



Minutes of the Meeting in at St Drostan's Hall, Inch

on Monday 22 September 2025

1. Present: – Diana Muriel (Chair and Rayne), Wally Rhodes (Treasurer and Leslie), Lynda Bain (Secretary and Chapel of Garioch), Gordon Hood (Inch), Duncan Thow (Chapel of Garioch and Balquhain), Sheena Lonchay (Inch), Frank Musgrave (Oyne), Gill Bishop (Durno).

Councillor Moray Grant, Alison Cumming (Aberdeenshire Council)

Zoom - Gill Walker (Rayne), Kevin Shand (Culsalmond).

Apologies - Janette Taylor (Inch), Mark Worsley (Chapel of Garioch), Cllr S Payne.

Members of the public – Allan Smith (Colpy), Sandra Ross (Colpy), Greg Manning (Culsalmond), Ali Loden (Largie), Gavin Glasspool (Largie), Rhonda Hunter (Largie), Sandra Loden (Largie), Andrew Sonder (Culsalmond).

Resignations - David Wyllie (Premnay).

2. Presentation by Mr Ali Loden – Proposed Hill of Foudland Wind Farm.

5 wind turbines, 200 metres to blade tip with a capacity of 7MW each are proposed. A Battery Energy Storage System is also proposed. This will require Scottish Government consent. Comparable turbines at Tillymorgan are 100 metres to blade tip. This could have impacts on wildlife and the environment, residents and communities, aviation safety risks and telecommunications interference, and there are cultural and archaeological concerns. Mock up photos were shown of likely visual impact. It was highlighted that previous applications for wind turbines in this location had been refused by Aberdeenshire Council because of adverse significant landscape and visual impact, failure to demonstrate impact of private water supplies, loss of amenity to neighbours, cumulative impact from other wind turbines, adverse cumulative impact on the landscape. A petition has gathered 566 signatures currently. The timeline was given with a Sept/Oct 2025 first public consultation and a Nov/Dec second public consultation. *GH asked for a mock up photo of the view from Inch.* The turbines might be seen from as far away as Caithness, Lochnagar and the Moray Firth. The request was made that when more information is made available BCC make representation to Aberdeenshire Council to object. A public enquiry will follow, and a reporter will make a recommendation. This can be overruled by the Minister for Energy Gillian Martin. BCC will be consulted. BCC has objected to the BESS at Wartle and asked for a more holistic approach from the government. *LB to circulate the full PowerPoint.*

3. Previous Minutes and Matters arising – Cllr Grant reported that - Pitcaple Garage - Aberdeenshire Council unable take enforcement action as it is private land. LB reported SEPA enquiry has been reopened. GH objected to BESS on BCC behalf and received an acknowledgement. Cllr Grant reported - Rayne School traffic problems bus driver will be asked to arrive later. Cllr Grant reported that the new signage beside cemeteries across Aberdeenshire is a result of hearses being unable to park. Minutes proposed by GH, seconded by SL.

4. BCC Business **a. Finance** – balance as at 22.9.25 £2872. Forecast expenditure to 31.3.26 £261.00. Forecast balance £2611. Overview - Average account grant income for last 5 years £1209. Typical annual fixed expenditure £964. Surplus pa £245. BCC also receives on average £250 pa from SSE for “wayleave”. Forecast does not include costs of newsletter. Newsletter does not qualify. No response on Coop grant. JT has received cheque for defibrillator which she will pass to WR. *SL to let JT know about grants.* AC recommended using grant schemes for purchases such as the laptop in future and especially for project work,. **b. Resilience - Resilience group** (GB, GW, DM, MW, JT) have been working on updating the Resilience plan. MW and JT to go to resilience meeting on 10th October. Arranging a meeting with Aimi Blueman from the council regarding resilience with local hall groups probably. SL to attend resilience meeting too. **c. Newsletter** - draft ready *FM to contact JT about article.* **d. Social media** – no report. **e) Licensing** – FM indicated there are no material changes. *FM to write to board with “no comment” response.* **f) Rotating chair** – as a result of email from Area Manager and following discussion SL nominated as Chair. Proposer GH Secunder GB. **g) Community Council Forum** -attended by GH, WR, MW. There was a call for ideas and sites for the Local Development Plan. GH indicated the Local Pace Plan will fill that role. A guidance note will come out from Aberdeenshire Council. The cumulative effect of energy infrastructure was discussed. This is a Scottish Government matter not Aberdeenshire Council. There is a pause on the next stage of grit bin planning. AC to find out what the position will be with sand to fill the grit bins until a final decision is made. *MW to attend meeting of community councils at Stonehaven on 11 Oct.* There is a local housing strategy with 11,000 homes required.

