

Meeting of Blackburn and Kinellar Community Council
Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 7.30 pm
Kinellar Community Centre

Present: Martin Hunter (Chair), Alec Lamb, Emma Morrison (Secretary), Jim Ogg, Peter Robinson (Treasurer), and Isabel Townsend.

Councillors: Cllrs Mason and Reid

In attendance: Alexey Flepanou, Doug Grant, Gareth Lean, David Louden, Jackie Smith and Karen Thomson

Apology: Cllrs Gifford and Lonchay, Gary Purves

1. Welcome and Apologies

Martin Hunter welcomed everyone to the meeting and, on behalf of the Community Council, acknowledged Dorothy Lamb's tremendous commitment to the community over many years. He also expressed members' condolences to Alec Lamb and their family.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gifford and Lonchay, and Gary Purves.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the 11 December 2024 meeting

Minutes were approved as an accurate record by Peter Robinson/ Martin Hunter.

4. Matters Arising

Lighting in the Street Islands

Cllr Reid advised that he had raised the issue of several unlit (presumed faulty) street islands in the village with the relevant team at Aberdeenshire Council and repairs will be made in due course.

Post Box Move

Cllr Reid advised that Royal Mail informed him the main post box had to be relocated because it was situated on private land. Within the village, the new positioning of the post box means that Royal Mail fulfils the obligation set by Ofcom to ensure that 98% of all households are within 1.5 miles of a post box. Safety concerns were also raised to Royal Mail. No further action will be taken.

Blackie Banter Update

The February issue (issue 50) is out now. Jackie Smith is in the process of adding Emma Morrison as a signatory to the Blackie Banter bank account.

5. Appointment of a new Chairperson

Following the sad passing of Dorothy Lamb the Community Council was required to appoint a new Chairperson. Martin Hunter kindly volunteered his services for the role. He was proposed by Peter Robinson and seconded by Isabel Townsend.

It was agreed that it would also be appropriate to appoint a Vice Chairperson. Isabel Townsend was appointed to this role – proposed by Emma Morrison and seconded by Peter Robinson.

6. Treasurers report

The Treasurer provided an update on the application to Virgin to create a bank account. This activity will be progressed with the Chair and the Secretary as quickly as possible to ensure the 2024/25 admin grant can be secured (cut off date to transfer the funding is 31 March 2025).

The funds identified for the Community Council are £2,110.66 (previous CC funds) and £522.50 (admin grant for half year). This gives a total of £2633.16.

Alec Lamb inquired how the costs for the meeting venue were being met in the absence of an established bank account. Emma Morrison advised that she had paid the room hire costs for the December 2024 meeting and would do so again for the February meeting. If it is possible to do so she will seek to claim back these expenses (£70 total) once the bank account has been opened.

ACTION: Open a bank account and liaise with Alison Cumming to complete Aberdeenshire Council's supplier set up form to enable the transfer of funds (Peter Robinson)

7. Insurance

The Community Council discussed the need to consider insurance cover for public liability. Emma Morrison agreed to liaise with Alison Cumming to explore further and will take this activity forward once a bank account has been established.

ACTION: Liaise with Alison Cumming as required to explore insurance options (Emma Morrison)

8. Police Report

A report was received for the period 01 January – 08 February 2025:

Assault 2, Housebreaking 6, Public Nuisance 2, Road Traffic 1, Drugs 0.

Over the coming month the Community Policing Team will be carrying out high visibility patrols across the Garioch area, focusing on anti-social behaviour and youth issues.

Emma Morrison noted that Mike Urquhart (Crime Reduction and Architectural Liaison Officer) had been in contact to advise that the North East Division Crime Reduction Team would like to visit as many local community groups as possible to provide advice regarding the latest frauds and scams. It was agreed that she would follow up to suggest that an upcoming Community Council meeting would be a good forum to hear from the NE Division Crime Reduction Team, with a view to encouraging other community groups such as the Scottish Women's Institute to come along.

It was suggested the meeting could be held in May to coincide with the next issue of the Blackie Banter as this would be a useful communication tool which would help to promote the event, particularly to older residents.

ACTION: Liaise with the North East Division Crime Reduction Team to explore availability (Emma Morrison)

9. Website and social media

Isabel Townsend has created a Facebook page on behalf of the Community Council, and it was agreed that an Instagram account would also be established. She has also been working with Paul Murray (Board Member, Kinellar Community Centre) to establish a Community Council webpage on the Centre's website (at no financial cost to the Community Council). The Community Council webpage will provide a platform for information on meetings (dates, agendas, and minutes) and other useful information. The webpage will also feature short biographies and photos for Community Councillors and all members are requested to send this information as soon as possible to Isabel for upload.

