

Meeting of Blackburn and Kinellar Community Council
Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 7.45 pm
Kinellar Community Centre

Present: Doug Grant, Alex Lamb, Emma Morrison (Secretary), Jim Ogg, and Peter Robinson (Treasurer) & Isabel Townsend (Deputy Chair)

Councillors: Cllr Gifford, Mason & Reid

In attendance: Liz Russell

Apologies: Martin Hunter, Cllr Lonchay

1. Welcome and Apologies

Isabel Townsend (Deputy Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Martin Hunter.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the 9 April 2025 meeting

Minutes were approved as an accurate record by Isabel Townsend/ Doug Grant.

4. Matters Arising

- Update on missing fencing at the Burn Park
Isabel Townsend advised that new fencing is now in place.

In addition, the surface of the playground has been replaced. During the repair however, a swing was removed and has not yet been returned. Cllr Reid was happy to be contacted if the swing does not reappear and he will liaise with Council officers to request its reinstatement.

It was also noted that the bin is still missing from Kinellar Play Park – Cllr Reid advised that he was waiting on a reply from Council officers on this matter.

- The Aberdeenshire Council (Garioch) (Speed Limits Revocation) Order 2025 and The Aberdeenshire Council (Garioch) (Speed limits) Order 2025
As agreed at the April meeting, Emma Morrison shared the Community Council's feedback with the Senior Roads Engineer (South Area). She commented that no response in relation to the feedback submitted has been received yet however, a member of Mid Deeside Community Council reached out to explore whether there were any other Community Councils in Aberdeenshire who had sought to request that an *additional* section of road in their area is reduced in speed. When Mid Deeside Community Council had raised this request they were told by Aberdeenshire Council that they will only consider representations made in relation to roads where the speed limit will change. This means that, for a road which the Council proposes should remain at 30 mph, the Council will not consider representations that the road should be reduced to 20 mph. The public consultation is now open, and residents can submit their views until 29 May 2025.

ACTION: Promote the public consultation via the Community Council's Facebook page to raise awareness and encourage local engagement (Isabel Townsend)

5. Treasurers report

The Treasurer provided an update on the bank account application to Virgin Money and was pleased to report that the account is now open. He has submitted the necessary supplier set-up form to Aberdeenshire Council to enable the transfer of the funds they hold for the Community Council, and these will be received in due course.

Emma Morrison noted that she has incurred expenses of £170 to date for the hall hire and will submit an expense claim for reimbursement once the funds have been received from Aberdeenshire Council.

Emma Morrison also commented that there is an outstanding action from November 2024 for Peter Robinson, to register the Community Council with the Information Commissioner once a bank account has been set up. The registration fee looks to be in the region of £52/year.

ACTION: Register the Community Council with the Information Commissioner (Peter Robinson)

6. Insurance

The Community Council discussed the need to secure insurance cover for public liability. Emma Morrison will take this activity forward once funds from Aberdeenshire Council have been received, however she has received a quote of £56 from Zurich.

ACTION: Purchase Public Liability Insurance (Emma Morrison)

7. Police Report

A report was received from the Garioch Community Policing Team for the reporting period 01 April 2025 – 01 May 2025. The report notes that the current policing priorities are (i) proactive patrols to provide community reassurance and to deter/detect instances of antisocial behaviour and vandalism, (ii) increased use of Stop and Search to deter/detect drug and acquisitive crime, and (iii) high visibility patrols in relation to vehicular offences.

In the reporting period there were (# of reported incidences): Assault - 0, Housebreaking - 1, Public Nuisance - 0, Road Traffic - 11, and Drugs – 0.

Emma Morrison shared that Police Sergeant Iain Fraser, from Inverurie Community Policing Team, has indicated that he hopes to attend the July meeting in-person to introduce himself to members of the Community Council.

8. Kinellar Community Centre Annual Gala – Saturday 14th June, 11 am – 4 pm

It was agreed that Emma Morrison will complete the registration form and sign a contract with the Community Centre in relation to the Community Council's pitch at the Gala.

It was noted that it is essential for the Community Council to have the necessary public liability insurance in place in advance of the Gala, and a risk assessment would also be required.

Jim Ogg agreed to explore options for a gazebo and will look into borrowing the one used for the Christmas light switch-on. Emma Morrison has a trestle table, and Isabel Townsend has some camping chairs which would be suitable for use on the day. A rota will be planned for Community Council members to cover the stand throughout the day.

