

Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

Wednesday 1st November 2023 by Zoom

Minutes

Item		Action by
1	Welcome & Apologies <u>Present:</u> Theo Stratton (Chair) TS, Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP, Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL, Anne Philips AP, Kerry Ward KW, Lucy Vaughan LV, Cllr Morven-May MacCallum MMM, Ann Jefferson AJ. <u>Apologies:</u> None	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting Proposed AP, Seconded TS. Agreed	
3	Matters Arising	
3.1	<u>Rosemarkie Church Chimes.</u> JP said that David Guthrie was in contact with Gail Paterson. She would seek an update.	JP
3.2	<u>Empty properties.</u> MMM has identified the council officer responsible and will seek an update on the Janitor's House, Fortrose.	MMM
3.3	<u>Co-op.</u> AP to seek confirmation of timings of planned closure for refurbishment.	AP
4	Points from the public/correspondence	
4.1	<u>Paths and pavements.</u> A new community council is due to form in Avoch & Killen and FRCC will liaise with them over possible improvements to the Railway Path. TS to make initial contact. LV commented on damaged paths including the one leading to Station Crescent. Possible that some are non-adopted ie not THC's responsibility. AJ noted the difficult wheelchair-users faced due to the absence of dropped kerbs in the villages. MMM said she had tackled the same issue in North Kessock but warned implementation had taken a year. She would investigate getting a survey done by THC.	TS/KW/ LV
4.2	<u>Memorial benches.</u> THC had supplied a form of words to be sent to those making enquiries. AP to circulate to FRCC members. TS enquired about the approximate number of enquiries received. AP to advise.	MMM
4.3	<u>Feddon Hill playpark.</u> No update from the resident.	AP
4.4	<u>Over-tourism report.</u> A limited number of responses had been received from residents, despite social media and local newspaper coverage. MMM to direct report and concerns to Ken Gowans, Chair Economy & Infrastructure Cttee, THC.	MMM
4.5	<u>Public transport.</u> MMM said that issues around the bus	

4.6	<p>service is a Black Isle and Highland-wide issue. She is keen to hear about specific issues with Stagecoach. It was agreed that FRCC would use Facebook, the website and its postboxes in Rosemarkie Spar and Fortrose Co-op to solicit comments and raise residents' awareness that ward councillors need to hear their views. (JP to check state of Co-op postbox) and liaise with Lucy Tonkin re Facebook.</p> <p><u>Urgent need for carers.</u> KW has attended a meeting in October which had flagged the problems facing home care on the Black Isle from December, and in particular the Fortrose/Rosemarkie area. FRCC had already shared an appeal by Eilean Dubh Home Care and it was agreed that we would continue to assist including reposting on Facebook - noting that potential carers do not need to have access to a car. JP to liaise with LT. KW to update on recruitment at next meeting.</p>	JP/LT
4.7	<p><u>Participation requests.</u> AP had circulated details of two forthcoming workshops. LV intends to attend one.</p>	JP/LT KW
4.8	<p><u>St Clements/Ross Memorial Hospital.</u> AP had attended a meeting hosted by Dingwall CC to discuss the fabric and future of St Clements School, which serves children with special needs from across the area, and the Ross Memorial Hospital which also provides pan-Black Isle services. Four NHS representatives attended to discuss the latter, but no officer from THC was present to discuss the school. The hospital is no longer safety compliant but there is no capital funding available for a new building. The best that could be expected was a rolling programme of repairs. Some services such as a minor injury unit had closed but other services on the site were being expanded. Re St Clements - ward councillors and parents were happy with the education and care provided but the state of the building restricted what could be achieved. There is no indication of a timetable for improvement or replacement.</p>	LV
5	<p>Police Report MMM had supplied a new contact name for the area but no report had been forthcoming which was disappointing, especially given the recent hoax call incident at the Academy. TS to make contact with new area officer.</p>	TS
6	<p>Treasurer's Report Report viewable at fortrosemarkie.org. Balance on 31 Oct 2023: £5142.26. BL and JP to liaise re planning January's fund-raising ceilidh. KW and AJ requested a sub-account be set up to accept donations towards a beach wheelchair, which would cost in the region of £4,000. BL said that this could be done in principle. KW to liaise with Dornoch contacts on how they manage theirs regarding storage/insurance/maintenance.</p>	BL/JP KW