ACTION: Create an Instagram account for Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council (Isabel Townsend)

ACTION: Send short bios and a profile picture for the new webpage to Isabel Townsend (All members of the Community Council)

10. Community Resilience

- **Available support from Aberdeenshire Council's Community Resilience Project Officer**

Emma Morrison advised that Aimi Blueman, a Community Resilience Project Officer at Aberdeenshire Council has been in touch to suggest a meeting to discuss emergency resilience and her role in supporting community groups. It was agreed that Ms Blueman would be invited to join an upcoming meeting of the Community Council and Emma Morrison will reach out to explore her availability.

ACTION: Liaise with Community Resilience Project Officer to explore their availability to attend a future Community Council meeting (Emma Morrison)

- **MET Office 2025 prospectus of online training courses for Community Resilience Groups**

Emma Morrison noted that the MET Office has just released its 2025 prospectus of online training courses for Community Resilience Groups. These informative sessions include how the MET Office warns and informs and how to interpret weather warnings. They are free of charge and booking details can be found here:

<https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/19576/widgets/63091/documents/76945>.

- **Scottish Climate Intelligence Service (SCIS) webinar 26 March**

Emma Morrison noted that the Scottish Government and local authorities have jointly funded a new climate action programme, the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service (SCIS). SCIS are hosting a webinar for Community Councils at 6 pm on Wednesday 26th March. Peter Robinson would be interested in signing up for the webinar, Emma Morrison will pass on the details.

ACTION: Share SCIS webinar details with Peter Robinson (Emma Morrison)

11. Planning Matters

- Emma Morrison has been monitoring the Planning Weekly Lists for Garioch Area and to date none have related to the Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council. As and when a

relevant application is submitted, she will flag this to Community Councillors for awareness. The applications within the Garioch Area can be viewed using the online Planning Register (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>). Community Councils wishing to be consulted on an application should contact the local planning office within 7 working days.

Those present discussed the SSEN Transmission Kintore-Tealing 400kV OHL Connection, a new overhead powerline. Public Consultation Feedback Events will be taking place in February and March (nearest meeting: Monday 24 February, 2-7pm at Kintore Public Hall, 12 School Road, Kintore, AB51 0UX). SSEN will be publishing their Report on Consultation shortly which documents the last round of the consultation process undertaken in September and October 2024. The Report will confirm the final overhead line alignment being taken forward for planning consent and development. Cllr Reid suggested contacting Alison Cumming to ensure the Community Council would be notified in due course when planning permission is sought.

ACTION: Liaise with Alison Cumming to ensure the Community Council is notified of SSEN Transmission Kintore-Tealing 400kV OHL Connection developments (Emma Morrison)

- Energy Development Mapping available via Council Cadcorp Mapping System: For awareness, the Planning Service has been working on the creation of a mapping system that can display energy and transmission development. The map can be used to view all large-scale energy and transmission proposals submitted since August 2003. More information will follow in due course once the Council website is developed further.
- Notification of Training - Community Council Training - Renewables and Energy Consents: Aberdeenshire Council and Angus Council in conjunction with Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) are organising training for all Community Councils covering aspects of renewable and energy developments. This is advanced notice of this training. Although no date has been set, it is hoped this should be in February/March. It is likely that the training sessions would be around a lunchtime and an evening to give flexibility. Once details of the training have been finalised they will be shared with Community Councillors.

12. Local Place Plan (LPP)

By way of background, Local Place Plans (LPPs) were introduced to increase community involvement in the planning and spatial design process. These plans let communities highlight issues, gather ideas, develop proposals for the development and use of land in the place where they live, express aspirations for the future of a place, with a focus on their needs.

Emma Morrison advised that there is an opportunity for Community Councils to gain free training on LPPs, with the next training session due to be held online on 19 February.

Cllr Reid encouraged members of the Community Council to learn more about LPPs as they serve to empower communities to play a proactive role in defining the future of their places, and they also feed into Community Action Plans. He also suggested that members of Kintore and District Community Council may be willing to chat informally about the development of their LPP.

Isabel Townsend and Emma Morrison agreed that they would try to attend the upcoming training to learn more.

ACTION: Participate in Local Place Plan training (Isabel Townsend & Emma Morrison)

13. Keep Scotland Beautiful

Gareth Lean (present) shared that he intended to plant some fruit trees near Averon Park on Sunday 16 February to establish a community orchard. He will post on the *Keeping Blackburn Safe & Local Info* Facebook page to raise awareness and encourage volunteers to come along to join in.

