

Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council



Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday 14th March 2018. Fortrose Leisure Centre, Fortrose.

Present: Sarah Atkin (SA), Anne Phillips (AP), Tom Heath (TH), Lucy Tonkin (LT), Douglas Stuart (DS), PC 468 John Murphy

Ward 9 Councillors: Jennifer Barclay (JB), Gordon Adam (GA) *The Highland Council = THC*

Apologies: CC members - Iain A C Brown (IACB), Archie Macleod (AM), Russell Mackenzie (RM). Cllr Craig Fraser.

1.0 Welcome & Apologies

2.0 Minutes of last meeting

Proposed, AP. Seconded, DS.

3.0 Matters Arising

- 3.1 Footpath map boards upgrade: SA preparing brief for school but budgets could be an issue. Suggestion that CC could at least contribute funds to help repair/tidy wood surrounding of board but this will be budget dependent. C/F **SA**
- 3.2 Flagpole in King George V Park: DS to contact Iain Goode and David Grigor. C/F **DS**
- 3.3 Ice cream van selling close to Fortrose Academy: THC cannot legally stop this. It would require a change at Scottish Govt. level. No further action anticipated from CC but SA to write to Kate Forbes with this suggestion. **SA**
- 3.4 Request for mirrors at Station Road junction & Castle Street junction: JB to enquire at the Ward Meeting on Monday 26th March. **JB**
- 3.5 Disruption to traffic flow from personal building projects: enquiry about possible charges: TH received written explanation as to why this is not possible. No further action.
- 3.6 Provost's Chain: IACB enquired to Bank of Scotland who are investigating, awaiting response. C/F **IACB**
- 3.7 Plastic straws: the Co-op informed SA that there are plans for them to stop selling plastic straws. CC members noted that local café's don't use them.
- 3.8 Disproportionate nature of the new build MAKAR home on Ness Road: TH to write to planners to ask if a contextual consideration was taken into account when planning permission was granted. C/F to April. **TH**
- 3.9 Phone box in Fortrose: causing damp to the building buffeted up to it. Residents would like the phone box moved. FRCC don't have the power to resolve this issue. SA has posted written note to homeowner suggesting they pursue a legal route. **SA**
- 3.10 Academy St fenced section on stretch past Fortrose: RM to give estimate for an upgrade to match what's on the other side of the road. C/F April **RM**
- 3.11 Tulloch's Play Park: Tulloch's have agreed to put a 'No Dogs Allowed' sign on the park. JB chasing/pursing. **JB**

- 3.12 Dog Park: Interested resident has asked Tulloch's if the land beside the play park can be used as a dog park. SA to chase further if resident has no response. Also suggested the resident liaises with JB. SA
- 3.13 Academy Street pavement obstruction outside Fortrose Academy: complaints from the public about cars protruding from the staff parking area and cars parking up on the pavement itself. SA spoke with Senior Management team at Fortrose Academy. The illustrative photograph was taken on an exceptionally busy day (when there was a meeting being held at the school.) A reminder to parents collecting children will be put in the next newsletter. CC agreed to monitor the situation. Also agreed that a solid white line at the staff parking area will help. To investigate. Polite parking notice to be drafted by CC as a reminder to drivers too. TH
SA

4.0 Correspondence/Points from the Public

- 4.1 Flyer received from a company selling flashing solar radar speed signs. Cost in the region of £1,500 - £2,000. (See 4.10.)
- 4.2 SSEN Community Fund information: potential funding available of up to £20,000 for community projects. AP to fill in application. **Action: AP**
- 4.3 Resident query re "Rosemarkie Community Orchard" (i.e. Manse Gardens.) Trees were cut down. AP has confirmed that the trees were cut down for safety and will not be replaced. Confirmed with the resident that it is not a **community** orchard.
- 4.4 Highland Council informed us that street names cannot be 'banked' for future use. SA responded saying this was short sighted. Better to bank the names and the local history for future CC's to use. Solution: TH to create a page on FRCC website to bank the street name suggestions we have already submitted so they are there for future use.