10.4	contacted a hawker based in Inverness who advised that he did not operate in residential areas due to insurance issues. In order to keep continuity if a scheme was run next year, it was agreed that David Guthrie would be an associate member with JP/BL liaising.	JP
10.5	<u>School links</u> . Next Young Councillor meeting 6/11/23. <u>Community Growing/planting</u> . JP to organise weeding/community hedge today. ROGS: JP reported that no progress had yet been made with acquiring land in Fortrose for allotments/community growing. ROGS had however worked with Historic Scotland to plant wildflowers in part of the Cathedral Grounds. ROGS is now one of two local causes supported this year by the Co-op - the business making a donation each time certain own-brand products were purchased. Raddery House - see 10.13.	JP
10.6	<u>Verges/parking</u> . Road surface/verges on Marine Terrace now storm-damaged. See 9.1.	
10.7	<u>Cathedral activities</u> . It was agreed that Lucy Tonkin should become an Associate Member as a key planner of the Christmas Eve Carols event. AP to liaise and advise re Historic Scotland access, electricity, musicians etc.	AP
10.8	<u>Volunteers and sub-committees</u> . Members and associate members have been asked to take on the following roles/liaison duties: RAFT - LV RAA - AP CPAG - AJ (Associate), KW ROGS/Website/Mailing list - JP Cathedral activities/Facebook - Lucy Tonkin (Associate) Common Good/Asset management - Gwyn Phillips, Okain McLennan, Vint Grant (Associates)	
10.9	<u>Gulls/Christmas lights</u> - David Guthrie (Associate) <u>Christmas Lights</u> . JP said that she had applied and was waiting to hear the outcome of an application for funding from the Pat Munro Foundation towards additional brackets and electrical sockets. David Guthrie is approaching possible sponsors for lights. It is unlikely however that funding will be in place for improvements this Christmas. DG sourcing a gifted tree for Cathedral Square. JP to liaise.	JP
10.10	<u>Community Market</u> . AP has linked up possible volunteers with Anne Thomas.	
10.11	<u>Litter</u> . JP had failed to organise a litter pick due to other commitments. AP to arrange a tide/weather-dependent post-storm beach clean possibly on Sunday.	AP
10.12	<u>Marine Environment</u> . AP said that residents had noticed that the sand bank in the middle of the firth seemed to have extended and there was speculation that this was as a result of dredging at Ardersier. MMM to make enquires with THC.	MMM
10.13	<u>Asset transfers</u> . Gareth Phillips was invited to address the	

10.14	<p>meeting on behalf of the Raddery House group. He said that he was seeking a letter of support for the project from the Community Council. He said that progress was being made with the Community Asset Transfer and that the group had been given £10,000 for a feasibility study including a woodland tree/ecology survey. The District Scouts, having lost their base on the Brahan Estate, had expressed interest in using the site if appropriate facilities were provided. GP also said he had spoken to representatives from Developing the Young Workforce with a view to using the site to promote outdoor skills, and to young parents keen for more local outdoor education. He felt it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire such a valuable site on the Black Isle and provide a hub for local community groups and activities. Cllr MacCallum did not take part in the discussion. JP said she was impressed by plans for the woodland but had reservations regarding the cost/feasibility of converting Raddery House itself. GP said the house was a long-term project and a robust business plan was being developed. On that basis it was agreed to submit a letter of support for the group's objectives. TS to draft.</p> <p><u>Visitor Levy</u>. It was noted that the Scottish Government's consultation period had now closed and the proposals would be reviewed. If the bill was voted into law, councils will have the power to impose an overnight visitor levy. However, the draft bill says they must consult with local communities first and that funds raised must be reinvested in local facilities and services used by visitors. Any legislation was unlikely to take effect before 2026.</p>	TS
11 11.1 11.2 11.3 11.4 11.5	<p>Community Meetings</p> <p><u>Black Isle Community Councils</u>. No update. Knockbain CC to chair and fix date.</p> <p><u>Black Isle Tourism</u>. No date set for meeting.</p> <p><u>Black Isle Partnership</u>. No update.</p> <p><u>Place Plan</u>. It was noted that flyers sent to home addresses asking for more feedback had been received. No update.</p> <p><u>Freeport</u>. AP/TS and BL had attended the recent zoom webinar. It was noted that no time had been allowed for questions from the public. MMM is aware of FRCC's desire for more information from the stakeholders.</p>	
12	<p>Any other business</p> <p><u>Communication</u>. A discussion as to ways in which residents could contact the Community Council decided that more publicity should be given to the mobile phone number where messages and requests for a phone back could be left. JP to discuss with LT pinning on FRCC Facebook page..</p> <p><u>RAFT</u> It was agreed that Rosemarkie and Fortrose Trust should be a regular agenda item with LV to update.</p>	JP

	<p><u>Future meetings</u> There was a discussion as to whether future meetings should take place in person or via zoom. Taking into account cost and members' preferences, it was agreed that the AGM each year should be held in person but that regular monthly meetings would proceed on zoom unless there was a specific reason not to.</p>	
13	<p>Date of next meeting The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 December at 7pm via zoom. The AGM will be held in person on the first Wednesday evening in June 2024 unless otherwise decided.</p>	