



**Minutes of the Meeting in at St Drostan's Hall, Insch
on Monday 24 November 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), Janette Taylor (Insch), Mark Worsley (Chapel of Garioch), Gill Walker (Rayne), Alan Simpson (Leslie), Frank Musgrave (Oyne), Kevin Shand (Culsalmond and Colpy), Rab Riggs (Insch).

Councillor Moray Grant.

Apologies Gordon Hood (Insch), Gill Bishop (Durno).

Members of the public – John Anderson (Pitcaple).

Agreed to coopt Rab Riggs (Insch).

2. Matters arising and approval of minutes of 27 October.

Minutes approved. BCC unable to adopt Bennachie Access Trust path as BCC cannot hold assets. Glens of Foudland Funding Group need a representative from Insch. *JT to apply for funding for newsletter/s.*

3. BCC Business **a. Finance** – balance £3180.34 which includes £724.52 for the maintenance of the defibrillator. This money will be ringfenced. Forecast expenditure £474. Forecast for end of financial year £2706.34. **b. Resilience** - Zurich insurance covers only BCC council members. Possibility of getting an add-on raised. *JT to contact Ann Overton.* **c. Newsletter** - *JT to apply for funding.* Next newsletter due early December. 12 December deadline for articles. Suggestions for inclusion – transport including Ember and information about the Aberdeenshire Council office in Inverurie Library. **d. Social media** – discussion has been about community hospitals survey and Amey. **e. NESCC Forum** – draft statement has been circulated. No reference was made to community benefit. All MPs and MSPs were invited to the first meeting but not councillors. *MW to query.* At the next meeting on 13 December community councils will vote on the statement. BCC - Majority agreed with the statement. Majority agreed that MW could vote on the final wording on behalf of BCC.

4. Planning – reporter ruled against the crematorium. Stewarts Trailers had contacted BCC about the potential impact on their business.

5. Roads and Transport – A96 Review – Meeting rescheduled for 28 November, with Harriet Cross, MP. SL, FM, GW to attend. Decision on dualling has been deferred till next year. Concern that this could be impacted on by the forthcoming Scottish elections. Budgets will influence the decision. **20mph rollout** has gone ahead. **National Speed Management Review** still with Scottish Government. **Grit bins** – FM attended a meeting at Premnay and confirmed the hall committee/community association are aware they have to apply to adopt grit bins. JT gave them the forms. Only community councils and associations can apply. Query over insurance cover. Grit must be bought. **Snow** – after recent snow there have been

complaints about snow clearing in some locations. There is an app where residents can see where gritters are and a competition is running to name a gritter.

6 a Health - Insch Hospital Review – IJB propose to make Insch Hospital surplus. There has to be consultation. An Insch Hospital Review Group with an independent Chair has been established. First meeting of review group is 9 December 2pm to 4pm at Insch Medical Practice. Chris Humphris advises FOIH and is co-chair of the review group. FM and CH working on agenda. Terms of reference to be agreed at first meeting. FM and SL unable to attend so subgroup will pre-meet by email. MW will represent BCC, RR will attend representing BLC.

Review of Community Hospital Estate – engagement sessions were held at Inverurie and Huntly. FM put in feedback for BCC. BCC have asked to be involved in ongoing consultation.

AHSCP strategy plan consultation 2025-35 - BCC subgroup agreed not to put in a response.

NHS Grampian annual review meeting – to be held 1 December with Neil Gray the Cabinet Secretary and the COO of NHS Scotland to attend. *FM to attend and ask agreed question.*

b Correen Hills Windfarm Development – Hill of Fare ruling out early January. No application from developer yet.

C Local Place Plan – out for comments currently. 2 replies so far. Museum have concerns about being omitted although the LPP is more about use of land. Query over proposed housing at Insch Railway Station as the land is good agricultural land. There are concerns about flooding and a potential problem with the level crossing. The disabled access to Insch Railway Station issue has been going on for years. The bare land at the railway station would not work for access. Possibility of getting round the bridge. Cllr Grant has met with 2 Network Rail managers. £4m has been allocated for the bridge route round the back of the house. Buses and Active Travel Team can apply for funding up to £350,000. *JT to put in LPP and circulate final version.*

d Paths and Green Space – Shevock Allotments are applying for Just Transition funding. Planning permission has been granted. Thanks to BCC for supporting planning application.

7 Aberdeenshire Council – a Joint working of Community Councils to increase Aberdeenshire Council funding – Westhill meeting postponed. *DT to attend when rescheduled.* **b Insch bollards** – developer has fitted reflective strips. **Full Council meeting** – discussing a paper on corporate sponsorship, World Rally. **Police Forum** to be held this week. Police are keen to reinitiate communication with community councils and to discuss how the CCs can help the police. **Garioch Area Committee Meeting** – to discuss BESS application at Fairfield, update on education and budgets. **CC Forum** – online 3 December at 7pm. *MW to attend.*

8 Chapel of Garioch/Pitcaple – Air to air source heating installed – must be commissioned before use. Other works include drainage and snowboards. *LB to send email about Pitcaple Garage to Amey again.*

9 Culsalmond/Colpy – defibrillator – electricity daily standing charges being paid by local resident. *KS looking at alternatives.* Still awaiting accident report from fatal accident at bus stop crossing.

10 Durno/Whiteford – lighting failure at bridge which was resolved fairly quickly and notifications from the council were timely and helpful. There is second free food outlet at Durno. Gets used well and is a good use of excess supermarket food.

11 Leslie – Men's Shed – has been tidied.

12 Oyne – OCA AGM was held a month ago. There is a session on Saturday 29 November to ask for residents' input for the next 3-year plan. A series of social events are planned.

13 Premnay – FM visited twice and spoke to members of the hall committee and the community association. They are aiming to become a SCIO. FM asked for 2 representatives for BCC from Premnay. Facebook and the newsletter are useful. LPP input – flooding and drainage are the most important issues. Scottish Water plans are not the same as what happens on the ground. The residents wish to retain Insch Hospital. They queried whether the 20mph would be enforced.

14 Rayne – street lighting is out at the car park beside the school. Reported. *Cllr Grant to follow up.* Pavements were lethal during the recent snow. Cllr Grant indicated Aberdeenshire Council have been gritting in advance of the snow in agreement with agreed protocol. 20mph speed limit wanted for Kirkton of Rayne. This is a 2-stage process and was rejected at the second stage by Roads.

15 Insch - a BLC update – BLC have a set of electric bikes provided by Aberdeenshire Council. They have 2 charging points for cars. BLC is on the short list for voting for funding on Just Transition. Residents must vote for 5 shortlisted groups. Looking for £20,000 which will be used for battery storage. AGM 19 December. Offering Christmas lunches and pensioners' lunches. Aiming to open 7 days if additional chef can be employed. **b other updates** – Christmas shopping night was very successful. Museum will open on 6 December for mulled wine.

16 AOCB – a PHD student is looking at data collection for Just Transition. Agreed a social event for BCC beginning January at BLC.

18 Date of next meeting Monday 26 January 2026.