

Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council



Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday 13th September 2017. Gordon Memorial Hall, Rosemarkie

Present: Sarah Atkin (SA), Anne Phillips (AP), Archie Macleod (AM), Douglas Stuart (DS), Lucy Tonkin (LT) Iain A C Brown (IACB) Russell Mackenzie (RM).

Highland Councillors: Cllr Jennifer Barclay (JB) – arrived at 8pm.

Apologies: Tom Heath (TH), Cllr Craig Fraser (CF), PC 468 John Murphy.

1.0 Welcome & Apologies

2.0 Minutes of last meeting

Proposed, SA. Seconded, DS.

3.0 Matters Arising

- 3.1 Tulloch's community contributions. Letter received. SA to reply. **Action: SA**
- 3.2 Highland Council requests for more street names. A member of the public proposed "Downie". SA contacted HC. This exception to the normal protocol has to be justified. Biography has been drafted. To be circulated to CC members and sent to HC. **Action SA**
- 3.3 Letter from Edward Mountain MSP: SA to follow up with view to arranging Black Isle wide CC meeting. **Action: SA**
- 3.4 Footpath map boards: Phil Waite (HC) agrees with principle of passing board's ownership to communities/other parties to improve. SA still awaiting final response on this. Needs chasing. C/F **Action: SA**
- 3.5 Avoch Primary Parent Council funding request: LT attended Parent Council meeting and suggested other available funding initiatives to explore.
- 3.6 Letter from Rosemarkie Amenities: Asking for response in support of Tennis Court development. SA sent response.
- 3.7 Crawford Avenue: Weeds, debris from cut grass and fence which requires to be repaired. Contact Highland Council. C/F **Action: TH**
- 3.8 Ness Gap play park (Fortrose): SA tidied play park, member of the public noted this has continued to stay tidy.
- 3.9 Speeding between Rosemarkie & Fortrose: AP to order bin stickers for both villages; SA had enquired about moving the 'Smiley Face' speed reminder as you exit Fortrose to Avoch to as you enter from Rosemarkie. Was told by Ward Manager that the CC own in. SA to email HC to ask if they may be able to move on behalf of FRCC or FRCC can move it during erection of Christmas lights.
Action AP/SA
- 3.10 Pop Up Banner: SA to ask Fortrose Academy if they have a high-resolution image of the Fortrose shield. Highland print & design to be asked for draft design before ordering. **Action: SA**
- 3.11 Chatterbox article on Newfoundlanders: Published in recent issue.

3.12 Emergency Dog Bags: LT replenished stock.

4.0 Correspondence/Points from the Public

- 4.1 Letter received re: car parked on road out of Fortrose towards Avoch on a corner causing hazard. This has been moved.
- 4.2 Letters of complaint from one resident regarding work at Manse Brae.
- 4.3 Response from letter to Tulloch's.
- 4.4 Copy of Ian Blackford MP's letter from Bank of Scotland (see Community)
- 4.5 Letter re: 20 MPH Consultation (Scottish Parliament Bill.) LT submitting response on behalf of FRCC. **Action: LT**
- 4.6 Resident enquiry re: state of Academy Street picnic area (see Common Good.)
- 4.7 Letter from a member of the public re: speed into Fortrose/Ness Road crossing.
- 4.8 Janitor's House (Fortrose Academy grounds): DS to ask council what is going to happen to this now empty property. **Action: DS**
- 4.9 Jaki's Fish & Chip shop bins located by trade entrance to Co-Op. Issue raised with the CC by a resident. SA to enquire to Co-Op to find out if they have given permission for this. **Action: SA**
- 4.10 Rosemarkie Cemetery: Grass is being cut regularly but cuttings not picked up, grass debris left is becoming thicker. AP to contact HC. **Action: AP**
- 4.11 State of Rosemarkie Toilets (see community issues)
- 4.12 Camper Vans parking on the grass along Marine Terrace (with pictures.)
- 4.13 Flagpole in King George V Park: Has not been used or maintained. DS to assess condition and contact Ian Good at High Life Highland. **Action: DS**

5.0 Police Report

5.1 The following are the crimes, offences and antisocial behaviour and other incidents of note dealt with between 08/08/2017 and 11/09/2017:

4 x Domestic Incidents (Fortrose)

1 x Mental Health issue (Rosemarkie) male conveyed to hospital with no issue or risk to the community.

1 x Assault (Fortrose) Youth assaulted male.

3 x Wildlife incidents (Fortrose) Boat disturbing Dolphins.

1 x Theft (Fortrose) Suspect identified.

