



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

on Monday 25 August 2025

1. Present: – Mark Worsley (Chair and Chapel of Garioch), Wally Rhodes (Treasurer and Leslie), Lynda Bain (Secretary and Chapel of Garioch), Gordon Hood (Insch), Janette Taylor (Insch), Diana Muriel (Rayne).

Councillor Moray Grant

Zoom - Gill Walker (Rayne)

Apologies - Gill Bishop (Durno), Kevin Shand (Culsalmond), David Wyllie (Premnay), Frank Musgrave (Oyne).

Resignations - Vikki Patis (Insch).

Co-Options Sheena Lonchay (Insch) coopted unanimously.

2. Matters arising – Pitcaple Garage *LB to send photos to Cllr Grant. LB to write to SEPA.* Old Rayne traffic problems – *Cllr Grant to discuss with Area Manager to ask that bus does not arrive so early.*

3 BCC Business **a. Finance** – balance as at 25.8.25 £2878.22. Forecast expenditure to 31.3.26 £261.00. Forecast balance £2617.22. *JT to send details of defibrillator maintenance expenses to WR.* **b. Resilience** – annual Aberdeenshire Council resilience meeting 10 Oct. Flooding incident in Insch. *JT to ask Roads representative to speak at a BCC meeting.* Priority list of drains requiring clearing would be useful. Communities could have an input. Resilience meeting was held at Chapel of Garioch and JT plans to hold a resilience meeting with Aimi Blueman of Aberdeenshire Council. SMILE and Chapel of Garioch Village Hall opened during recent power cut. Chapel of Garioch has a resilience plan. JT requires a deputy for Facebook and for Insch sandbags. *Cllr Grant to suggest to Area Manager BCC get a copy of the distribution network from SSN.* **c. Newsletter** - *SL to give JT list of grants to fund newsletter.* CoOp grant has been applied for. BCC can fund 2 editions from its budget. Next edition is October. Friday 26 Sept closing date for articles. **d. Social media** – complaint about Pitcaple Garage received. Bridge beside medical centre in Insch requires repair which Aberdeenshire Council should undertake as there were reservations about insurance and future repair work if the Men's Shed repaired it. *Cllr Grant to discuss with Area Manager.* **e) Licensing** – deferred to next meeting as FM has knowledge of the new rules.

4. Planning – **a BESS** Agreed BCC should ask government to come to an overall view about the developments in Wartle (our area) and Rothienorman (close to our area). None of the developments have been subject to Environmental Impact Assessment. The developments are piecemeal and should instead be considered as one large development. They are the size of 21 football pitches plus structures will be required for linking to the grid. Smaller BESS under 50 will be decided on by Aberdeenshire Council and larger ones by central government. Rothienorman is at the meeting point for 3 high voltage lines and has a number of wind turbines. *GH to finalise report and send draft round.* It will go in as an objection. *LB to reply to North East*

Convention of Community Councils accepting invitation to attend their meeting on 11 October at Stonehaven (MW to attend). Cllr Grant indicated that Aberdeenshire Council are not permitted to look at applications collectively. Query over how many of these developments can connect to the grid. A huge volume are coming forward, many of which cannot connect to the grid. NESO – a national body has just been formed but it has been overwhelmed by projects. **b Daviot Crematorium** – FM put in response which was agreed by email over the holiday break. **c** Other planning applications – Meikle Wartle agricultural building application – no response; replacement of double doors at Inch Railway Station – no response; display of signage at Kellockbank – no response; demolition of building and erection of dwelling house at Upperton, Oyne – no response; BESS at Wartle – object. Approvals – extension of dwelling house at Parkbrae, Oyne ; alteration of house at Lyncroft, Auchleven (amended application); biomass burner; erection of house Roadside Croft, Durno infill development; installation of new heating system, snowboards and alterations to disabled toilet and emergency exit at Chapel of Garioch Village Hall; extension and alteration of house at East Ardoyne, Oyne; 30 dwelling houses and business unit at Barreldykes, Old Rayne.

5. Roads and Transport – a A96 Dualling – no updates on Transport Scotland website following the publication of the A96 Corridor Review in Nov 2024. That review recommended the A96 in the BCC area is not dualled. Confirmation should come after the Scottish Government resumes after their break - 1 September. In her newsletter Harriett Cross criticises the Scottish Government for “quietly abandoning” the A96 dualling. BCC in fact supported the recommendations of the corridor review. *FM to draft response and send round for approval.* **b 20mph** implementation date not yet public. **c Amey** – FM thanked Billy Gordon for attendance at the June meeting. LB sent him photos of the cars at Pitcaple Garage – no response. **d National Speed Management Review** – consultation results expected late 2025.

