

Meeting of Blackburn and Kinellar Community Council
Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 7.45 pm
Kinellar Community Centre

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

Councillors: Cllrs Gifford

In attendance: Karen Thomson and Steve Wright

Apology: Cllrs Lonchay, Mason & Reid, Alex Lamb, and Doug Grant

1. Welcome and Apologies

Martin Hunter welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs Mason & Reid, Alex Lamb, and Doug Grant.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the 12 February 2025 meeting

Minutes were approved as an accurate record by Peter Robinson/ Isabel Townsend.

4. Membership Co-option – Proposed member Mr Doug Grant

At the meeting on 12 February 2025, Doug Grant put himself forward for co-option and it was agreed that the co-option procedure would be followed at the March meeting.

Present members of the Community Council elected Doug Grant in a unanimous vote (*in absentia*). As a co-opted member, Doug Grant shall have full voting rights, will become a Full Member after a period of 6 months in position, and will serve until the next round of elections.

ACTION: Liaise with Doug Grant to complete the 'Co-option of New Community Council Member' form for Aberdeenshire Council (Emma Morrison)

5. Matters Arising

- There was an action at the February meeting to ensure the Community Council is notified of SSEN Transmission Kintore-Tealing 400kV OHL Connection developments and Emma Morrison has now registered with SSEN on behalf of BKCC to receive updates.
- Emma Morrison attended the Garioch Community Council Forum held on Wednesday 5th March. Mike Cassie, Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue gave an update on Scottish Fire and Rescue Community Initiatives and his ambition to make fire stations an accessible community hub (examples includes Breakfast Clubs to support social inclusion). Representatives of the various Community Councils present gave updates on key initiatives they are working towards or challenges they were facing, and the Forum will provide a good opportunity going forward to tap into a valuable support network. The next meeting is 4 June (AGM) in-person in Inverurie; it was agreed that a member of the Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council would attend (to be discussed in due course).

6. Treasurers report

The Treasurer provided an update on the application to Virgin Money to create a bank account.

Peter Robinson read out the Account Opening Declaration from Virgin Money, and Community Council members passed the following Resolution:

It was resolved that the Bank (Virgin Money) be appointed as bankers for the Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council and that a bank account be opened in the name of 'Blackburn & Kinellar Community Council' with the Bank. Community Council members acknowledge that the account shall be subject to the relevant Terms and Conditions published by the Bank and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

It was agreed that dual authorisation would be required to complete third-party payments electronically from the bank account when it is established.

Debit cards are not required at present, and the option to have debit cards can be explored should the need arise in the future.

Community Council members present agreed that no Corporate Administrator/ Additional User of the bank account would be permitted to apply for any overdraft/ credit functionality.

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 secure 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

No report was received on this occasion.

Isabel Townsend reported new graffiti across various locations in the village (including bus shelters, the old football pavilion, and signage at the industrial estate). A police officer called her to discuss concerns and advised they would make a visit to assess the damage. She was advised that the Police would only treat the graffiti as a crime if it was difficult to remove.

Cllr Gifford noted that the Police have been attempting to clamp down on young people using e-trail bikes, with bikes in Inverurie being confiscated for unsafe/ illegal use.

ACTION: Liaise with the Policing team to ensure a report is available for the April meeting (Emma Morrison)

9. Litter Pick

March 22nd and 23rd were originally identified for the litter pick however it was agreed to postpone until the Community Council has indemnity insurance in place (pending bank

account). Steve Wright (present) advised that the Rotary Club of Kintore, Blackburn & Kemnay are also keen to organise a litter pick in the village so there is an opportunity to combine efforts.

Isabel Townsend and Emma Morrison have prepared a risk assessment and mitigating strategies and will share this in case other members have anything else to add.

ACTION: Share draft risk assessment for comment (Emma Morrison)

10. Missing Fencing at the Burn Park

Isabel Townsend raised concerns about areas of missing fencing in the Burn Park, particularly next to the burn crossing, and she has reported concerns to Aberdeenshire Council (response pending). Karen Thomson (present) advised that she has reported concerns to Cllr Reid previously.

11. Website and social media

Isabel Townsend advised that Community Council webpage has now been established on the Kinellar Community Centre's website. She is also exploring an Instagram account (in addition to the recently created Facebook account) for the Community Council, and this will be established in due course.

