

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2019 IN FERINTOSH HALL

MEMBERS: Sally Falconer, Karen Harcus, Alison Lowe, Alastair Macintyre, Iain McCallum, Gordon Morris, Bruce Morrison (Secretary), Becky Richmond (Chair), Eilidh Richmond (Treasurer).

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Gordon Adam (Initial Chair of meeting); Adam Fletcher (Associate Member), 2 residents.

APOLOGIES: 2 residents

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: Cllr Adam took the Chair and congratulated FCC and the community on its election and turnout. Cllr Adam sought proposals for **Chair** and Bruce proposed Becky to take again the position that Becky has so successfully filled over the past 18 months (Sally seconded, all agreed, duly elected).

Becky took over the Chair of the meeting offering FCC's grateful thanks and congratulations to its four new community councillors who were willing to put themselves through the election process.

Becky proposed Bruce for the position of **Secretary** (Gordon seconded, all agreed, duly elected).

With no proposer coming forward with a name for the post of **Treasurer**, Eilidh put herself forward for consideration. Before seeking a proposer, Becky raised the potential concern of the Chair and Treasurer living in the same household. FCC fully discussed the pros and cons of this issue with the general feeling that the risk of impropriety was very very low (very simple accounts, already completely transparent, knowledgeable community councillors around to check) but that there could be a perception issue. Given that all Office Bearers step down at the AGM in May and by then the new community councillors will be more likely to be able to take on the role, Alison proposed Eilidh for Treasurer (Iain seconded, all agreed, duly elected). It was also agreed that only Eilidh in the Richmond household would be a cheque signatory.

ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION /STANDING ORDERS: Becky proposed the adoption and the acknowledgement that all community councillors operate under the Code of Conduct (seconded by Iain, all agreed). The documents were duly signed by Cllr Adam and the three Office Bearers.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (INCLUDING KEY COMMUNITY GROUPS): Becky proposed that Adam Fletcher (former community councillor) be appointed as an **Associate Member** to maintain FCC's knowledge and oversight of the 40mph Mulbuie project (Bruce seconded, all agreed). In reply to Alastair's query, a co-opted member is one who has voting rights and can be elected by a community council should there be vacancies up to the maximum allowed. An Associate Member though has no voting rights, does not have to be a resident in the area but is valuable as an additional resource.

Under the new Constitution, FCC is obliged to consider appointing representatives of **key community groups as Associate Members**. FCC agreed to consider at the January meeting which groups may be considered 'key' and, if FCC decides to follow up on the opportunity, then to decide how to pursue the matter.

Youth membership: Becky suggested that the new opportunity to appoint up to two 16 to 18 year olds as **Youth Members** (additional to community councillors, full voting rights, appointment for two years) should be borne in mind and any suggested names would be welcome in order to provide youthful residents with a voice.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS MATTERS: Iain proposed to lodge a holding position on any controversial planning applications that may appear over the festive period. Cllr Adam reported that the Ross and Cromarty Area Committee is to be broken into three smaller Area Committees thus providing a greater degree of local decision making. The Black Isle and Dingwall will constitute one of those three new area committees.

PLAN OF MEETINGS: All agreed to stay with the third Monday of every month (except December) and to keep the sequence of Mulbuie Hall, Ferintosh Hall, Culbokie Primary School, Mulbuie Hall etc.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 20 January, 7.30pm, Ferintosh Hall.

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

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