1 x House breaking with intent to steal (Rosemarkie Beach Cafe) Unknown persons attempted to gain entry to store at rear of premises between 3/9/17 – 4/9/17. Any information please contact police on 101.

1 x Sudden death (Rosemarkie) Non suspicious medical death.

Speed checks will continue in the area when duties allow.

Foot patrols continue to be carried out in Rosemarkie and Fortrose.

During the past month Dingwall Police have received 927 calls with 106 being in this area.

5.2 August police report was posted on Facebook page with successful reach, agreed to put all future reports on Facebook when received.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

As at 13 September 2017

Opening Balance (1 April 2017)	£3,020.28
Expenditure Total	£803.95
Income Total	£1,475.60
Total	£3,691.93

6.1 Last year FRCC retained a large surplus, and are continuing to do so in the current financial year. IACB asked members for suggestions as to what more of the surplus should be spent on. Suggestions gathered such as Academy St picnic area, social events or Christmas tree/lights. IACB to gather all suggestions.

Action: CC members to submit ideas. IACB to collate.

7.0 Planning/Licencing

7.1 Care Home (17/02523): 52 comments received, 44 supporting and 8 objecting.

Consultee responses:

HAIL – No objection

NATS – No objection

Transport Scotland: No objection subject to a developer contribution being made towards queue at Munloch Junction.

Scottish Water: No objection but a warning that the waste treatment capacity is limited and may be insufficient.

Transport Planning: Unable to support application in current state due to lack of information provided.

Development Plans Team: Position unchanged from previous application.

Assume to mean opposed.

No date known for when this application comes before the NPAC.

7.2 Erection of new dwelling, Fortrose (17/03318): FRCC requested to be consultees and has objected.

7.3 Greenside Farm Development (15/03033): Greenside residents are taking over planning concern and pursuing issue.

Since August 2015 when the application to build 50 homes on the Greenside Farm site in Rosemarkie was lodged by Paterson estates, until the granting of the application, FRCC worked with local residents and the wider community to oppose it. The overriding reasons for our objection were the lack of infrastructure to support continued large-scale house building in the area, the immediate dangers from yet more traffic passing through Fortrose and Rosemarkie High Streets and the ever increasing concerns regarding the safety of the A9/B9161 Munloch Junction. Local residents have more immediate concerns such as the danger of flooding and the lack of a safe pedestrian route to Rosemarkie centre.

Both before and after the determination of the application earlier this year, FRCC held regular meetings with Rosemarkie residents. The purpose of these meetings was to coordinate the community's concerns regarding misleading statements in developer submissions and inaccurate assumptions in consultee responses. As a consequence, FRCC send no fewer than 13 separate letters to Highland Council, many containing detailed technical analyses. These letters together with the very limited response (4 replies) from the Highland Council

and other relevant documents have all been filed on the FRCC website in the “Greenside” folder. In addition, there was separate correspondence between Rosemarkie locals and the Highland Council. Many of the letters from FRCC to the Highland Council were in the form of a consultation response and these received no response from the planning department. (The planners are required to take note of consultation responses but are not obliged to respond). Concerns raised in other letters and in those sent by local persons were simply dismissed. After the Greenside application had been approved by the Northern Planning Applications Committee (NPAC), FRCC and local residents met and agreed that there appeared to be a significant developer bias in the presentation made by the planners to the committee. Errors and misleading statements in the planning report had been drawn to the attention of the planners but remained in the planning report issued to Committee members and in the presentation. In consequence, a formal complaint was made to the Highland Council. Whilst this complaint could not lead to a reversal of the decision it is felt important to establish whether the application was processed fairly and to ensure that planning procedures are followed correctly in future major applications. On completion of the Highland Council complaints procedure there was no resolution and the Community Council has no further formal means of pursuing the complaint. The Highland Council advised FRCC that if it was not satisfied with the Highland Council’s response it should contact the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman (SPSO) despite knowing that the relevant legislation expressly forbids Community Councils from making such representation. Complaints to the SPSO can only be made by individuals and it is likely that such a complaint will be lodged by a Rosemarkie resident in the near future.

In the meantime, FRCC has organised a closed meeting with the recently appointed Chair of the NPAC and Ward Councillors to discuss the procedural failings of the planning process in respect of the Greenside and other applications.

- 7.4 East Watergate: Fence which was causing an issue has been dealt with by resident.
- 7.5 Union Tavern Licence extension application: One resident contacted CC with concerns. In response, FRCC has been in touch with licensing and with the police. There is no evidence to support concerns and no evidence to object to the extension application. Concerned resident informed.