Isabel Townsend asked whether there was still support from members of the Community Council to continue with Keep Scotland Beautiful plans, noting that it would be fitting to proceed with this in memory of Dorothy Lamb. There was unanimous support to take this activity forward. Isabel Townsend will create some Facebook posts to raise awareness and ask members of the community whether they would want to volunteer, and also to receive suggestions for where people would like to see the flowers placed.

It was Dorothy Lamb's intention to contact Sandy Scott (Principal Landscape Officer, Aberdeenshire Council) to invite him to a future meeting. Cllr Reid kindly offered to help make this connection and Emma Morrison will liaise regarding upcoming meeting dates.

ACTION: Create social media content to raise awareness of Keeping Scotland Beautiful-related plans for community engagement (Isabel Townsend)

ACTION: Invite Sandy Scott to talk to the Community Council about the Keeping Scotland Beautiful initiative (Cllr Reid & Emma Morrison)

14. Litter pick

The possibility of organising a litter pick was discussed at the Community Council meeting held in December 2024.

Isabel Townsend has reached out to Aberdeenshire Council's Community Waste Officers to explore whether they could provide litter pickers and bags, and organise to have the litter collected for disposal. Resourcing constraints may mean the Council are unable to supply these materials so Alison Cumming has suggested reaching out to Westhill and Kintore Community Councils to explore whether we could borrow their supplies (Isabel Townsend has reached out to Kintore, and Martin Hunter will explore with Westhill). Alternatively, Community Council funds could be used to purchase our own litter picking supplies.

Emma Morrison noted that the 10th Great British Spring Clean will take place from 21 March - 6 April 2025 (organised by Keep Britain Tidy) and suggested that this would be a good national event to organise our local effort around. It was agreed that litter picks would be organised for the 22 and 23 March. Kinellar Primary School and local youth groups shall be invited to get involved.

Alec Lamb raised that health and safety measures would need to be considered.

ACTION: Consider event health & safety (including a possible risk assessment) (All)

ACTION: Promote and participate in litter pick 22/23 March 2025 (All)

15. Updates from Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Reid provided an update on Kintore and Newmachar Libraries. At the Garioch Area Meeting on 4 February 2025 it was announced that Kintore Library will see no reduction in public hours (they will remain at 15 hours). No decision on Newmachar Library will be made until June as they work on alternatives and seek more community engagement.

Cllr Mason provided an update on the 2025/26 budget which is due to be agreed by Aberdeenshire Council on 27 February 2025. Some cuts are anticipated, and council tax rates are still to be determined.

16. Correspondence

- Possible change of meeting times (7.45 pm start time proposed)
The Community Centre is booked for all of the 2025 meetings. The Centre manager has asked whether the meeting start time could be delayed by 15 minutes to 7.45 pm to give the staff some more time to turn the room around after the dance class ends at 7.30 pm. There was unanimous support to amend meeting start times accordingly.
- **ACTION:** Update room booking details with Kinellar Community Centre (Emma Morrison)
- Community Council Forum, 7 pm Wednesday 5th March 2025 (online)
Emma Morrison will attend the next Community Council Forum and feedback to the Community Council.
- Request to attend Kenmay Academy Parent Council meetings
Janine Cracknell, Kintore & District Community Council Secretary, enquired whether anyone from Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council would be available to attend the termly meetings. Isabel Townsend has been in contact with Kinellar Primary School's head teacher who is exploring with local parents who might like to join.

17. AOCB

- Co-opting new members
The option of co-opting new members to the Community Council was discussed. Doug Grant (present) indicated his willingness to be co-opted. In line with the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils, notice of any proposed co-option procedure, including the candidate's name, is required to be intimated to every member of the Community Council and the Area Manager at least 10 working days prior to the meeting when the matter of co-option will be decided. Accordingly, it was agreed that co-option would be added to the agenda for the March meeting.
- Kinellar Gala, 14 June 2025
Karen Thomson (present) asked whether the Community Council would like to take a stall at the Gala, and it was agreed that this would be an excellent chance to raise awareness of the Community Council and present opportunities to get involved. It would also provide an opportunity to canvas on community issues. The cost for a stall will be £40. Karen Thomson will follow up with Emma Morrison to confirm arrangements.

18. Date of next monthly meeting **Wednesday 12 March 2025** at 7.45 pm, Kinellar Community Centre.