaview Road benches are the primary candidates for applications.

8.2 Community Council Consultative Role Survey - Update

The survey is ongoing with 134 responses from 114 unique community councils across Scotland at the time of the meeting. Headline findings: 66% report little or no influence over public body decisions; 69% say feedback is rarely or never provided; only 4% feel they have sufficient knowledge, time, and support to engage effectively. Findings are being shared with ward councillors and are informing the Scottish Government's Democracy Matters consultation.

It was noted: the update was received. No action required at this stage.

8.3 Asset Register

The asset register is being updated. Members were asked to notify the Treasurer of any community owned assets not currently recorded, including walkie talkies, the resilience bag, and planters.

Action: All members to notify the Treasurer of any community assets not currently on the register.

8.4 Community Council Insurance

Covered under item 4.6. The insurance schedule has been updated; the premium will increase at next renewal, which Moray Council meets on FCC's behalf.

8.5 E-Bike Infrastructure - Feasibility

An introductory call with WeGoShare confirmed a community scale deployment is technically feasible but would require a partner organisation, most likely HITRANS. Indicative costs: £90,000–£116,000 including bikes, stations, installation, and contingency. Contacts at HITRANS and Moray Council Economic Development have acknowledged FCC's enquiries. The Moray Coastal Communities Fund closes 18 September 2026 and may be a relevant opportunity.

It was noted: the update was received. Feasibility work continues.

Action: Treasurer to continue discussions with HITRANS and Moray Council Economic Development and report back at the next meeting.

8.6 20mph Speed Limit - Signage Discrepancies

A letter has been sent to Timothy Mackay regarding signage discrepancies on the western and eastern approaches to Findochty. The current implementation - two back-to-back repeater signs on a single lamp post - does not constitute a proper speed limit entry arrangement and may be unenforceable. The transition point on the westbound carriageway also falls beyond the school crossing point. Mr Mackay acknowledged the letter but is on annual leave.

It was noted: a further chase will be sent if no response is received by midweek.

Action: Treasurer to follow up with Timothy Mackay on the 20mph signage issue if no response received by midweek.

A member of the public also raised the absence of dropped kerbs on Netherton Terrace, where a wheelchair user was observed in serious difficulty. This matter has been raised with Moray Council previously without resolution.

It was noted: the accessibility issue on Netherton Terrace. Previous correspondence to be reviewed.

Action: Treasurer to check previous minutes for prior correspondence on Netherton Terrace accessibility and report back.

9. Reports

9.1 Local Councillors

No ward members were in attendance and no written reports were submitted. Apologies had been received from Cllr Sonya Warren.

9.2 Sub- Committee: Community Resilience Group

A bag check and walkie talkie test are due to be arranged. Members noted that the previous walkie talkie test caused interference with fishing vessel communications. The wildfire risk section of the Resilience Plan has been updated. No response has been received from Moray Council regarding the desktop exercise.

It was agreed: that the Treasurer will arrange a Community Resilience Group meeting to review the current risk position.

Action: Treasurer to arrange a Community Resilience Group meeting.

9.3 Member Responsibility Updates

Harbour Advisory Group

The next Harbour Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for September. Updates from the most recent meeting:

- Pontoon chain adjustment required due to yacht movement.
- Slipway to be cleared and cleaned.
- Lighthouse scheduled for repainting.
- Vessel Selkie to clear a sandbank at the harbour entrance (not yet actioned).
- Keep clear markings and white box to be added near the White Mannie statue and pontoons.

The Harbour Manager post is currently vacant, affecting progress on several harbour matters.

Members agreed it is not acceptable for works such as the recent pipe replacement at McKenzie's Beach to take place without prior notice to FCC or residents. The Secretary will write to the Harbour Advisory Group to raise this as a process matter.

Action: Secretary to write to the Harbour Advisory Group regarding the McKenzie's Beach communications issue and request advance notice of future works affecting public areas.

Maintenance and Gardening

All planters are performing well. Several metal barrel planters are showing signs of rusting and will need replacement in due course. Paint has been purchased for maintenance.

Defibrillator - Battery Status

Battery is at 15%. It was confirmed that the unit remains operational and would deliver at least ten shocks even at 5% charge.

It was noted: Ron Dawson to continue monthly monitoring. Funds for replacement pads and battery are available and authorised.

Action: Ron Dawson to continue monthly battery monitoring and notify the Treasurer when procurement is required.

10. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)

No substantive decisions to be taken under AOCB.

10.1 Overgrown Trees

A member of the public raised concerns about trees overhanging from an adjacent garden creating a hazard for road users.

Action: Chair to speak with the property owner regarding the overgrown trees. [Road name to be confirmed and inserted.]

10.2 Bin Condition Audit

Members noted damaged and seized latches on council owned bins across the village. A systematic audit is proposed to support a consolidated formal request to Moray Council.

Action: Treasurer to conduct a bin audit and submit a consolidated report to Moray Council requesting repairs, replacements, and larger capacity bins where appropriate.

10.3 Pétanque Court

The resident who originally suggested a community pétanque court has responded positively to FCC's Facebook contact and is liaising with the Macduff pétanque club on court dimensions, construction, and operation. The Treasurer will follow up. Common Good Fund support may be explored.

10.4 Community Council Laptop

The existing FCC laptop is at end of life. FCC will await the outcome of Moray Council's consideration of dedicated laptop provision for community councils before taking any further action. A replacement could be funded from the admin grant if required.

It was noted: the matter is in hand pending Moray Council's decision.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 7 September 2026 at 7:00 pm - Findochty Town Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8:15 pm.

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