

Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

Meeting Wednesday 2nd August 2023 7pm by Zoom

Minutes

Item		Action by
1	Welcome & Apologies Present: A Phillips AP (Chair), J Pugh JP (Sec), B Latimer BL (Treasurer), D Guthrie DG, L Tonkin LT, Cllr M-M MacCallum MMM Apologies: G Davies GD, C Mackenzie CM, A Jefferson AJ	
2	Minutes of last meeting Proposed by JP, seconded LT.	
3	Matters arising None.	
4	Points from the public	
4.1	<u>Memorial Benches</u> : AP said that all benches had to be approved by THC. No further guidance that FRCC could pass on regarding style/location, nor a THC contact name, had been received as yet.	MMM/ AP
4.2	<u>Safe routes to schools/road safety</u> : CC to discuss with school(s) after the school holidays.	AP
4.3	<u>Rosemarkie Church chimes</u> : Minister due to report back to DG following church session discussion.	DG
4.4	<u>Empty properties</u> : MMM is awaiting a briefing from Cllr Atkin regarding the sale of empty council properties. She reported however that following an initial discussion with THC legal team, burdens on council properties are not feasible. JP asked whether a sale clause could be included, stating that THC was not obliged to accept the highest bid thus allowing for "public interest" to be taken into account (ie favouring permanent residential use over holiday lets) as per some other Scottish councils.	MMM
4.5	<u>Grass cutting & hedges</u> : JP reported that the Jubilee hedge had taken well and that volunteers had been weeding. Re Rosemarkie graveyard, JP to speak to Gail Paterson.	JP
4.6	<u>Fortrose Union football fun day</u> : Has been scaled back by the club. FRCC not running a stall.	
4.7	<u>Feddon Hill path</u> : Damage reported has been referred to THC by AP.	
4.8	<u>Removals van</u> : An enquiry re parking has been referred to THC by AP.	
4.9	<u>Accessibility</u> : An enquiry re dropped kerbs has been referred	

4.10	<p>to THC. More generally, it was felt an “accessibility audit” should be held in Fortrose and Rosemarkie, including the route from the Care Home to the High St. North Kessock has one. AP and AJ to liaise with MMM.</p> <p>Points from the public raised at the meeting</p> <p>Shelley McEwan referred to 4.7 above, noting the poor state of repair and the lack of lighting. She also noted the poor state of the children’s playpark at Feddon Hill. AP said THC had a play officer and it could be raised with them.</p> <p>Regarding 4.4 above, SM asked if there was anything THC could do regarding empty private properties that are poorly maintained. JP pointed out that THC doubles council tax if properties are left vacant after a period of time to encourage occupancy or sale.</p>	<p>AP/AJ/ MMM</p> <p>AP</p>
5	<p>Police Report</p> <p>AP said a report had been received outlining local priorities: road safety, anti-social behaviour and drug abuse. In the FRCC area 1/4/23-31/7/23 there had been 140 incidents reported, the majority relating to mental health issues with some domestic incidents. There had also been vandalism/youth disorder related to the caravan park. Details on how to report information anonymously to be circulated on FRCC Facebook and via website. The Fairy Glen bridge has suffered vehicle damage again - no details as yet.</p>	AP
6	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>BL reported that the account stood at around £5,600, with payments outstanding covered by payments due (largely relating to the herring gull nest removal service). BL reported that tickets for the fund-raising ceilidh, to be held on Saturday 2 September, were now on sale at the Rosemarkie Spar. JP to discuss a possible raffle with CM.</p>	JP
7 7.1	<p>Planning</p> <p>DG said there were no matters arising for June/July.</p> <p><u>Windfarm consultation:</u> The CC had been included in a consultation regarding a windfarm planned near Dingwall. It is unclear whether that would indicate that the CC was eligible for part of any community fund. AP to pursue. (NOTE: MMM took no part in this discussion).</p>	AP
8	<p>Licensing</p> <p>Nothing arising.</p>	
9	<p>Common Good</p> <p>No developments to report.</p>	

