



**Minutes of the Meeting in at St Drostan's Hall, Insch
on Monday 27 October 2025**

1. Present: – Sheena Lonchay (Chair and Insch), Diana Muriel (Rayne), Wally Rhodes (Treasurer and Leslie), Lynda Bain (Secretary and Chapel of Garioch), Duncan Thow (Chapel of Garioch and Balquhain), Gill Bishop (Durno), Janette Taylor (Insch), Mark Worsley (Chapel of Garioch), Gill Walker (Rayne), Alan Simpson (Leslie).

Councillor Moray Grant

Apologies Gordon Hood (Insch), Frank Musgrave (Oyne).

Members of the public – Chris Hamlet (Leslie), Kim Basford (Premnay), Rab Riggs (Insch and BLC).

Congratulations on being voted Young Farmer of the Year go to Calum Simpson.

2. Matters arising and approval of minutes of 22 September.

Minutes approved. FM, SL and MW attending Insch Hospital workgroup first meeting which has been moved to 10 November. *JT to again ask Roads and Infrastructure to attend the next BCC meeting.* Cllr Grant indicated that Gillian Martin MSP would be taken to court if she did overrule the public enquiry and reporter – a correction to presentation about Hill of Foudland Windfarm.

3. Local Place Plan JT presented slides of the draft LPP. All members have received a revised copy. The council must identify what the community want to use land for. The council are at the stage of asking developers what they wish to develop. Green, Amber and Red are used on maps as pieces of land go through the planning process. The council can change the colour through the LPP. In Oyne a path on the LPP has been completed. Whiteford Bridge lights are in the LPP and have just been put in place. A town centre such as Insch can only be enlarged through an LDP. It is proposed to extend Insch centre to the new Coop. Any statements made need to be backed up by surveys and evidence. *LB to send out draft LPP to all neighbouring CCs. LB to send draft LPP to all local councillors. JT to information about bridge on facebook. JT to put all surveys on website.* When comments are returned, the community council must decide if they want to make any changes. It was noted that transmission is a retained matter by the UK government. BCC agreed that the draft LPP could go out for consultation.

4. BCC Business **a. Finance** – balance £2500. A cheque for £724.52 has been received for the maintenance of the defibrillator. This money will be ringfenced. **b. Resilience** - the resilience subgroup of JT, MW, DM, GB and GW have started working on updating the resilience plan. Resilience conference was attended by JT, MW, SL and RR. Michael Bruce of Glentanar Estate highlighted the possibility of wildfires in a talk. He has 20 trained firefighters who can work on his land but due to insurance problems cannot firefight on neighbouring estates. Police run an incident/storm response and community councils have to wait to be asked to help. People must be resilient in their own homes for up to 72 hours. People, including resilience teams, must only leave their homes when it is safe to do so. JT organised a meeting with Aimi Blueman for local halls. The subgroup needs to work out how the resilience hubs liaise during a storm

etc.. There are communication grants available through Aberdeenshire Council. Latest iPhone and Samsung can dial 999 when systems down. JT asked Jack Rigby for an update on superfast broadband. *JT to speak to Aimi Blueman and Ann Overton about BCC and the resilience teams' position on insurance.* Cybersecurity is the biggest threat, and people should make stronger passwords. JT sent out grit bin email to all hall associations. There is a list of grit bins for adoption available. Can only be adopted by community councils/associations. The recent BCC newsletter contained information about emergency kits and plans. *JT to find out what will happen with sandbag storage area if it still remains council ground.* **c. Newsletter** - Coop grant application unsuccessful. Current publication plus one other can be supported. Cllr Grant brought samples of newsletters from other communities who fund their newsletters through advertising. Applying for the Tesco blue token system was suggested. 2nd week in December is the closing date for articles for newsletter. **d. Social media** – discussion has been about Bennachie Access Trust path, road closures, community hospitals meetings, young farmer of the year, closure of the A96 10-19 November. Aim of Facebook is to promote things happening in the area or things which affect the area. Now 1.3k followers. **e. NESCC Forum** meeting on 11 October was non-political. A short-life working group is proposed with the first meeting on 1 November. *MW to attend.* It is planned to circulate a draft unified statement to community councils on 3 November which asks for responses by 13 December. Version 1 of the Terms of Reference has been circulated. *BCC to consider at November meeting.*