6. BCC subgroups

a Health

A Health and Social Care work group members are FM, LB, JT, MW and DW. FM asked for further members.

B Integrated Joint Board meeting July 2nd – FM and MW attended. As agreed by email BCC decided not to object to the proposal to undertake a review of the status of Inch Hospital with a view to a formal permanent closure. IJB budget update – reserves all gone; challenges in meeting 25-26 budget including £1.8m previously unidentified care packages; 25-26 Savings include “increased income” ie increased charges for people who currently pay eg in care homes; further cuts required for 26-27 hence the strategic review of eg council run care homes. IJB approved the AHSCP proposal to declare Inch Hospital surplus.

C Inch War Memorial Hospital Review Group – FM has had several meetings with Alex Pirrie, Central Aberdeenshire Manager for AHSCP and with AP and FOIH about the review mandated by the IJB. The review was scheduled to commence 1 Sept and meet monthly until Jan 2026. In addition there is an Aberdeenshire wide Community Hospital Review. The findings of the Inch Review will feed into the Aberdeenshire Review. FM has asked for BCC and FOIH to be represented on the Aberdeenshire Review group. *Sheena Lonchay agreed to join the Inch Review Group.*

D Ambulance delays at ARI - no significant improvement in this situation.

E Financial problems in NHS G and AHSCP – NHS (G) placed in special measures by the Scottish Government.

Actions – *FM to prepare social media item about steps Inverurie Medical Practice are undertaking to improve patient appointment waiting times. FM to prepare social media item updating residents on what BCC is doing regarding Inch Hospital and in-patient beds.*

b Bennachie Area Community Action Plan and LPP – Green Spaces- Allotments Planning Application Submitted, Green Space group up and running looking at paths in area. Work party carried out in Meadows.

Getting About - THINC (NHS patient transport services) has been to be promoted along with RVS transport which will be promoted again in the next newsletter. Joint working with BLC + Friends of Inch Hospital to consider a community bus was spoken about before and is going to be looked at again. 20mph zone being implemented this year. Need to get a meeting planned with Inch Primary and Aberdeenshire Council about a safe school crossing. Disabled access for railway station was rejected so will try another possible solution through LPP with link road between Premnay Road and South Road.

Future Planning - Development Trust is being considered although a means of generating money is required which is why this hasn't progressed at the moment although a meeting held by Huntly Development Trust and DETAS was attended. *Draft of LPP to come out in next fortnight.*

Resilience – Chapel of Garioch up and running. Premnay, Old Rayne and BLC are exploring becoming resilience hubs and *JT to arrange meeting with Aimi*. Snow warden scheme promoted last winter and will be in next newsletter again especially with grit bins going. Aberdeenshire Council Resilience day on 10th October.

Facilities - *JT and SL to meet regard CAP and BLC actions*. A Christmas lights group hoping to be formed. Friends of Inch Hospital did this last year. Young Voices – looking at ways to involve young people. Survey for Inch Play park promoted. Inch Library meeting to be arranged.

Health and Wellbeing - BCC, Friends of Inch Hospital and BLC all working on improving healthcare facilities in the area.

c Correen Hills Windfarm Development – awaiting planning. New windfarm Hill of Foudland coming forward. *MW to meet with representative.*

d Paths and Green Space – the group are currently planning a path at Inch and other paths. KS is looking at safe crossings of the A96. Allotment planning application has been submitted. Paths Group to connect with AC Outdoor Access Officer.

7 Aberdeenshire Council – a Inch Library – JT working on getting opening hours extended. **b Grit Bins** – Cllr Grant shared a map. Concerned residents to contact Cllr Grant.

8 Chapel of Garioch/Pitcaple – concerns about signs restricting parking to cemetery users only. *Cllr Grant to find out more.*

9 Culsalmond/Colpy – no report.

10 Durno/Whiteford – no report.

11 Leslie – Men's Shed going well.

12 Oyne – no report.

13 Premnay – concerns about removal of grit bin and community want to take it over rather than lose it.

14 Rayne – Lourin Fair raised a large sum.

15 Insch - a BLC update SL reported that a new chef has been employed. A grant application has gone in for an improved kitchen. An employability programme is starting. BLC are aiming to increase the number of volunteers. The shop and café are doing well. The coffee bar was made by the Men's Shed. There was no summer holiday children's programme but BLC are aiming for an October one. More activities and play equipment are planned. There is a need to source more funding from grants etc.. A pop up restaurant and a youth club are planned.

b The Station Hotel, Insch has reopened.

16 AOCB

17 Date of next meeting Monday 22 September 2025