9.1	<u>Coastal erosion:</u> AP said that Scottish Water are carrying out repairs near the Golf Club. Neither the Golf Club (regarding their land) nor THC (re common good land) have indicated plans nor a timetable for repairs required.	MMM/AP
9.2	<u>Asset management:</u> The CC's ward manager, Di Agnew, has now left THC. An interim ward manager has been appointed. MMM to put FRCC in touch.	
10	Community issues/consultations	AJ/AP
10.1	<u>Chanonry Point:</u> The recent access day allowed around 40 people with mobility issues to visit the Point and view wildlife. The response has been highly positive. FRCC is very grateful to all those who helped including the Golf Club, the trishaw team and individual volunteers - and for the loan of a beach wheelchair. CPAG to investigate what more can be done to ensure access for all.	
10.2	<u>Temporary Traffic Restriction Order/20 mph:</u> The speed limit in Rosemarkie came into effect on 31/7/23. There are however no signs indicating a one-way system or yellow lines to restrict parking on the High Street. THC advised that those measures are part of a rollout and will be forthcoming. BL noted that the 20mph zones adjoin the national speed limit, with no interim mid-way speed limits. AP to query with THC.	
10.3	<u>Herring gulls:</u> DG/BL are collecting and reconciling payments. DG said that the project involved a great deal more work than was widely recognised, not least the extensive paperwork required by Nature Scotland. He was doubtful FRCC could carry out the same service next year. The issue of inappropriate nesting, which causes great distress to some residents, is likely to be an ongoing problem in many communities and that the work involved in tackling the issue should not be left to unpaid volunteers. It was agreed that a sub-group to discuss how best to liaise with other community councils and investigate means of raising concerns at a regional/national level, would meet.	
10.4	Checks to be made on current Do Not Feed the Gulls signs. <u>School links/village leaflets:</u> Next meeting with Young Councillors will be after FA resumes on 15/8/23. Work is continuing on updating the FRCC website/providing a QR code for village walks.	
10.5	<u>Co-op request:</u> The new manager of the Fortrose Co-op had been in contact regarding the planning application for a new store. He understood the CC had registered objections and sought to understand why. AP to explain that community councils do not have the power to block development, and our concerns, viewable on THC planning portal, were based on the location (it was not in the area zoned for development) and on the likely increase in vehicle size/traffic on Fortrose High Street. AP to suggest to the Co-op that they hold a public	DG/SL/ GD DG/BL JP

10.6	meeting to gauge public support/objections ahead of a (fourth) application. NOTE: MMM did not take part in this discussion. <u>Community growing/planting/ROGS</u> : JP reported that the group Regenerate our Green Spaces had successfully applied for Scottish Land Fund stage 1 development money and was taking forward plans to acquire land in Fortrose for allotments and community growing.	AP
10.7	<u>Verges/parking</u> : Despite three years of talks, and locations suggested by FRCC, no progress has been made by THC on providing an overflow carpark for the villages, especially during the summer. MMM to raise with the matter with the new ward manager when appointed.	MMM
10.8	<u>St Boniface Fair</u> : Around 20 stalls/spaces have been allocated. The fair will be opened with a procession at 1245 followed by a declaration. Trishaws will provide rides, St Andrews Church refreshments. Volunteers had been contacted to help set up from 0730. LT had sourced a van to move stalls from storage. Access for residents in Cathedral Square must be ensured.	
10.9	<u>CDT</u> : discussion deferred to next meeting.	
10.10	<u>Volunteer groups/sub-committees</u> : AP to meet with three volunteers interested in forming a St Boniface sub-committee for next year.	AP
10.11	<u>Xmas activities</u> : AP confirmed that access should be possible inside the Cathedral for Christmas Carols this year. Regarding Christmas lights, it was agreed that this was something FRCC should pursue in order to replace broken/missing lights and ensure energy efficiency going forward. DG/JP to meet to discuss audit of existing equipment/where power points are on lamp-posts/existing THC fittings and, crucially, how to raise the necessary funds for new lights.	DG/JP
10.12	<u>Chapter House project</u> : The Chapter House remains closed - further meetings on this are due. AP to advise.	AP
10.13	<u>Fortrose Community Market</u> : Awaiting information.	
10.14	<u>Litter Campaign/Bin requests/Clean up</u> : More bins at Fortrose Harbour have been requested. AP to check. JP to discuss a litter campaign with Young Councillors when school resumes - in tandem with adults helping to clear up the Fairy Glen and the straight between the two villages.	AP
10.15	<u>Sea wilding</u> : Discussion carried forward	JP
10.16	<u>Raddery House</u> : No update	
10.17	<u>Visitor Levy</u> : The Scottish Govt consultation has been extended to 15/9/2023. It was agreed to flag this to our mailing list before the end of August.	JP

11	Community Meetings	
11.1	<u>BICC</u> : Next meeting in September	
11.2	<u>BIT</u> : No meeting to report	
11.3	<u>BIAC</u> : No meeting this month - council is recess.	
11.4	<u>Place Plan/Greenport</u> : Emails from Cromarty Community Council and the Place Plan team had been circulated to the CC. The Freeport/Greenport team stated that they had consulted communities via the Place Plan project. The Place Plan team has made it clear that questions on the Freeport didn't feature and are now taking the matter to THC. Relevant emails to be put on the FRCC website/Facebook page.	LT/AP
12	Any Other Business DG noted that it was impossible to get hold of people within Highland Council: emails go unanswered, complaint forms ignored, telephone contact impossible. He said this was unsatisfactory and asked MMM to raise the issue at Council. MMM said that THC had been slow to recover after Covid but that it was an on-going problem. She agreed it was not acceptable and said that she would raise it at her Liberal Democrat party meeting with a view to escalating the matter.	MMM
13	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 6th September via Zoom. (For those wishing to join please request a link via: fortroseandrosemarkie@gmail.com)	