



Findochty Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 6 July 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Attendance

Community Councillors: Anne Braidwood (Chair), Paul Steel (Secretary), Jeffrey Masterson, Ron Dawson

Associate members: None

Members of Public: Two

Moray Council: None

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees and confirmed the meeting was quorate.

It was noted that the meeting would be audio recorded solely to assist minute preparation and the recording deleted following approval of the minutes

2. Apologies for Absence

Paul Kerrison (Treasurer) and Cllr Sonya Warren.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 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 Antisocial Behaviour

Members noted that, following a period of heightened police activity after the June meeting, the level of response from Police Scotland has returned to its previous pattern. Members discussed a recent court appearance by the individual concerned, at Elgin and Aberdeen Sheriff Courts.

A request had been submitted to Police Scotland for a revised community report format better reflecting local concerns. Police Scotland has responded positively and confirmed that a new report format will be available from August 2026.



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4.2 Crooked Hythe Benches

The Secretary inspected the six benches and identified ten rotten timber slats, attributable to rusted coach bolts causing water ingress. Two options were discussed: replacing the ten affected slats only, or full replacement of all 108 slats. Quotes for hardwood materials are being sought. Volunteers will be recruited via Facebook in the autumn to assist with repairs and repainting of the fence near the slip.

Action: Secretary to obtain quotes for replacement timber slats and procure an additional tin of fence paint.

4.3 Community Land Lease / FABDT Partnership

No correspondence has been received from Seafeld Estate since the last chase.

It was agreed: that a further letter be sent to Seafeld Estate requesting a response.

Action: Chair to contact Seafeld Estate regarding the community land lease.

4.4 Ride-on Mower

No further progress has been made regarding the ride-on mower. The Secretary will investigate the brake mechanism, which may be required to start the mower, and assess the machine's repairability and potential resale value.

Action: Secretary to assess the ride-on mower's condition, investigate the brake mechanism, and report back with options including repair and potential sale.

4.5 Route 35 Bus Service

A response has been received from Stagecoach North Scotland acknowledging the joint survey submission. Stagecoach indicated that the findings did not align with their own operational intelligence. Stagecoach has since issued an amended timetable.

FCC has written to Stagecoach requesting clarification on whether the amended timetable addresses the issues raised in the survey and seeking a meeting to discuss further.

Action: Treasurer to monitor correspondence with Stagecoach and report progress at the next meeting. The Council to consider timing of any further escalation.

4.6 Grit Bin — Findochty Primary School

It was agreed: to carry this item forward to the next full committee meeting.



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5. Community Updates

5.1 Community Police Update

The bi-monthly community police report is next due in August 2026. No report was received at this meeting.

5.2 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported the following financial position:

- Bank balance: £6,996.59
- Admin Grant: £1,671.25
- Events Fund: £623.10
- Maintenance Fund: £2,035.60 (includes £500 earmarked for defibrillator)
- General Fund: £2,613.65

Income since the previous meeting: £0

Expenditure since the previous meeting: £52.99

The report was noted.

6. Community Feedback (Submitted in Advance)

It was agreed: to carry all items of community feedback forward to the next meeting.

7. Items Submitted by Community Council Members

7.1 Community Resilience Plan

Version 3.1 of the Community Resilience Plan has been submitted to Moray Council and appears to have been accepted. A desktop scenario exercise is awaiting scheduling. It was noted that Moray Council may be waiting for other community councils to complete their submissions before convening a joint exercise.

Action: Treasurer to progress scheduling of the desktop exercise with the Community Resilience Group on return from annual leave.



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7.2 Community Council Consultative Role Survey - Correspondence to Moray Council Ward Members

The committee considered a proposal to write to FCC's three Moray Council ward members sharing the results of the national community council consultative role survey. The survey closed on 19 June 2026 with 57 responses from approximately 49 councils across Scotland.

Members also discussed the relevance of the survey findings to the Scottish Government and COSLA's Democracy Matters: A Route Map to Reform consultation.

It was agreed: that correspondence be sent to FCC's three Moray Council ward members under the name of Findochty Community Council, sharing the survey results and their relevance to the Democracy Matters process.

Action: Treasurer to draft and circulate correspondence to ward members for approval.

8. Reports

8.1 Local Councillors

No Moray Council representatives were in attendance. Apologies had been received from Cllr Sonya Warren. It was noted that Cllr Warren had briefly discussed a potential bid for coastal e-bike infrastructure prior to the meeting; further information will be brought to the next meeting.

Action: Treasurer to continue e-bike feasibility discussions and report to the next meeting.

8.2 Sub-Committee: Community Resilience Group

Covered under Item 7.1.

8.3 Member Responsibility Updates

Harbour Advisory Group

The FCC representative reported the following from the most recent Harbour Advisory Group meeting:

- Pontoon chains require adjustment due to movement caused by yachts.
- The slipway will be cleared and cleaned as the surface has become slippery.
- The lighthouse is scheduled for repainting.
- The vessel Selkie will clear a sandbank at the harbour entrance.
- To address parking issues near the White Mannie statue and the pontoons, keep-clear markings and a white box will be added.



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The FCC representative was also asked to raise with the Harbour Advisory Group Committee why Findochty Community Council was not informed in advance of the recent pipe replacement works at McKenzie's Beach. As a result of receiving no prior notice, FCC had no opportunity to advise residents before the area was barriered off. The matter is raised as a courtesy and process concern going forward, not as a legal complaint.

Action: FCC representative to raise the McKenzie's Beach communications issue with the Harbour Advisory Group and report back at the next meeting.

Maintenance and Gardening

- A volunteer callout for a painting day will be shared on Facebook in due course.
- Lamp-post brackets are now in place. The Secretary confirmed that swordfish-pattern brackets were secured as dolphin-pattern alternatives were unavailable.
- The Secretary has obtained prices for a secure chemical storage cupboard: approximately £160 and £140 respectively.

It was agreed: that the Secretary circulate full details of the chemical storage cupboard options to committee members by email, for agreement or deferral to the next meeting.

Action: Secretary to circulate chemical storage cupboard details to all members for a decision.

Defibrillator - Battery Status

Ron Dawson reported that the defibrillator battery is currently at 16%. It was confirmed that the unit would deliver at least ten shocks even at 5% battery level.

It was noted: that following the meeting, Ron Dawson spoke with the Chair regarding the procurement of replacement pads and battery. The Chair confirmed that funds are available and authorised whenever required.

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

Shed Shelving — Insurance Position

It was noted that the Treasurer has an outstanding action to confirm the insurance implications of the shed shelving. This will be followed up on the Treasurer's return from annual leave.



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9. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)

9.1 Dog Waste Bag Dispensers

Members noted that several dog waste bag dispensers in the village have been removed or damaged, likely by a group of local youths. The Secretary confirmed that he holds surplus bag stations and will replace those that are missing or broken.

Action: Secretary to replace damaged or missing dog waste bag dispensers.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 4 August 2026 at 7:00 pm - Findochty Town Hall.

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