5. Planning – no queries.

6. Roads and Transport – 20mph rollout signs appear to be place for settlements in BCC area. Query about Kirkton of Rayne not having 20mph signs. It was reported a speed check had taken place and speeds were just above 30mph. **National Speed Management Review** still with Scottish Government. **A96 Review** – Meeting on 21 November has been set up with Harriet Cross, MP. *SL, FM, GW to attend.* **Amey** -have confirmed the missing sign at the Chapel of Garioch junction on the A96 will be replaced in a scheme which will span 2025/26 and 2026/27. **Stagecoach services and Ember services** – Stagecoach services will be revised with effect from October 27 in response to passenger feedback, to improve service reliability and operational efficiency. Ember journeys must be booked in advance. **Pavements** – warning notices will be issued from 4 November with potential fines of £100 for parking on pavements.

7. BCC subgroups

a Health - Insch Hospital Review – Rachel Taylor has been confirmed as Central Aberdeenshire Interim Partnership Manager taking over from Alex Pirrie. BCC has had positive correspondence with RT and Leigh Jolly, AHSCP Chief Officer. An independent chair has been identified - Susan MacLaren. First meeting has been moved to 10 November with the aim of completing it in February. *SL, FM, MW to attend.* **Review of Community Hospital Estate** – findings from the Insch Hospital Review will feed into this review. BCC and FOIH will be represented. Engagement sessions on 30 October at Stewarts Hall, Huntly 3pm to 7pm and 3 November in the theatre at Inverurie Community Campus 3pm to 7pm. Promoted on Facebook. In addition, there is a survey for local residents. **Potential CAT of Insch Hospital** – because there has been no progress on the Insch Hospital Review and there is no clarity on what services AHSCP may provide it has not been possible to progress this. **NHS Grampian financial problems** – NHS Grampian had the highest overspend in Scotland 2024-25 and is already in special measure from the Scottish Government. It has an aggressive plan to reduce costs this year, but reports indicate that there will be an overrun of £7m so further savings are being

sought. **AHSCP Strategic Plan 2025-35 Consultation** – work in progress with healthcare subgroup.

b Bennachie Area LPP – see item 3 above.

c Correen Hills Windfarm Development – application not yet in. 3 November last date for application to be lodged with the 2025 applications closing on the 17 November. Hill of Fare Windfarm – reporter will decide at the end of January.

d Paths and Green Space – KB from Bennachie Access Team indicated that their constitution states that in the event of them giving up ownership and maintenance of a strip of land at Gadiedale which gives access to Bennachie for Insch, ownership should be passed to BCC. BAT plan to give up maintenance and ownership. BCC members queried whether they are permitted to own assets. *KB to discuss with Bailies of Bennachie initially.* JT has contacted NESTRANS who will give the subgroup contacts of other groups who have been successful at putting in paths. *JT to meet Murray Swapp of Aberdeenshire Council.*

8 Aberdeenshire Council – a Joint working of Community Councils to increase

Aberdeenshire Council funding - Funding is decided by COSLA. **b Grit Bins** – see above under resilience. **c Insch Library** – *JT to promote in newsletter. JT to work further on extra hours after December.* **d General** – Ward 10 meeting 28 October. Report on Colpy bus stop has been completed.

9 Chapel of Garioch/Pitcaple – Pop Up Pub 14 November cancelled. Air to air source heating being installed so hall will be shut.

10 Culsalmond/Colpy – no report.

11 Durno/Whiteford - Scarecrow competition is being held.

12 Leslie – Men’s Shed – there was a complaint about lack of tidiness.

13 Oyne – no report.

14 Premnay – no report.

15 Rayne – the recent pop-up pub was well attended. Pizza van will be open on Sunday nights. Bus problem has been resolved. Speeding noted in Kirkton of Rayne.

16 Insch - a BLC update – Bistro Night 2 November. There is a new chef and a new coffee bar made by the Men’s Shed. Bus to Edinburgh for Christmas markets 22 November £25 return. Santa’s Grotto 3 weekends in December. Hallowe’en Ceilidh. New Year ceilidh 1 January. New classes start such as pickleball. Fish and Chips Friday. “Twice as Nice” charity shop.

b other updates – Christmas shopping night 6 November. Museum will also be open.

Bridge over Shevock Burn – after 2 meetings with the area manager it was decided the Men’s Shed would not become involved in repairing the bridge. Area Manager to find out when the bridge was last inspected.

17 AOCB – members of the public attending were invited to join BCC.

18 Date of next meeting Monday 24 November 2025.