



# Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council

## Minutes

**Meeting: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Fortrose Leisure Centre. 7pm.**

**CC members present:** Sarah Atkin (SA), Anne Phillips (AP), Iain A Brown (IACB), Tom Heath (TH), Archie MacLeod (AM), Gareth Phillips (GP).

**Associate:** Douglas Stuart (DS)

**Highland Councillors:** Craig Fraser (CF), Jennifer Barclay (JB). (Highland Council = HC)

Apologies: Lucy Tonkin. PC John Murphy (Police Scotland)

### 1.0 Welcome and apologies

Apology Lucy Tonkin. Chair noted, with regret that the Co-Opted members Vikki Trelfer (VT) and Emma Dalseme (ED) had both resigned. Both cited the time pressure of being a Community Councillor alongside full-time work. We thank them for their input.

### 2.0 Minutes of last meeting

Proposed by IAB. Seconded by GP.

### 3.0 Matters arising (if not elsewhere in the agenda)

3.1 High Viz jackets for school pupils. In hand. JP progressing as a local Cllr.

Road visibility of cyclists & walkers from Avoch to Fortrose. FB post. **Action: TH**

3.2 Article re: Russian Geese on Rosemarkie beach. In 'Chatterbox'. Notice at Beach Café.

3.3 Rodger Court bench. JB pursuing. IAB suggested asking about re-locating the seldom used bench outside the GP Surgery. IAB to ask & liaise with JB. **Action: JB/IAB**

3.4 Co-Op flooding. After the recent work the issue appears resolved.

3.5 BIEC Closure. SA submitted a final response asking for certainty that the site could easily be sold on the open market if needed despite being originally 'gifted'. The community will not want an abandoned building there for years.

3.6 Swimming Pool Fund: IAB to write to the Directors re: current total of the fund. **Action: IAB**

3.7 FB post needed to remind residents that Rosemarkie High Street isn't designated for residents parking. **Action: TH**

In addition:

- Black Isle Landscape Partnership: unable to secure funding.
- Phone Box 'Book Borrowing' concept: phone boxes in Fortrose & Rosemarkie are operational. However, they can still 'double up' as a mini library. Resident taking forward.

### 4.0 Correspondence/Points from the Public/Secretaries Report

- E-mails objecting to the extension of the license for Eilean Dubh (to be re-named IV10)
- Letter from resident querying the process and the unchallenged inaccuracies at the North Area Planning Committee deliberations over the Greenside Development.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> enquiry about Rosemarkie Grave No. 195. Photo requested. **Action: GP**
- Objections to proposed changes to 26/26A/B/C bus services (see Buses)
- Fire Plan Review (Consultation) **Action: SA**
- Napier University Survey on Community Council engagement **Action: SA**
- Verity Walker's Cathedral Project (see Community Issues)
- Notice that defibrillators need to be registered. **Action: AP**

- 4.2 Points from the public
- New owners of Eilean Dubh explained their reasons & intention re: applying for an extension to the license
  - New Play Park at Ness Road. Not accessible via Dean's Road. JB noted that this is because the path into the development isn't completed.
  - Speeding: excessive speeds from cars and buses noted along the Fortrose to Rosemarkie stretch of road. Also, the crossing at (and near) Ness Road is increasingly hazardous for pedestrians, especially the elderly. Suggestion: move the Smiley Face from the exit to Fortrose to its entrance from Rosemarkie.  
Iain Moncrieff to be informed/contacted. **Action: SA**  
Police Scotland to be informed – again. **Action: SA**  
Stagecoach to be written to re: bus speeds. **Action: SA**

4.3 Secretaries Report (not required. Issues raised at other points in the meeting.)

**5.0 Treasurer's Interim Report**  
**As at 8 March 2017 (detailed report available on request)**

[1] Income and Expenditure to 8 March 2017:

	<u>Current Account</u>	<u>Charitable Account</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Opening Balance	£ 1,866.51	£ 2,246.69	<b>£ 4,113.20</b>
Closing Balance			<b>£ 3,065.41</b>

[2] Expenditure: **Anticipated** £ 241.41

[3] The Charitable Account is in the process of being renamed "Community Projects".

[4] Replacement Christmas lights: £250 from FRCC + £210.80 from a resident, total of £460.80

**6.0 Police Report**

None sent to us. SA to chase.

**Action: SA**

**7.0 Planning**

7.1 Greenside Farm 15/03033/FUL

A letter from a resident has challenged whether the planning process has been fair and also raised inaccuracies presented to the NSPC (North Scotland Planning Committee) deliberating on this development. FRCC view is that they had done all within their power. However, TH to draw out the salient points from this letter. TH to contact the residents to agree what their 'next steps' are and whether a letter to Highland Council Chief Executive from FRCC, cc'd to Kate Forbes MSP from the FRCC highlighting their concerns and disappointment would be helpful. **Action: TH**

Cllr Craig Fraser noted that during the planning deliberations he secured a concession that any open space in this development would not be 'filled in' with more housing at a later date. TH to request clarification in writing from HC Planning Department. **Action: TH**

7.2 Parklands Care Home proposal: FRCC met with a team from Parklands ahead of this monthly meeting. They presented their revised proposals (yet to be submitted for planning as of end March '17.)

FRCC submitted questions in advance of the meeting (questions and answers follow.)

1. In the original planning application, 15/03046/FUL, CRGP Ltd, as Parklands agent, submitted a marked area of land approximately twice the area on which the care home was to be built. Will the (possible) new site cover the same area? If so then do Parklands have the option to buy the whole marked area of land?

