

Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council



Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday 14th February 2018. The Plough Inn, Rosemarkie.

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

Ward 9 Councillor: Jennifer Barclay (JB) *The Highland Council = THC*

Apologies: Cllr Craig Fraser (CF), Cllr Gordon Adam (GA), PC 468 John Murphy.

1.0 Welcome & Apologies

Thank you very much to Russell Mackenzie & Janet Grey for allowing us to use the Plough Inn as a venue for the meeting.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting

Proposed, IACB. Seconded, TH.

3.0 Matters Arising

- 3.1 Footpath map boards. SA to submit brief/photographs to PT at Fortrose Academy as potential project. C/F March 2018. **Action: SA**
- 3.2 Flagpole in King George V Park: DS assessed condition, metal requires painting and surrounding branches to be cleared if it is to be used. DS to contact Iain Goode and David Grigor. **Action: DS**
- 3.3 Concern over vennel from Courthill Road to High Street, between nos. 21 and 25 High Street, path slippery underfoot. Action still pending. **/ AP**
- 3.4 Ice cream van selling close to Fortrose Academy: SA passed to Parent Council & the issue was picked up by Kate Forbes MSP. THC responded that no law can prevent this from happening under current licensing. Conclusion from Parent Council is that any change would have to be changed at Scottish Government level. CC to ask if double yellow lines can be placed along the road/layby would prevent parking by the van. **Action: CC**
- 3.5 Request for mirrors at Station Road junction & Castle Street junction: TH asked for this to be discussed at Councillor Ward Meeting. C/F – was not discussed due to time constraints. Cllr JB to enquire to Iain Moncreiff. **Action: JB**
- 3.6 Disruption to traffic flow from personal building projects: enquiry about possible charges: C/F – was not discussed at Ward Meeting. TH to find out what needs to be in place for this to happen. JB to also enquire at HC Officer level. **Action: TH /JB**
- 3.7 Provost's Chain: IACB enquired to Bank of Scotland who are investigating, awaiting response. Ongoing. **Action: IACB**

4.0 Correspondence/Points from the Public

- 4.1 Plastic straws: Majority of local businesses do not use them. Some are still using or selling them. SA to approach local outlets. **Action: SA**

- 4.2 Comment on the disproportionate nature of the new build MAKAR home on Ness Road relative to its context. TH to write to planners to ask if a contextual consideration was taken. **Action: TH**
- 4.3 Wall behind phone box in Fortrose is damp and causing damp to the buildings next to it. Discussion on what CC can do. Agreed to advise homeowner to pursue a legal route if this is causing damage to their property. **Action: SA**
- 4.4 Former Janitor's house at Fortrose Academy: JB has assurances from Officials in Care and Learning that it is not to be demolished. Alternative uses are currently being considered.
- 4.5 Academy St fenced section on stretch past Fortrose Academy is broken and looks a mess. Issue raised by Tidy Our Royal Burgh volunteers. CC keen to get some idea of the cost of replacement. RM to give estimate for an upgrade to match what's on the other side of the road. **Action: RM**
- 4.6 Tulloch's Play Park: Query from a resident asking if the land surrounding park could be used as a dog park. CC agreed to support this idea being pursued. Dog owners unaware they're not allowed in the play park. JB to contact Tulloch's to request 'No dogs allowed' sign. **Action: JB**
- 4.7 Academy Street pavement obstruction: complaints from the public. The problem is from a) staff cars parked and protruding onto Academy Street and b) cars parking up on the pavement (which is illegal.) The elderly, disabled and parents with buggies are being forced into the road. SA to discuss with Fortrose Academy re: staff car parking and to suggest contacting parents reminding them of parking protocol at the school front entrance. **Action: SA**. Suggestion for this to be a newsletter item, and further suggestion for CC to put a notice on cars for driver's attention. IACB and TH to discuss further. **Action: IACB & TH**
- 4.8 Concern from a member of the public re: interference with Greengates and the patch of land behind 6 large Tulloch's houses. JB has been previously told by Tulloch's that Greengates **could not** be built on due to sewers underneath.
- 4.9 Christmas card received from Conservative MSP Edward Mountain.
- 4.10 Thank-you letter received from Blythwood/Highland Foodbank. Over 560kg of food was donated by our communities.
- 4.11 Thank-you letter received from Brownies/Rainbows groups as recipients of the Christmas Eve Community Carol Singing at Fortrose Cathedral.
- 4.12 Rosemarkie Stores Community Champion Scheme: Request for CC to be on the voting panel for two annual awards for young people. CC accepted, SA to be on the voting panel.