8.0 Rosemarkie Amenities Update

- 8.1 Funding application for Tennis Courts at Rosemarkie Beach is pending.
- 8.2 Grass net has been put down on promenade.
- 8.3 Toddler friendly play equipment is to be installed in the beach park area.

9.0 Common Good Fund

- 9.1 Corner of High Street: with HC legal services as issues have been raised. Update required for a future meeting. C/F **Action: SA**
- 9.2 Coastal Protection status: meeting held with Ward Cllrs, Ward Manager, Bill Taylor, Iain Moncrieff (HC). Agreement on costs and feasibility of Wallace Stone Report. Ward Manager working on a funding package so that full cost isn’t borne by the Common Good. Ongoing. Update next month. **Action: SA**

- 9.3 Land opposite Rosemarkie caravan park: ownership of land discussed as some question over this following enquiry to Scottish Water asking them to cut the hedge. SA to follow up with Di Agnew to seek clarification. **Action: SA**
- 9.4 Academy St Picnic Area: resident enquired about progress. Other issues have taken precedent this year. HC unlikely to fund major upgrade but it has the potential to become a community project. Priority: completion of safety fencing. SA to chase Di Agnew over urgent fence matter for go-ahead to complete this as quotations for the work have been obtained. SA to contact resident. **Action: SA**
- 9.5 Fortrose Town Hall: work in progress. **Action: SA/DS.**
- 9.6 Chanonry Point: SA met informally with Di Agnew, Bill Taylor, Ian Moncrieff & David Ogilvie (Local Area Inspector, Police Scotland) to reflect on the multiple issues over the summer. Ideas/solutions 'floated'. All require further debate. SA proposed separate FRCC closed meeting to discuss ideas/detailed proposals from Iain Moncrieff (HC). **Action: SA**

10.0 Communication/Operational Issues/CC Membership

- 10.1 Welcome to new CC member Russell Mackenzie.
- 10.2 Facebook 'reach' is improving due to increased and more regular posts.
- 10.3 Comment on improved minutes since paid minute secretary was employed.
- 10.4 Newsletter has been partially distributed – Rosemarkie almost completed. Copies available in the Spar, Beach Café, Doctors surgery and soon to be available in the Plough and Fortrose Café. **Action: SA**
- 10.5 Poster for volunteers to be put up in Fortrose. **Action: SA.** A number of residents are keen to get involved but first need to identify a project.

11.0 Community Issues

- 11.1 St Boniface Fair: Many thanks to Libby Brown and team for another successful fair with 33 exhibitors. £100 of the takings from the fair are to be donated to the senior citizens lunch. Full report available on FRCC website.
- 11.2 FRCC to be present at BIG event on Sat October 7th. **Action: SA/AP**
- 11.3 Community brown bin to be sited at Fortrose Academy with no charge for the facility.
- 11.4 Rosemarkie Christmas lights: Meeting to be held at the end of September. C/F October.
- 11.5 Manse Brae/Slog has been re-grassed with fantastic response to the hard work put in. Majority of the community fully in support of the work. 1 complaint. **Ongoing oversight by Rosemarkie Volunteer group.**
- 11.6 Bank Closure: SA received copy of letter sent from Bank of Scotland to Ian Blackford MP. SA contacted the Manager who signed the letter to express disappointment that no effort had been made to engage with the community on this issue. The Bank is to close on Sept. 18th and ATM is to be removed.
- 11.7 Rosemarkie public toilets: SA reported condition of public toilets to HC and received incident number. SA to pass information on to JB to pursue with HC. **Action: SA**
- 11.8 Buses: SA sent collaboration of comments from FRCC area to HC. JB to find out when new proposed timetable is to commence. **Action: JB**
- 11.9 Great British Beach Clean to take place on Rosemarkie Beach from 9.30am on Saturday 16th September 2017. **Action: AP**

- 11.10 Memorial bench query via website: information provided to resident for them to pursue.
- 11.11 Fallen boulder on beach: This is the responsibility of the landowner. HC to contact landowner, AP to chase HC on this. **Action: AP**

12.0 AOB

- 12.1 Avoch Primary School bus services: LT attended the Avoch PS Parent Council meeting. Multiple issues arising with the buses since the start of this term. CC to contact D&E Coaches in support of parents. **Action: SA**
- 12.2 Scottish Government Consultation taking place into free bus travel for older and disabled people and modern apprentices, closing date 17 November 2017. **Action: TBC**
- 12.3 Abbeyfield: Black Isle supported living, ongoing concern to community. Currently Black Isle Supported Living are exploring ways of keeping it within the community.

13.0 DONM

Wednesday 10th October 2017, 7pm, Fortrose Leisure Centre.
Monthly Surgery 6 – 6.45pm.