ACTION: Complete the registration form and sign contract (Emma Morrison)

ACTION: Complete the risk assessment (Emma Morrison)

ACTION: Borrow a gazebo for use at the Gala (Jim Ogg)

9. Local Place Plan (LPP)

Cllr Reid suggested having a few different interactive options at the Gala to canvas opinions, which could help to develop our Local Place Plan in due course. Isabel Townsend commented that the Community Council can also use social media platforms to canvas opinions.

Isabel Townsend agreed to follow up with the Information and Planning Team to explore what would be deemed as an acceptable level of engagement for the development of an LPP, and also presentation format of the LPP (e.g. a bullet point format).

ACTION: Seek advice on requirements for engagement and formatting for an LPP (Isabel Townsend)

10. Beautiful Scotland

Isabel Townsend used the Community Council's Facebook page to seek suggestions for flower planters – although the post's reach was good, there was no engagement regarding possible locations. She will repeat the post calling for suggestions.

Alex Lamb advised that Roddy McInnes has kindly offered £50 on behalf of Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Parish Church to support the purchase of bedding plants for the village.

Isabel Townsend advised that there is an opportunity for the Community Council to apply to the Woodland Trust for a free fruit tree pack (applications close at the end of August), and she will proceed with the application.

ACTION: Apply to the Woodland Trust for a free fruit tree pack (Isabel Townsend)

11. Preparation for the first Annual General Meeting

Emma Morrison raised that the Community Council is required to hold its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June. The agenda for the AGM should include the Chair's report, Treasurer's Report, and Appointment of Office Bearers. It was agreed that the AGM would be held on Wednesday 11 June at 7.45 pm, and a normal business meeting will be held directly afterwards. Peter Robinson submitted his apologies for the AGM and business meeting.

Doug Grant asked if there was an approved version of the Community Council's constitution as to date, he had only received a draft copy. Emma Morrison will look out the final version and share this for reference.

ACTION: Share a copy of the Community Council's constitution in advance of the AGM (Emma Morrison)

12. Aberdeenshire Councillors' Update

Updates from Cllr Mason

- Cllr Mason advised that following the last meeting he explored whether any Council funds were available to support hybrid meeting facilities. Such funds are not available; however the Community Council would be free to use its admin grant allocation to purchase e.g. a Zoom licence.
- Cllr Mason advised that the bridge on the B979 to Fintray is in need of repair, but noted it is currently placed eighteenth on the list for repair.
- Cllr Mason provided an update on Newmacher Library, noting that it will move into the local primary school. Newmacher's Community Council are exploring options for the old library building (via a Community Asset Transfer (CAT)).

- At the April meeting Jim Ogg raised a concern that the white lines at the bottom of Fintray Road have worn away, and Cllr Mason kindly agreed to report this to the Roads Department. Jim Ogg noted that he also now submitted a report. No action by the Roads Department has been taken yet.
- Cllr Mason also noted that he had attended the Bus Forum hosted by Aberdeenshire Council on 30 April, where bus services on the A96, A947 and B999 routes were discussed. Cllr Reid added that lighting issues at the A96 bus stop are being investigated.

Updates from Cllr Reid

- Cllr Reid raised the issue of the temporary lights on the B9776 Cothal Road at the Garioch Area Committee on 13 May. The issue has been ongoing for six years and has worsened as a result of a second landslip in April. He advised that Aberdeenshire Council are now considering options of one-way traffic or road closure. The repair work is anticipated to require a high level of spend which is not possible in the current financial climate, however it was noted that the current placement of temporary lights also comes at a significant cost.
- Regarding the basketball court, Cllr Reid advised that the football goals need to be moved and discussion with the school is required.
- Volunteers of a popular youth basketball club are looking to move to a larger venue and Kinellar Community Centre are keen to host. Cllr Reid advised that there is an Active Schools 4-week trial at Kenmay Academy currently but welcomed the idea that the club could be hosted in Blackburn going forward.
- Jim Ogg noted that there is a small area of uncut grass at the top of Bishop Forbes Crescent which is causing a road visibility issue. Cllr Reid kindly agreed to raise this with the appropriate team.

Cllr Gifford had no additional updates.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council will be held on **Wednesday 11 June 2025** at 7.45 pm, Kinellar Community Hall. The monthly meeting of Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council will take place immediately following this Annual General Meeting.