5.0 Police Report (as read)

The following are the crimes, offences and antisocial behaviour and other incidents of note dealt with between 09/01/2018 and 13/02/2018:

- Drugs – Small amount of cannabis seized from group of males parked in vehicle at Rosemarkie Beach. 12/1/18
- Malicious calls, Misuse 999 system – Female arrested for repeated misuse of 999 system. 19/1/18
- Drugs – Small amount of cannabis seized from female in Fortrose.

SA asked about the nature of calls not important enough to be noted in the report. She was advised that these relate to relatively minor issues like lost property, medical matters not relevant to the police, false alarm calls or similar.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

As at 14 February 2018

Opening Balance (1 April 2017)	£3,020.00
Expenditure Total	£2,418.00
Income Total	£2,050.00
Total	£2,652.00

6.1 Discussion re: Highland Council Grant. Potential reduction of £826.13. CC asked JB to raise our concerns over cuts at the Council Budget meeting of 15th February. General view expressed that Community Councils won't function in any meaningful way without basic funds. This decision runs counter to the policy of 'localism' and is extremely short sighted. IACB noted we will have to either cut expenditure or raise more money. C/F to next meeting.

7.0 Planning/Licencing/Consultation

7.1 Greenside Farm development: Courthill Road Residents' complaint about the process that led to this planning decision is now with the Ombudsmen.

7.2 Care Home, Fortrose: update from Parklands. They are in the process of compiling Drawings for Building Control which incorporate the conditions in the Planning Consent before putting the plans out to tender. They will shortly be able to move to the next stage. The plan is to be on site by late summer and they are still on course to do that.

7.3 18/00444/MSC: New house, siteworks, services & new access onto public road. Whilst this application is in line with the Planning in principle already granted there is a major parking problem with the owners of Shorelands parking on the bend leaving Fortrose which is creating a very dangerous road condition. CC to object.

Action: TH

8.0 Common Good Fund

8.1 Quarterly Report from Ward Manager received, read & noted. Discussion. General view expressed that assets are being managed into decline. Comment from newer CC members that rental for assets is low.

8.2 Fortrose Town Hall future: meeting held on February 1st. Record of meeting to be distributed. **Action: SA.** A resident has come forward with an interest in setting up a group to initially promote the hall/increase its use. A 'stage 1' approach. Action: to make contact with High Life Highland. LT to co-ordinate. **Action: LT**

8.3 Coastal protection: update from Bill Taylor who attended the Ward Meeting. Circulated and noted. No response from the Camping & Caravan Club from whom the large bulk of any funding package will rely. Ward Councillors to now write to the Caravan Club to push this forward. Project costs: c£200k in total. CC expressed disappointment at the lack of urgency to drive this forward & that a meeting with the Caravan Club hasn't been secured.