Greenside Farm development naming: THC suggested this be named after the developer. In light of the (ongoing) controversy surrounding this development the CC felt this was inappropriate. CC agreed that the development should retain the name 'Greenside Farm' or similar. THC to be informed. **Action: TH**

- 4.5 Paths & Tracks Group Newsletter: received. Group has been formed to monitor & maintain the paths of the Black Isle. AP circulated.
- 4.6 3 items received from Black Isle CCs and from Derek Martin, Area Care and Learning Manager regarding the Management of Schools Programme (and the proposal regarding 'cluster' Head Teachers.) On the agenda for the BICC meeting 15th March.
- 4.7 THC Budget: information received following THC budget cut decisions – grass cutting schedules etc. (See Treasurer's Report for Community Council funding & also BICC
- 4.8 Fire & Rescue consultation received: all present agreed RM well placed to submit response on behalf of FRCC. **Action: RM**
- 4.9 Public Toilets: Agreement that CC must object to any suggestion of closing public toilets. GA commented that any decision will not be imminent and will not be done without consultation. Issue to be raised at Ward Meeting on Monday 26th March.
- 4.10 Speed on stretch coming into Fortrose from Rosemarkie: SA approached by another concerned resident. Also about cars swerving when they turn into Ness Road. Discussion followed. Suggestion that we fundraise to buy radar speed sign(s) – as shown in the flyer we received - for the Rosemarkie to Fortrose stretch of road. PC Murphy in agreement that this would be a worthwhile investment for the community. C/F to April. SA will also chase up Iain Moncrieff (THC) to revisit the idea of an 'island' at the top of Ness Road to ensure cars cannot 'swerve' onto the wrong side of the road. **Action: SA**

5.0 Police Report (as read)

The following are the crimes, offences and antisocial behavior and other incidents of note dealt with between 13/02/2018 and 13/03/2018:

- Historical sexual offence enquiry Fortrose.
- Road Traffic collision – Vehicle failed to stop after hitting vehicle on Fortrose High Street. Enquiry complete and female to be reported after information received from local community.
- Theft of Bike – Between 23/2/18 and 1/3/18 from the Scottish water board site Fortrose. Bike is a Boardman 29er Mountain Bike, silver/chrome in colour, rear mudguard, bottle holder and front and rear lights worth £1000.
- Drugs – Chanonry Point – Male found in possession of small amount of cannabis.

5.1 SA enquired as to why call statistics have not been on last two reports, PC Murphy advised they are currently working from 2 different systems and so data would have to be calculated. It will be reinstated in future reports.

5.2 Issue of speeding raised.

5.3 Issue of illegal and 'nuisance' parking raised. Can the police act?

5.4 Drug arrests were noted. Discussion on whether the police are able to look beyond the individuals to the source/supply of drugs to young people in our community. Told that the police need evidence. The public can call Crimestoppers or the local police anonymously with any information. Noted that the road traffic collision driver was identified and reported as a result of proactive social media use.

6.0 Treasurer's Report (full report – see addendum)

As at 14 March 2018:

Opening Balance (1 April 2017)	£3,020.00
Expenditure Total	£2,708.00
Income Total	£2,050.00
Total	£1,994.00

6.1 Highland Council Grant reduction was confirmed on 18th February. FRCC grant will be reduced by 58% from £1,501.86 to £675.73. A reduction of £826.13. From this £826.13 FRCC are responsible for the insurance premium, unlikely to be less than this year's £86.26. This leaves a net annual income of £589.47. The CC cannot function as it currently does with this amount. Discussion followed. Points agreed: we should not have to fundraise to be operational. If we fundraise or support fundraising efforts it has to be for specific items or causes of direct and tangible community benefit. With reduced income, FRCC would only be able to cover the basics, e.g. statutory obligations; running a Facebook page / web site. Failing that, FRCC may need to advise THC that if funds run out they will be unable to continue. Decisions on how to move forward when all CC members are present.

7.0 Planning/Licencing/Consultation

- 7.1 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.

C/F **Action: TH**

8.0 Common Good Fund

- 8.1 Fortrose Town Hall : a resident has come forward with an interest in setting up a group to initially promote the hall/increase its use. SA to send e-mails of those who expressed interest at the meeting to LT. LT to liaise with resident; contact those who put their names down and gauge level of commitment. SA suggested they meet up with Ian Goode (High Life Highland) to progress. **Action: SA/LT**
- 8.2 Coastal Protection: positive response to the Ward Councillors approach to the Caravan and Camping Club for contributions. SA invited to next ward meeting on Monday March 26th to go through proposed funding package options. DS to attend with SA. **Action: SA/DS**
- 8.3 Chanonry Point 2018: D&E's Dolphin Shuttle bus service is operational from 1ST April (Easter Sunday) until the end of August. Additional stop at the Old Church has been added to the timetable so this can become an 'interchange' for visitors coming by bus.
- SA to produce a local leaflet & organise distribution. £300.00 of funding secured from THC. Leaflet will offer promotion to local eateries as well as the bus. Eateries featured will be asked to make a small contribution to print costs. SA to ask THC for a local map to mark on location. **Action: SA**
 - SA has informed main (and obvious) websites of updated Chanonry Point travel information and the Visit Scotland offices in Inverness.
 - Parking meters at Chanonry Point will not be available for use until June unless solar powered meters can be sought. THC is in charge of this.
 - New bus shelter to be placed at the back of the Town Hall in Fortrose.
 - SA to ask a local farmer about getting grass cut down to allow for field at Ness Road/below Leisure Centre to be used for additional parking. **Action: SA**
 - SA to enquire about the Parkland's field use over the summer. **Action: SA**