*Response: Mr Taylor indicated a smaller area of land on the map sufficient for this new scheme. No indication that the additional land will be purchased. No knowledge of any other party having an option to build on the adjoining marked site.*

2. Highland Council had recommended 7 suitable sites. Why are they not suitable?  
*Response: From a demographic, economic and social perspective Fortrose is the preferred location for Parklands. The 'model' is for care homes sited within communities with easy access for workers and for visitors. Fortrose has the highest concentration of elderly on the Black Isle and has many facilities. Land zoned for development is usually zoned for housing – not care homes – and is therefore prohibitively expensive. One suggested site had no access to water. None of the HC recommended sites 'ticked' all the boxes. They understood that the site suggested in Fortrose is zoned for a primary school. It's also not big enough.*

TH referenced another site within Fortrose that a local landowner was willing to offer. This was not discussed in detail due to lack of time.

3. It was much discussed in the community that the Parklands 'model' would provide a 50/50 split between private and NHS funded beds.

What does this mean in practice?

*Response: Parklands is committed to a 50/50 split between private and NHS beds but this can fluctuate (e.g. Buckie is currently 60% NHS/40% private.) Residents are assessed according to their needs first. Funding is via the national formula, i.e. NHS beds are not free. Everyone has to make some contribution towards the fees.*

4. What level of nursing care do you envisage providing in the care home? For example, would you be able to take in a resident in the advanced stages of dementia?  
*Response: Where nursing is part of the care package it is allocated to individual residents.*
5. How much money will this development generate for the local economy?  
*Response: 50 full/part-time jobs = estimated £1.2m annually to the local economy.*

## **8.0 Licensing:**

- 8.1 Eilean Dubh (soon to be IV10) application to extend the license.  
FRCC is sympathetic to residents' alarm at this license extension when read at face value. We also know of others in support of this new venture. The licensing system is one where you have to apply for everything to get one thing you may only occasionally use (e.g. a 1am closing time.) The license sought is in line with Highland Council policy for a business like this so is unlikely to be refused. Other similar businesses already have it. For that reason FRCC will not object. We will, however monitor the impact.

## **9.0 Bus Services**

Many in the community are furious about the proposed reduction of bus services on the 26/26A/26B & C routes. Cllr Fraser to convene a meeting between relevant CC's, Stagecoach & HC.

**Action: CF**

## 10.0 Ward 10 Councillor update

Ship-to-Ship Oil Transfer at Sea: re-application is delayed until after the May local council elections. The 38 degrees petition has topped 100,000 and will be presented to the Scottish Parliament.

## 11.0 Communication/Operational issues

11.1 Minute Secretary: AM to ask a friend who may volunteer. If this does not materialise then agreement to advertise for a paid post. **Action: AM/SA**

11.2 Rosemarkie Volunteer Group: advised by Di Agnew to become a sub-group of FRCC. All agreed. SA to confirm/liaise with them. **Action: SA**

## 12.0 Community Issues

12.1 Engagement Day: thanks to VT for her efforts and to The Plough Inn and Seaforth Lodge. The concept was liked. As a trial it was worth it & would be worth doing again. Those who attended appreciated the effort. VT to produce report for the web site. **Action: VT**

12.2 Common Good Issues (ongoing – IAB/DS for action)

- Land assets need clarification.

- Discussion on possible ways of running the Town Hall (the Cromarty 'model' being one.)

George V playing field: when the pitch was re-laid by Tulloch's it wasn't perfect. The pitch slopes slightly. Despite being completed a while ago, FRCC feel this needs to be addressed for the users. SA to contact Tulloch's & ask that they look at it. **Action: SA**

12.3 Fortrose Cathedral Project (Verity Walker)

SA/AP attended the presentation. The project is to raise the profile of Fortrose Cathedral through its history and through storytelling and events. This is for tourists and residents. The culmination of the project is a children's book by Elizabeth Sutherland (with illustrations by Rachel Bevan-Baker.) FRCC have agreed to support this project and administer the funds required to publish this book. Any profits will go back to the community. AP and IAB agreed as the FRCC 'link' people for the project.

12.4 **Annual Beach Cleans (25<sup>th</sup> Rosemarkie/ 1<sup>st</sup> April Fortrose).** AP leading. Insufficient time and resource to join forces with the HC/school led Fortrose Academy anti-litter campaign.

## 13.0 Chanonry Point (CP) and Coastal Protection

13.1 Chanonry Point. Stakeholder meeting held Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Iain Moncrieff presented a 'master plan'. The s/term plan of volunteers directing (and managing) the traffic dismissed as impractical. Agreed that for the 2017 season the free shuttle bus is the most practical and do-able option (run by Sparks.) Residents agreed that last year this made a big difference. Medium/longer term options to be explored for 2018 and beyond.

Action: Safe, flat parking spot required at CP for the buses to drop off and pick up. Also, some additional parking space in Fortrose would be helpful. Also, signage directing visitors to this parking, if secured. SA to lead. **Action: SA**

13.2 Coastal Protection (stretch along front by Rosemarkie Caravan Park/Golf Club)

The Wallace Stone report on what's recommended is available. FRCC awaiting date for meeting to discuss these recommendations.

## 13.0 AOCB

Guillies and pot holes around Fortrose. TH to photograph.

**Action: TH**

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Gordon Memorial Hall, Rosemarkie 7pm.

Public Surgery: 6pm – 6.45pm