

Meeting of the Blackburn and Kinellar Community Council
Wednesday 10 September at 7.45pm
Kinellar Community Centre

Present: Doug Grant, Martin Hunter (Chair), Alex Lamb, Isabel Townsend, Peter Robinson & Jim Ogg

Councillors: Cllr Mason, CLLR Gifford

In attendance: Karen Thomson

Apologies: Emma Morrison (Secretary), Cllrs Reid & Lonchay

1. Welcome and Apologies

Martin Hunter (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Emma Morrison (Secretary) and Cllrs Reid and Lonchay.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of meeting held 9 July 2025

A. Correction - Peter Robinson (Treasurer) requested that the Treasurers' report be amended to show that there are only two corporate administrators - Emma and Martin, not three. He is trying to amend this with the bank so that it becomes three.

B. Approval - Approved, once amended as above, as an accurate record by Doug Grant and Jim Ogg.

4. Matters arising:

- Removal of grit bins across Aberdeenshire

Cllr Gifford reported that the removal of the grit bins has proved controversial and their removal has currently been put on hold. There will be an engagement with the Garioch office to see if the community want to keep certain grit bins and then a deal with the council to adopt these bins that are under threat of removal. These can then be labelled as community bins with the option to be filled by the community. An update on this will be provided soon through the Garioch office.

- Update regarding Public Liability Insurance

No update as of this meeting.

Action: Increase the Community Council's Public Liability Insurance to either £5 million or £10 million depending on quotes received (Emma Morrison)

5. Treasurers' report

Peter Robinson reported that Emma Morrison (Secretary) continues to be the only person with access to the Community Council's bank account. Peter Robinson requested signatures from the Community Council members in order to amend the account so that he too could obtain Corporate Administration rights and access the account. As a requirement to do this, Peter Robinson shared the documentation about such amendments, during the meeting. He noted that it was the bank who appointed Emma Morrison and Martin Hunter as the two corporate administrators on the account, even though the opening form for the account included all three of their names, so this process is required to add Peter Robinson as an administrator. There were no other updates.

Jim Ogg and Doug Grant asked if Emma Morrison had been reimbursed for her expenditures to date. Peter Robinson confirmed that as Emma Morrison currently is the only one with access to the bank account and sent her apologies for this meeting, we are unable to confirm if she has been reimbursed.

Action: Resolve issues accessing the bank account (Peter Robinson & Martin Hunter)

6. Police Scotland report (June – July report)

Martin Hunter read the Police Scotland report for June - July 2025, the most recent report received by the Community Council, to those present. It highlighted that there were nine road traffic incidents, which were all low level. There were no other incidents.

7. Local Place Plan (LPP)

Isabel Townsend reported that she has received drawings from last year's P5s class from Kinellar Primary School, illustrating things they would like the village to have. The most popular from these was a skate park. No further updates.

8. Beautiful Scotland

No update.

9. Condition and access status of woodland adjacent to Old Turnpike Road

Isabel Townsend raised that for several years this wooded area has had a sign warning of injury and death if you access the woods. Karen Thomson confirmed that the land is locally owned, rather than council owned, and as such the sign is there for personal liability reasons rather than preventing entrance. Jim Ogg added that several paths through the wood have been cleared and that there is permissive access to the woods.

10. Aberdeenshire Councillors' update

Updates from Cllr Mason

- The new 20mph speed limit will come into effect on the 22nd September, with signage being uncovered the same day. Isabel Townsend asked if the plans for 20mph for Blackburn had stayed the same as in the plan or were changed following local input. The councillor confirmed that they stayed as highlighted in the plan. Jim Ogg raised to the councillors that the current 30mph signage as you enter Blackburn, coming from Inverurie, are obstructed by trees.

Updates from Cllr Gifford

- As stated above, Cllr Gifford updated the community council that the removal of grit bins had been put on hold. He added that as they are now not being removed at the same time as the new 20mph signage going up, that this cost will now not be covered by the Scottish Government.

- A new bus service has been added to the village, E7, which runs between Aberdeen and Inverness, with a stop in Blackburn. The bus is subsidised by the council.

11. Additional comments:

A. Bus Stops

Martin Hunter has received a few complaints from Blackburn residents with mobility issues, as the buses going through the village to the hospital now only stop at the Leys Hotel bus stop and not at the bus stops further down Main Road.

B. Traffic Issues outside Kinellar Primary School

There are issues with traffic outside the school at drop off and pick up times, presenting dangers for pedestrians and drivers. Previously traffic was managed during this time due to the lollipop lady, however, without her, traffic builds up during this time and is exacerbated by drivers exiting the school car park. Martin Hunter asked if there was a possibility of obtaining a pelican crossing, instead of the current zebra crossing at the entrance to the school playground.

Isabel Townsend added that those entering and exiting the car park also pose a risk to pedestrians crossing and queried if additional zebra crossings could be added to help with this.

Cllr Gifford advised that two separate requests can be made with the Council department of Roads. Although he warned that the criteria to fit pelican crossings is quite strict and with the introduction of the new 20mph limit, it would be unlikely to be successful. He felt a request for the additional zebra crossings would likely be more successful.

Action: Martin Hunter will email Roads to make a request for both the zebra crossings at the entrance and exit to the school car park and for the pelican crossing.

C. Charity Donation

Martin Hunter asked if a community council member would be in a picture for social media handing over the cheque for the money he raised for the Kinellar Stars and Kinellar Kuppa. Peter Robinson offered that he would do this.

D. Community Council Social Media

Isabel Townsend is stepping down from the community council, she asked who she should hand over the running of the council's Facebook page to. Karen Thomson kindly offered her services.

Action: Isabel Townsend will liaise with Karen Thomson.

12. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council will take place on **Wednesday 8 October 2025** at 7.45 pm, Kinellar Community Hall.