5. Planning – Planning applications received - Erection of dwelling house, Priestwells, Leslie – no objection. Erection of storage shed, Southwest of Muirhead Road, Inch – no response required. Formation of car parking, erection of polytunnel and shed – Community Allotments – full support. Alterations and extension to dwelling house, Smithy House, Gushetneuk, Oyne – no response required. Erection of agricultural shed, Bridgend, Whiteford – no response required. **Applications decided in month** – Erection of agricultural building, The Old Smiddy, Meikle Wartle – prior approval not required. Display of signage, Unit 3 Kellock Business Park – approved. Erection of fence and gate, 2 Beechcroft Gardens, Inch – approved. Alterations and extension to dwelling house, Aronde, Colpy – approved.

LB to send GH contact details for member of Formartine Partnership who contacted BCC.

6. Roads and Transport – 20mph rollout starts 22 September 2025. **National Speed Management Review** still with Scottish Government. **A96 Review** – BCC supported results of review of A96 corridor. FM wrote to Harriet Cross, MP expressing disappointment she did not support the BCC view. In her response she offered to meet representatives of BCC to discuss more fully. *FM to contact to arrange meeting. FM, SL and GH to attend meeting.*

7. BCC subgroups

a Health - Inch War Memorial Hospital and Healthcare in BCC Area – Inverurie Medical Practice - alert has gone up on website about a lack of funding and encouraging people to contact their MSP. Appointments system has improved but appointments go quickly.

Hospital subgroup - SL to join. If anyone else would like to participate in this subgroup please advise FM.

Insch War Memorial Review established by IJB - Worked with AHSCP to agree ToR. FM to represent BCC and confirm that MW also prepared to act as representative. Start date had been deferred by AHSCP to October to identify suitable Independent Chair and to ensure the review is adequately resourced.

Aberdeenshire Community Hospital Review- FM will also represent BCC. This will be informed by findings of the Insch Hospital review.

Local Facilities - if NHS(G) close Insch hospital and subsequently there is a Community Asset Transfer we will need to consider how collectively to make best use of the disparate and sometimes competing facilities in Insch (BLC, Insch Institute, Insch Community Centre (council), two church halls etc).

AHSCP Draft Strategic Plan 2025-35 Consultation - workgroup will prepare a proposed BCC response.

b Bennachie Area Community Action Plan and LPP – *LB to send draft Local Place Plan to Councillors. All to send comments on draft LPP by December to GH and JT.* LPP feeds into the Local Development Plan. Members of BCC held presentations in 6 communities, and a survey was undertaken with a good response. A presentation at the Strawberry Fayre gave feedback on priorities. Sites were identified for development. *GH and JT to meet planners.* Consultation with the community will follow and then the LPP will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council. The LPP looks 10 years ahead. Optimising public buildings in Insch was discussed. *SL to report back from meetings with other Insch organisations on how best to optimise buildings.*

c Correen Hills Windfarm Development – no report.

d Paths and Green Space – no update.

8 Aberdeenshire Council – a Joint working of Community Councils to increase Aberdeenshire Council funding – *LB to answer email to say BCC prepared to be involved.* Funding is decided by COSLA. **b Grit Bins** – see above under Community Council Forum. **c Insch Library** – no report.

9 Chapel of Garioch/Pitcaple – Pop Up Pub 14 November.

10 Culsalmond/Colpy – Harvest Supper – first weekend in October.

11 Durno/Whiteford – no report.

12 Leslie – no report.

13 Oyne – Oyne Community Association have been potting plants, painting and litter picking. Fish and Chips event 4 October. OCA has been doing its own LPP but now passing data to JT for inclusion in collective BCC LPP. *FM to try to find new community councillor.*

14 Premnay – *FM to try to get new community councillor for Premnay at the community coffee morning. JT to put request for new community councillors in newsletter and Facebook.*

15 Rayne – FORK AGM Logie Durno Hall 30 October. Pop Up Pub 4 October. Problem with signs being moved at bridge. Community wants to know how long work is going on as there have been 2 periods of work so far.

16 Insch - a BLC update – holding Hoedown on Saturday. Hallowe'en Disco 1 November. Bus to Edinburgh for Christmas markets 22 November. Santa's Grotto 3 weekends in December. Craft fairs 2 weekends in December. New Year ceilidh 1 January. BLC wants to encourage use of the café and support events.

b Other updates – there is a problem with trees growing onto pavements. Suggested that Roads should be contacted. *GW to share how Rayne dealt with this. DT offered to help any elderly people to cut back foliage.*

Bridge over Shevock Burn – *LB to circulate full MW report.* Men's Shed not to complete any maintenance.

17 AOCB – Community Councils Forum first Wednesday in December. The new police inspector for Garioch will be attending. AC indicated some community councils, including BCC, have not received police reports for over a year. Annette Johnston is working on poverty. She is looking to see how community council can work to reach residents.

18 Date of next meeting Monday 27 October 2025 – Roads Dept will be speakers at this meeting covering issues such as speeding in Insch, traffic calming, drains.