

**Meeting of Blackburn and Kinellar Community Council**  
**Wednesday 11 June at 7.45 pm**  
**Kinellar Community Centre**

**Present:** Doug Grant, Martin Hunter (Chair), Alex Lamb, Emma Morrison (Secretary), Jim Ogg & Isabel Townsend

**Councillors:** Cllr Gifford, Mason & Reid

**In attendance:** Neil Bremner\*, Alison Cumming, James Douglas\*, Kenny Findlay\*, Katharina Holzkamp, Paul Murray & Steve Wright

**Apologies:** Peter Robinson (Treasurer), Cllr Lonchay

*\*attended the meeting until the conclusion of agenda item 4.*

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Martin Hunter (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Peter Robinson and Cllr Lonchay.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Minutes of the 14 May 2025 meeting**

- a. Corrections – It was noted by Isabel Townsend that the location of the missing bin is by Kinellar Play Park, not by the School as stated in the draft minute.
- b. Approval – Approved as an accurate record by Doug Grant and Jim Ogg.

**4. Update from Local Community Groups**

- Update from Steve Wright, Kenny Findlay, Neil Bremner and James Dougart on the Pavilion in the playing field.

Kenny Findlay advised that funds to build the pavilion were raised by the local community, with additional financial support from the Scottish Sports Council. The pavilion was owned by Blackburn Amateur Football Club (now defunct) and the ground was leased from Aberdeenshire Council for a nominal fee.

Most recently, the pavilion was operated by a third party; however, they failed to pay energy bills and insurance, and the building has fallen into a state of serious disrepair. It is currently unusable. Support is therefore needed to refurbish the pavilion and restore it as a functional community facility. Consideration must also be given to ensuring a sustainable long-term management plan to prevent future deterioration.

Cllr Reid noted that Ann Overton (Area Manager (Garioch), Aberdeenshire Council) is fully supportive of the aspiration to secure the future of the pavilion, however, to proceed Aberdeenshire Council requires evidence of the building's ownership, confirmation of Blackburn Amateur Football Club's status, and a copy of the club's constitution. Copies of the documents were presented to Cllr Reid and Alison Cumming (Area Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council) during the meeting.

Members of the Community Council were unanimous in their support for the refurbishment and committed to helping where possible to restore the pavilion as a usable facility. They welcomed further updates as the project progresses.

## **5. Treasurers' report**

In Peter Robinson's absence, Emma Morrison noted that he had received a cheque for £50 from Roddy McInnes on behalf of Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church to support the purchase of bedding plants for the village. The cheque is yet to be paid into the Community Council's bank account, however he has purchased and planted the bedding plants.

Emma Morrison sought approval for the following expenses incurred on behalf of the Community Council:

- £210 for room bookings for the Community Council's monthly business meetings (covering December 2024, and February, March, April, May and June 2025)
- £56 for the Community Council's annual Public Liability Insurance Policy

In addition, Emma Morrison sought approval for the following upcoming expenses:

- Up to £70 for materials required for the Community Council's stall at the Gala on 14<sup>th</sup> June
- £52 for the annual fee to register Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council with the Information Commissioner (see Item 8 for related discussion)

The expenses incurred to date were approved. The proposed Gala-related expenditure and registration fee were approved in principle, with final approval to be ratified at the next business meeting in July.

Alison Cumming queried the insurance policy cost and the level of cover provided, noting that similar policies typically cost around £90–£100 for £10 million public liability cover through Zurich. The Community Council were minded to approve up to £100 for the insurance policy should additional cover be required.

Alison Cumming also advised that details of the Community Council Admin Grant for 2025-26 from Aberdeenshire Council will be known in due course, however the grant to the Community Council is likely to be in the region of £1,000.

**ACTION:** Review the current Public Liability Insurance policy and make amendments if necessary to ensure appropriate cover is in place (Emma Morrison)

## **6. Insurance**

This item was considered as part of the Treasurer's report and related expenditure discussion (see Item 5). No further discussion was required.

## **7. Police Scotland**

A report was received for the period 01 May 2025 – 01 June 2025.

Assault – 0, Housebreaking – 1, Public Nuisance – 0, Road Traffic – 11, Drugs - 0

Over the coming month the Community Policing Team will continue to carry out high visibility patrols across the Garioch area, focussing on road traffic issues, antisocial behaviour, and youth issues.

Steve Wright noted that Kinellar Community Centre reported an incident in May 2025 when someone broke in via a locked gate and lifted a bench out into the car park. Police provided an incident report number, however this incident has not been recorded in the latest report provided to the Community Council.

At the Garioch Forum on 4 June 2025 it was noted that several Community Councils are struggling to receive regular police reports, and concerns were raised that known reported incidents are not appearing in reports. At that meeting, Ann Overton noted that this may be because the incidents reported are not considered to be crimes, however she would explore further.

Emma Morrison noted that Police Sergeant Iain Fraser hopes to attend July's Community Council meeting and this would provide an opportunity to discuss concerns regarding antisocial behaviour in the area.