9.0 BICC – Black Isle Community Councils

- 9.1 BICCs Meeting: Thursday 15th March, 7pm, Tore. Collective CC's and Parent Council's to discuss 'Cluster' Head idea for ASG group. CCs funding future also on the agenda. SA to attend. **Action: SA**

10.0 Communication/Operational Issues/CC Membership

- 10.1 Monthly surgeries: to be changed to appointment only due to no residents attending recent surgeries & many queries coming through Facebook page. SA to draft Facebook post with further details. **Action: SA**
- 10.2 Facebook page has now exceeded 500 likes and followers. 😊

11.0 Community Issues

11.1 Dog waste bin: SA sent instructions to HC for where to move bin to. SA also put forward idea for dog bin on Deans Road opposite Castle Street.

11.2 Village notice boards: C/F to next meeting. **Action: IACB**

11.3 Village & beach clean-up: Saturday 24th March. One meeting point for both villages, Rosemarkie Beach. AP to complete poster for advertising. **Action: AP**

11.4 20's Plenty campaign: AP to have meeting with Rosemarkie team. C/F.

Action: AP

11.5 Academy St Picnic Area fencing: Thank you to Aardvark Contracting for completion of the fence which looks great. Photos to follow on Facebook. **Action: SA** New bin for this area noted.

11.6 St Andrews Walk: Thank you to the Tidy Our Burgh group for their continued work.

11.7 Blocked drains & collapsed manholes: blocked drains are causing flooding – specifically on Academy Street & Rose Street. TH received a response from Iain Moncrieff who passed the issue to a colleague to attend. THC have also recently repaired a collapsed manhole on High St, Fortrose. General discussion followed. Points raised: damage to existing buildings could be as result of increased flows of traffic over recent years; e.g. gable ends falling down, subsiding & collapsed drains. Strong opinion that material damage to the underneath & sides of buildings is being caused by increased volume of traffic and the weight of the vehicles passing through. View that the area is currently being developed beyond what the infrastructure can bear.

11.0 AOB

11.1 Parking sign at Marine House for public car park: TH enquired to William Gray and they have said they do not have the old parking sign for the Council owned (public) car park. SA suggested to Ward Manager that it be included in the Chanonry Signage package. Ward Manager informed the relevant Officer at THC.

12.0 DONM

Wednesday 11th April 2018, 7pm. Rosemarkie. Surgery (by appointment only.)

Addendum.

Treasurer's Report as at 14 March 2018 Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council

- 1] The three subject headings in the Treasure's Accounting have been:

Current,
Community Projects; (in previous years referred to as Charitable Funds),
Charity Book; These monies do not belong to FRCC, any surplus is for the good of the community.

Current and Community Projects have now been united as one bank account.

- 2] Last year we retained a surplus of £3,021.
In the year to 30 March 2018, we are operating in loss, surviving on retained surplus from previous years.

For comparison:

	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Deficit/ Surplus</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
Year 2017-18, i.e. 11 months	£ 3,020	£ 2,708	£ 2,050	minus £658	£ 1,994
Year 2016-17, i.e. 12 months	£ 1,906	£ 2,028	£ 2,884	plus £856	£ 3,020

- 3] Known expenditure but not yet cleared by bank, totals minimum of £290. Included in above.

- 4] Expenditure exceeds income.

- 5] **Insurances:** Despite reminders not heard either from Highland Council or from (the probable insurers) Zurich what the premium will be for the year starting 1st April. FRCC's share of the premium in 2017-18 was £82.26

Background: Highland Council, announced from 1 April 2018, FRCC to be responsible for arranging own essential and required cover. In this and previous years cover was provided on a group policy basis paid by HC with a deduction of the premium from the FRCC grant.

- 6] **Highland Council Grant, 2017-18:** Grant of £1,501.86 less insurance premium of £86.26. a net £1,415.6.

- 7] **Highland Council Grant 2018-19:** By e-mail on 8 February 2018, Highland Council announced the the FRCC grant was to be reduced by 58%, that is from £1,501.86 to £675.73. A reduction of £826.13.

From this £826.13 FRCC are responsible for the insurance premium, unlikely to be less than this year's £86.26. Consequently, a net grant income of £589.47.

- 8] FRCC to consider what actions to take to raise income in the year to 30 March 2019.

It is unlikely that reducing expenditure (newsletters, secretarial services, cost of meeting rooms, etc) on its own would be sufficient to ensure continuity in the year 2019-2020.