CC to ask for a copy of the lease for the Caravan Club land. **Action: SA.**

CC concerned there is no Plan B should funds not be secured. TH to chase Di Agnew on correspondence from an informed Fortrose resident about Highland Council's store of gabions which could potentially be used. **Action: TH**

- 8.4 Chanonry Point 2018: D&E Coaches have agreed to invest in a Dolphin Shuttle bus service from Easter to the end of August. It will do a loop of both villages to Chanonry Point and be registered, legal and safe. Car park status altered to 'chargeable' to allow for charging at peak times and when the bus is running and allow THC to enforce this. It is proposed that a leaflet be produced promoting the bus and incorporating adverts for local businesses. SA to inform stakeholder group.
Action: SA

9.0 Communication/Operational Issues/CC Membership

- 9.1 FRCC Newsletter pending. SA to send out email. **Action: SA**

10.0 Community Issues

- 10.1 Xmas Tree: thank you to all involved in the putting up and taking down of the tree. Feedback was positive. Agreement to do this again. TH and IACB to liaise re steel frame in ground for tree and getting a mains power lighting supply.
Action: TH & IACB. Also special mention for the Rosemarkie tree and thanks to Rosemarkie volunteers for organising that.
- 10.2 Academy Street hedge: thank you to the "Tidy our Royal Burgh" volunteer group for their efforts and enthusiasm in getting this job done. Local residents are delighted.
- 10.3 Festive period: foodbank donations week-end was a huge success. Christmas Eve Community Carol Singing raised £575; the largest amount ever collected.
- 10.4 Thank you to Anne Phillips for another successful seniors' lunch: full page articles seen in the Ross-shire Journal & Inverness Courier. Thank you to Wanda's helpers from Fortrose Academy & staff member Lee Mowat for their fantastic help and to Douglas Stuart and his musicians for the entertainment.
- 10.5 Suggestion to hold a Harvest High Tea in September which could possibly be supported by Green Tree Fortrose. **Action: AP**
- 10.6 20's Plenty Campaign: next stage is to hold a meeting for interested parties, team currently being put together. **Action: AP**
- 10.7 Grit bins: Reports of missing bins at Tavern Lane and Station Crescent. THC have been keeping other bins filled. **Action: AM / TH**
- 10.8 Academy Street Blocked drains (Fortrose): was not discussed at ward meeting as requested. TH to chase. **Action: TH**
- 10.9 Marine Terrace – bin moving: SA has been told she cannot move the bin personally. It has to be done by an official. SA to photograph current and proposed location of bin to speed up process. **Action: SA**
- 10.10 Village notice boards: the hinges on the Fortrose board were renewed in December but the weather has not been good enough to complete works. Ongoing. Suggestion of having a dedicated FRCC board somewhere in Rosemarkie continues – to be discussed at a later date. C/F.
- 10.11 Provost's Chain: IACB enquired to Bank of Scotland who are investigating, awaiting response. Ongoing. **Action: IACB**
- 10.12 Survey on anti-social behaviour has been postponed.
- 10.13 Beach clean-up: Both beaches to be covered over the weekend of 23rd/24th March. AP to contact Scouts & Guides for assistance. **Action: AP**
- 10.14 Fortrose Academy Parent Council have been monitoring litter on the school to Co-Op route. SA copied into an e-mail on findings. The majority of pupils do put their litter into public bins provided. Problems develop from bins filling up

too quickly & litter overflowing and blowing into the street. Suggestion that the Co-Op bins are made bigger. Another about the need for a bin at top of Deans Road/Castle Street on the route back to school. SA to liaise with PC. **Action: SA**

10.15 Farmer's Market in Fortrose: LT has been in contact Transition Black Isle and there is interest in a week-day market. LT suggested Town Hall as a possible location. LT to progress. **Action: LT**

10.16 TH to check if there was a public car park sign at Marine House before renovations and to contact William Gray Construction to ask if this can be reinstated. **Action: TH**

11.0 AOB

11.1 Local democracy consultation, AP filled in.

11.2 SA still to circulate a brief note on the February BICC meeting on the Community Empowerment Act.

12.0 DONM

Wednesday 14th March 2018, 7pm. Fortrose Leisure Centre.

Public Surgery: Tuesday 13th March, 3pm – 3.45pm, Fortrose Library.

