

THE FINDHORN VILLAGE CONSERVATION COMPANY

9 th AGM

HELD ELECTRONICALLY USING ZOOM 7.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2020

WELCOME Frank Allan the chairman welcomed 25 people to the ninth AGM.

APOLOGIES were received from Margaret Allan, Fiona Thomson, Laurie West, Elaine Macbeth, Maggie Grigor, Kathleen Munro, Elaine and Shaun Burns, John Low, Louise Simmons.

MINUTES OF 5th JUNE 2019 These were adopted. Proposed by Nicole Edmonds Seconded by Sarah Theman

MATTERS ARISING None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Frank Allan summarised the report having previously sent members the full report electronically. It had been a busy and challenging year for the Board dealing with projects namely the Findhorn Path in memory of David Urquhart, Armstrong Garages, West Beach parking, boundary issues, registering a community interest in the building adjacent to 43a Findhorn and gorse cutting. Tribute was paid on her work for the Company to Mo Hyde, a founder director, who passed away in 2019. An appeal was made for volunteers to step forward to assist the Company to carry out the projects on the land which, although administered by the Board, belongs to the residents of Findhorn.

FINANCIAL REPORT The treasurer Neil Robertson presented the summarised accounts. The accounts were audited by Cathedral Accountancy Ltd. The Company's income has been generated by the letting of the Armstrong Garages and charging for parking at the North Beach. The unrestricted funds held are healthy, mainly due to income generated from parking at the west beach carpark and now in a much better financial situation than in 2019. The full accounts will be on the web site.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR The appointment of the Auditor was agreed by show of hands as Cathedral Accountancy Ltd. Agreed that the Board will compare accountancy firms rates during the next year.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS Frank Allan and Marjory Barber have both served their 9 years as elected directors and will stand down from the Board. 4 nominations have been received for the following members to be elected to the Board. Donald Watson nominated by Irene Eaton and Gordon Mullins, Christine Hunt nominated by Christine Negus and Neil Fergusson, Sarah Theman nominated by Peter Hall and Bill Barber, Bryan Parsons nominated by Frank Allan and Cathy Low. They were duly elected. Sam Russell, will be the co-opted director representing the Findhorn Residents Association. The Board members are Nicole Edmonds, Cathy Low, Christine Hunt, Bryan Parsons, Sarah Theman, Donald Watson and Sam Russell.

AOCB Questions received from members prior to AGM

Q1 What plan do TFVCC have for the land currently in dispute with Calren Ltd?

A TFVCC will look at the options for the land once the dispute is resolved

Q2 Communications with members and residents of Findhorn is not good. What is the policy of the Board on this?

A The Company has a Communication Policy and Procedures document which has been updated

and which will be adopted at the next Board meeting. It deals with different channels for communication with members, public, media and internal management. At present the method of communication is by use of website, hand and email delivery of newsletters, facebook, on-line enquiry forms, letter box in Findhorn Village Centre, on line surveys and personal approach to directors.

Q3 Various questions regarding the use of the west car park and ensuing problems relating to motorhome and camping in this area.

A This year has been an exceptional one and Findhorn has experienced the same problems as the rest of rural Scotland. Central Government has set up the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund to address this. At the west carpark, motorhome occupancy figures have varied from 8-50+ motor homes per night. Payment is currently by donation and cannot be enforced. It is not possible to be precise on weekly income and occupancy. The income generated has paid for installing honesty boxes, mending fences, installing extra-large refuse bins, signage, filling of potholes, clearing of gorse and installing fire extinguishers. The Board has been proactive in engaging with campers as to waste disposal, fire lighting and camping in inappropriate spots. The police have been involved but as no law has been broken no action was taken. The east carpark was monitored for 43 days over July and August -39 days had less than 3 or less motorhomes parked overnight and 40 of the days had 3 or more tents. A planning application to Moray Council for west car park use for motorhomes stop-over has not as yet obtained planning permission but it is planned to have controlled access, booking system, marked bays and waste collection by next season. The income will enable improvements to be carried out around Findhorn. For 2021 the aim is to have a management plan in place. There was a request for a re-run of the Survey carried out to gauge opinion on the motorhome parking. It would not seem to be a good plan to consult at the moment due to this having been an exceptional year. The Company has at all times followed Government guidelines on closing car parks but were pressurised into re opening.

Questions and comments raised at the Zoom meeting

1. Mike Mawby-question What can be done to improve the boardwalk and steps to the beach ? Could Moray Council Community Payback team be involved?

A There are volunteers already working on this and on repairing the Viewpoint. The Moray Council team has already carried our repair work on the car park area.

2 Morag Robertson comment -The Company need to involve the youth of Findhorn.

A Agreed. Any ideas from members will be welcomed. A litter pick up would be a good project but volunteers needed to organise this.

3 Greig Munro comment The Company seems to have lost its ability to engage and communicate with its members and community. Residents seem to have lost their initial enthusiasm for the work of the Company and a very small percentage of the members have joined in the Zoom AGM meeting. The Board are reporting on Projects but need to have a strategy for the Company.

A The initial enthusiasm of all community Buy Outs does wane and the Board needs to work harder in ways to harness the involvement of its members. It can take around 9 years to accept the change from an absentee landowner to community ownership. The Board does have Aims but have been very involved in Projects and ownership issues.

The survey Monkey response, distributed to everyone in Findhorn, was only 7.5% which is very small.

4. Hamish Grigor comment A strategy is needed but the Board needs to be flexible as opportunities arise.

5. Gary Hunt comment *(unfortunately there were technical issues at this point and we do not have a record of the remainder of the meeting)*

The meeting was closed.