

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2019 AT CULBOKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEMBERS: Sally Falconer, Adam Fletcher, Colin Lawrence (Treasurer), Roslind MacNaughton, Iain McCallum, Bruce Morrison (Secretary), Becky Richmond (Chair), Eilidh Richmond.

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Gordon Adam, 2 residents.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Craig Fraser, PC John MacPherson, 1 resident.

POLICE MATTERS: PC John MacPherson sent in a report of three traffic incidents in late September. On the A835 at Newton of Ferintosh, a driver was reported for careless driving following an RTC. On the A9 at Duncanston, enquiries into a two vehicle RTC involving a cow are ongoing. On the A9 at the Cromarty Bridge, enquiries are ongoing into an RTC where one of the parties failed to stop.

From the previous meeting, we heard from residents of two accidents at the Knock na Fanaig bend which did not appear in our police report. PC John MacPherson has replied that his report only contains reports of criminal or potentially criminal activity. He also added that road traffic collisions (RTC) are reported only if there is injury (and potentially criminal activity). If FCC wished to see information of all RTCs in its area, then FCC could put in a Freedom of Information request. The safety concerns about the road condition at the bend will be taken up with THC by putting in a request for arrow signs to forewarn about the bend.

There was also concern about poor traffic management at one of those accidents permitting traffic to continue down the blocked road. Police Scotland reported back that the limited personnel who could attend the accident prioritised their efforts to keeping the driver safe and had insufficient resources to manage the wider traffic issues.

From the previous meeting, THC has now confirmed that the speed sign into Culbokie is capped at about 45 mph in order not to encourage those drivers who like to see how fast they are going. Together with a resident, new silent observations of the speed sign have concluded that approximately 1% of vehicles are going so fast that they are not being detected. The observations have also indicated that there is a small increase in vehicle speeds since earlier this year of about 0.5 mph. The current average speeds are, however, about 4 mph lower than 5 years ago. In agreement with the resident, Bruce proposed to continue with the plan to have accurate speed monitoring carried out by THC next year and to explore the possibility of rumble strips as the next extra trigger to stimulate the attention of drivers (FCC agreed).

Becky again raised the general concern of increased speeding on all our roads endorsed by Cllr Adam who added the factor of increased volume of traffic. Cllr Adam will pursue with other community councils FCC's persistent thought about a 50mph pilot on the Black Isle.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: As near neighbours, Becky and Eilidh declared an interest in the planning application at Mount Eagle and will not take part in any relevant discussion. As a CCT Director, Bruce will take no part in discussions about the development of the Glascairn site.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): **Street name** for Glascairn development has technically been accepted but requires formal approval by the area committee; **THC: Meeting with Donna Manson (CEO of THC):** Becky and Bruce attended and Becky reported that the workshop included a mix of community councillors and representatives from other community groups. Presentations included one from Fortrose Academy and its efforts to improve support for those with mental health issues. The interactions included hearing about the aspirations from Donna Manson and a willingness from communities to help THC meet its challenges. Community groups felt that more transparency and better communication from THC would improve partnership working. Cllr Adam, who organised this valuable event, added that Donna Manson was highly

motivated by the positive community support and he was willing to look at a follow through meeting perhaps involving some senior Councillors.

MINUTES: Last month's minutes were approved (proposed by Ros, seconded by Sally) and duly adopted.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin reported on four transactions this month (£28 for insurance for Community Links, £35 for Data Protection Registration, £47.91 for printing costs for FCC and £200 to resident for Culbokie grass cutting) thus reducing the balance to £5041. THC has again agreed to transfer £200 for next year's grass cutting in Culbokie and FCC is awaiting receipt. Colin will prepare final accounts for 31 October.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:

Newsletters have been received from Local People Leading, HTSI, HSCN, Local Governance Review and all posted on the facebook page; **HTSI:** Custody Link Worker position has been created and an engagement session is planned for 30 October at Police HQ. Looking for nominations to represent third sector organisations by 31 October; **Dingwall Medical Group:** Invitation to attend quarterly liaison meetings with Community Council representatives. Bruce agreed to attend the first one on 6 November; **EnergieKontour UK Ltd:** Consultation on a proposed wind energy development at Strathorry (near Ardrross) on Wednesday 30 October, 3.30pm to 7pm in Ardrross Community Hall; **Highland Green Grant Fund:** funding now available for small projects that encourage greater use of the outdoors to tackle physical inactivity, mental health issues and health inequalities. Applications close on 25th November, 2019. Further information can be found at: www.thinkhealththinknature.scot; **Cromarty Heritage Trail:** group has not yet collated all replies; **BT Phone Boxes:** Alcaig group has sent FCC its press release and will be given Noticeboard publicity; **Tourism Visitor Levy Consultation** went out; **Crask Junction:** residents have invited community councillors to an opening on 2 November.

SERVICE REQUESTS: Cllr Fraser has offered to relay any information about **faulty street lights** and **grit bins** to THC. **Vegetation obscuring the road** down from Findon Hall not yet cleared (Becky will follow up). Resident has reported **serious, deep potholes** in 2 locations on the B9169 east of Culbokie (Becky following up). Cllr Adam reported that only £7M is available to tackle a £21M problem but THC will respond to the most dangerous so worth reporting (photo and location to Cllr Fraser). Resident pointed out the need for compensation to drivers so THC would be better repairing the potholes (Cllr Adam to explore the size of the compensation payments). Resident sent in thanks for progress on **Old Urquhart Cemetery**.

Flooding in Culbokie: residents continue to receive no response or help from THC and Cllr Adam will follow up; **Drive around:** THC has agreed to a review of the FCC territory for all service issues but date yet to be confirmed; **Poor sight lines at junctions /overgrown verges:** there has been a good response from residents identifying the most dangerous junctions and will be reported to THC (Becky to collate and identify priorities).

Road safety: Requests to be put in for rumble strips into Culbokie from the A9, small reminder discs about 30mph on the way out of Culbokie and warning arrow signs at the Knock na Fanaig bend.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

Community Liaison Group for Glascairn Development: No activity this month.

Glascairn Development: Nothing specific this month (but see below for CCT consultation on 21 November).

Buses/Community Transport: Culbokie Action Group /FCC have received no feedback from the leaflet drop about willingness in the future to take part in car sharing arrangements. One resident has let us know that she will be using the commuter service over the next year as a new passenger.

Broadband: No update.

Undergrounding of electricity cables in Culbokie: Iain, following discussions with SSE, has the application forms and details about the £1M fund where £10K maximum bids are being requested. Iain to approach CCT with the information but feeling from SSE is that the undergrounding in Culbokie would be too large a project for this sort of funding.

B9169/Mulbuie Speed Limit: Colin reported that the public consultation is now closed and is awaiting THC 's feedback on the outcome.

Cromarty Firth Port Authority: Becky /Eilidh attended the AGM on 26 September with nothing of consequence for FCC but will also attend the community council liaison meeting on 24 October.

LEADER - No information is now forthcoming.

Culbokie Community Trust Update: CCT has three contractors currently undergoing design work for the village green, the community hub building and for the active travel plan for the village. All three contractors are presenting their plans to residents for their views on Thursday 21 November, 3.30pm to 8pm, Findon Hall. This important consultation will be promoted through the FCC email list.

CCT has a place on its Board for an FCC appointee. Bruce offered to continue in this role (FCC supported).

Email list: Numbers increased by 3 names to 648. Eilidh will draw up a report to research and consider approaches to improve FCC's connection with younger residents.

Ferintosh Community Links: Bruce proposed that all work should now stop on this project. Although insurance had been put in place (thanks to Colin), the underwriters came back with quite resource demanding needs around extra policies and procedures which were proving difficult to both negotiate and satisfy. In parallel, the Dingwall Medical Group (DMG) informed us that the NHS's own system of Links Workers was being pursued more quickly than anticipated with DMG in the vanguard of this national roll out. FCC has offered its support to DMG in its future efforts to link with our area's social activity. FCC agreed that DMG could use any thoughts and ideas that have emerged from these joint efforts over the summer coupled with a request that DMG acknowledge FCC's input in any way they feel appropriate. Becky requested thanks be recorded to Colin and Bruce for all their efforts.