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

ACTION: Send short bio and a profile picture for the new webpage to Isabel Townsend (Martin Hunter)

12. Planning Applications Update

- Full planning permission is sought for the siting of an InPost UK parcel locker at Kinellar Community Hall. Members of the Community Council had no concerns and were not aware of any concerns from the community, so no further action is required.
- Cllr Gifford noted that the Garioch Area Committee will shortly review plans for the Kintore Hydrogen development.
- Cllr Gifford also noted that plans for the SSE Transmission Hurlie 400kV substation are at pre-determination stage.

13. Local Place Plan (LPP)

Emma Morrison and Isabel Townsend have attended some recent training webinars for Community Councils on Local Place Plans. LPPs let communities highlight issues, gather ideas, develop proposals for the development and use of land, and they also feed into Community Action Plans.

While LPPs can be produced at any time, their integration with the Local Development Plan will be greatly facilitated if they are prepared and consulted upon for submission by September 2025. Cllr Gifford noted that the timing is critical, and that we can start with known issues to keep it simple.

Further consideration is required to determine if the Community Council has the resource to deliver in 2025 – in terms of time, energy, people, skills, and (potentially) funds. Emma Morrison will share examples of LPPs so that everyone on the Community Council has a sense of the scale and scope of what is required, and the discussion will be taken forward at the April meeting.

Martin Hunter noted the need to create a Community Action Plan and he has drafted some questions to support a community consultation.

ACTION: Share examples of Local Place Plans (Emma Morrison)

14. Beautiful Scotland

Steve Wright (present) advised that the Rotary Club of Kintore, Blackburn & Kemnay are submitting an application to Dobbies Garden Centre for plants, materials, and specialist advice to support planting at the Community Hall. He will feedback to the Community Council about the process followed and an update on the outcome in due course.

15. Aberdeenshire Councillors' Update

Cllr Gifford noted that on 19th March 2025 officers will bring forward to Committee plans to implement the Scottish Government's National 20 Miles Per Hour Strategy in Blackburn and Kinellar. If supported at Committee this will result in the commencement of a four-week statutory consultation with interested parties (such as the Community Council). This will then be followed by a 21-day public consultation, giving anyone who wishes to object to the making of the orders an opportunity to do so. This item will be added to the agenda for April's Community Council meeting for further discussion.

16. Correspondence

- **Available funds from The Garioch Partnership**

John Chapman, Chairman of the Garioch Partnership, has contacted the Community Council regarding funds held from a Community Action Plan which were to be used for the Blackburn & Kinellar community. They would like to offer these funds (£675.81) to the Community Council. Emma Morrison has discussed with Alison Cumming at Aberdeenshire Council and she has no concerns about the Community Council accepting this money. Community Council members present were pleased to agree to accept these funds and Emma Morrison will liaise with Mr Chapman to progress.

Action: Liaise with the Garioch Partnership regarding available funds (Emma Morrison)

- **Invitation to Garioch Community Planning Partnership Event 'Place & the Golden Thread' on 15th April (in-person)**

In recent months, the Garioch community planning partners have been preparing to adopt a Place Based approach, the Aberdeenshire Place Strategy supported by a Place Policy, explains how the council will, in partnership with our communities and community planning partners, achieve the vision and objectives for our places. This workshop is an opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise and represent Blackburn & Kinellar. Peter Robinson and Isabel Townsend both hope to attend.

ACTION: Circulate the agenda and any associated meeting papers once available (Emma Morrison)

- **Potential cycle service station and promotion of walking routes (submitted by community member)**

The Community Council had a brief discussion about installing a bicycle service station in the village and promotion of local walking routes following suggestions received. This item will be revisited at the next meeting to explore feasibility, possible locations, and funding opportunities.

17. AOCB

- Kinellar Gala, 14 June 2025

Karen Thomson (present) advised that organisers would kindly waive the £40 fee for a stall for the Community Council. A gazebo will be required (4 m x 4 m pitch).

Martin Hunter is seeking to raise funds for the Toddlers Group and Kinellar Cuppa through a sponsored beard shave at the Gala, with Community Council members keen to support his fundraising efforts.

18. Date of next monthly meeting **Wednesday 9 April 2025** at 7.45 pm, Kinellar Community Centre.