## **8. Kinellar Community Centre Annual Gala – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 11 am – 4 pm**

Jim Ogg noted that he has organised the loan of a gazebo for the Community Council's stall, and Isabel Townsend and Emma Morrison will bring tables and chairs.

Alex Lamb, Martin Hunter, Doug Grant, Jim Ogg, Isabel Townsend and Emma Morrison all intend to be present on the day.

Emma Morrison noted that the following information sharing, and engagement activities are planned for the Community Council's stall:

- Poster with Community Council members' photos and short bios, upcoming meeting dates, and QR codes for our webpage and socials.
- A local map to allow people to mark areas of concern (e.g. potholes, speeding, litter), places they value (e.g. nice walks, play parks), and spots that might be suitable for flower planters.
- A community pledge wall, inviting people to pledge how they'd like to be more involved (e.g. "I'll attend a community council meeting," "I'll help with a litter pick," "I'll donate some flowers/ planters", etc).
- Voting jars and tokens – giving each person 3 tokens to vote for what matters most to them (5 or 6 options, for example "public transport" and "youth activities"). Votes will be tallied and it will provide a visual representation of what matters most to the community.
- Survey comprised of 3 questions: What do you value most about living in this area? What is the biggest issue facing the area? What would you like to see for the area?
- A drawing table for children to draw their favourite thing about the village or something they'd like to see here in the future.
- Children's games (e.g. ring toss and a cornhole game).

Regarding the community survey, it was discussed that the initial plan was not to collect respondents' personal details, as the Community Council has not yet registered with the Information Commissioner. However, members noted that this would be a missed opportunity to gather valuable contact information and feedback. Alison Cumming highlighted that the registration process takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Emma Morrison has submitted the risk assessment and confirmation of the Community Council's public liability insurance to the gala organisers.

Martin Hunter noted that he has raised £300 to date for his sponsored beard shave, with funds being raised for the Kinellar Cuppa and the Toddlers Group.

**ACTION:** Complete the Community Council's registration with the Information Commissioner to enable the collection of respondents' details as part of the survey (Emma Morrison)

## **9. Local Place Plan (LPP)**

Isabel Townsend reached out to Emma Storey (Planning and Information Team, Aberdeenshire Council) for advice regarding the development of an LPP. She advised that LPPs can be submitted at any time, although for best integration into the Local Development Plan, Aberdeenshire Council have a suggested deadline of December 2025. In order for the LPP to be validated and registered, it must comply with the criteria as outlined by Scottish Government: engagement, considerations of planning documents and statements outlining the reasons for changes to the LDP and any future proposals. Isabel Townsend had sought feedback on whether plans to engage the community through the Gala and social media would be suitable from an engagement side of things, and Emma Storey confirmed these plans would be more than suitable and would certainly help outline future proposals and aspirations.

## **10. Beautiful Scotland**

As recorded under Item 5, Peter Robinson has purchased and planted bedding flowers using funds donated on behalf of Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church. Cllr Reid suggested posting photos of the new bedding plants on our Facebook page to raise awareness.

Steve Wright had applied to Dobbies Garden Centre for a grant for bedding plants for the community, but unfortunately this was not successful. However, when he went to the garden centre to purchase plants, he asked for a community discount and received a 20% reduction - so this is something to bear in mind in the future. ASDA also have a community grant fund for plants.

To support an application to the Woodland Trust, Isabel Townsend is liaising with Aberdeenshire Council to secure approval to plant fruit trees. The Woodland Trust deadline is the end of August - if successful, tree packs would be delivered in November 2025.

## **11. Aberdeenshire Councillors' Update**

### Updates from Cllr Mason:

- At a full meeting on 9 June, Aberdeenshire Council reversed its decision to mothball four rural nurseries (Ballogie, Crossroads, Glass, and Sandhaven). Councillors voted to pause the mothballing process and initiate a review of the Council's consultation guidance.
- Gillian Owen resigned as Aberdeenshire Council leader at the end of May and a new leader will be appointed by the coalition administration.

### Updates from Cllr Reid:

- A new Men's Shed is planned for Blackburn and Kinellar, aiming to combat social isolation and loneliness by providing a space for men to connect, share skills, and work on projects. An open meeting will be held on 18 June at Kinellar Community Centre.
- P5 pupils from Kinellar Primary School are organising a litter pick from 4 – 5 pm in the playing field straight after the gala on 14 June.

- A couple of near misses at the school crossing have been reported to Cllr Reid. In response, he has requested a safety assessment be carried out and has asked that the installation of a mechanical (signal-controlled) crossing be considered.
- Regarding the basketball hoops in the multi-use green area, Cllr Reid advised that the football goals still need to be moved and discussion with the school is ongoing.
- Regarding the missing bin near Kinellar Play Park, Cllr Reid advised that a reply from council officers was expected shortly, and the bin would either be replaced in the original position or relocated across the road.

Cllr Gifford had no additional updates.

## **12. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next monthly meeting of Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council will take place on **Wednesday 9 July 2025** at 7.45 pm, Kinellar Community Centre.