Meals on Wheels: Ros reported on the healthy position of now having 8 volunteers and 8 clients in the FCC area. In addition, two of the volunteers are now accompanying residents to social occasions at Fortrose Academy to help their wellbeing. The service is always looking for more help and should contact Lesley Bowman (Black Isle Cares) on 07702 557535.

Community Council Elections: Following low levels of nominations around Highland Council's area, the closing date for nominations has been extended until noon on Tuesday 29 October. FCC will again promote the need for more nominations before the closing date.

FCC's own community councillors confirmed that 6 have put their names forward as planned but FCC is deeply concerned that that number is inadequate to fulfil properly the needs and desires from residents' requests for representation and action. The concern was considered so high that a proposal not to form a new FCC was discussed. FCC unanimously agreed (proposal by Bruce, seconded by Becky) that should the new community councillors find themselves in a position at the inaugural meeting of the new FCC with insufficient numbers of additional community councillors then a proposal not to form a new FCC would be put forward. The message that the community councillors wish to send to residents is that the workload is too great for a satisfactory service to be provided without additional help and that message will be broadcast well in advance of the closing date for nomination (i.e. Tuesday 29 October). Cllr Adam pointed out the greater opportunities emerging for community councils to influence local decision making and agreed to provide such a message to be broadcast with FCC's communications.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Iain reported on the following planning applications:

Update on Objections lodged:

19/01628/PIP: Replacement house, Drummondreach Steading, Alcaig: Under consideration, will go to NPAC.

Comments lodged:

18/05537/PIP: 3 house plots, 70m SE of Elder, Cruachan, Eight Acres, Culbokie: Comments lodged on road safety grounds. THC Roads team has objected on basis of road safety issues.

18/05853/FUL: New house, garage/house unit, large shed, Plot 15, The Cairns, Culbokie: Comment lodged on outsize of shed.

19/02467/FUL: New house, 1 Fowlers Croft, Culbokie: Comment on the height of the house and over development. New house design contradicts the original design brief.

19/03052/FUL & 18/05537/PIP: Eight acres development: FCC is still waiting for a response to its request to a meeting with the planners to understand how road safety conditions are going to be met (Iain to check).

New Application:

19/03576/FUL: Change of use, garage to residential, Glascairn, Culbokie: No comment

19/04170/FUL: New double garage, Fowlers Wood, Culbokie: No comment

19/04051/FUL: Replacement extension, Holly Cottage, Schoolcroft, Culbokie: No comment

19/04420/PIP: New house, 75m SE of Brackla Wood, Culbokie: No comment

Previous Applications/Issues being monitored:

16/00595/FUL & 16/02591/PNO: New House and chicken shed, Mount Eagle: THC cannot enforce occupancy conditions according to Scottish Government guidance. No report from Cllr Gordon Adam as yet.

16/00248/ENF: Unauthorised use as builder's yard, W of Culbo Cottage, Culbokie: In the hands of the enforcement officer.

AOCB: Colin and Ros are standing down from FCC and Becky thanked them for all their efforts on behalf of FCC and all residents. Ros commented that it has been a privilege and now understood better how much effort goes on behind the scenes of a community council. Colin endorsed Ros's comments and particularly wished to add his thanks to all the residents who have contributed so heavily in various campaigns.

Iain reported on greater activity emerging on wind turbine developments on the north side of the Cromarty Firth.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: AbilityNet has been emailed in the last week but no response to either FCC or the resident.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 18 November, 7pm, Mulbuie Hall (if the current election is uncontested and a new FCC forms).

Contact details for comments; to join the email list; to receive minutes electronically:

Bruce Morrison, Secretary, 01349 877127; ferintoshcc30@gmail.com, <http://ferintoshcc.co.uk>;

<http://fb.me/Ferintosh>