

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 JANUARY 2019 IN CULBOKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Gordon Adam, 7 residents

APOLOGIES: Cllr Craig Fraser, PC John Macpherson

POLICE MATTERS: PC John Macpherson sent in his report which reported two incidents. The first was a male claiming to have received threats (Newton of Kinkell) but there was no evidence of a crime. The second was a reported domestic incident (Culbokie) but no crime /offences were disclosed.

On traffic matters, one fixed penalty notice was issued for careless driving (A9 Culbokie junction). Three drivers were reported for vehicle issues (vehicle defects; no valid MOT; prohibition notice).

CO-OPTING COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS (Chaired by Colin). Planning ahead to November's Community Council elections, the two current community councillors representing the SW end of the area will not be standing. FCC decided (during an informal meeting in December) to seek co-opted CCs for that area as a priority whilst also encouraging more residents to come forward. FCC has taken both a targeted and a general approach to seeking interested people with four coming forward, one of whom lives in the SW area. FCC will use the next month to meet up with all the interested residents and then decide how to proceed. FCC would like to record its thanks to those residents who have put themselves forward.

MATTERS ARISING: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda):

Black Isle Tourism Strategy Event: Bruce attended this very well run and energetic workshop. The main observation was the considerable attention given to ensure that residents' concerns were included in the strategy and that the local infrastructure develops in parallel with tourism. Becky noted that she has joined the Steering Group of the Tourism Group in a personal capacity.

Democracy Matters: Bruce attended an Inverness consultation event that is part of Scottish Government's ongoing search to enhance the localisation of governance. Feedback reports are expected. The discussions included ideas to change the overall structures throughout Scotland and bring both tax-raising and spending powers to a more local level. Cllr Adam added that THC is seeing the Area Committee for Ross and Cromarty as too big and is looking at how to localise decision making, perhaps even considering the Black Isle as a unit. Cllr Adam is organizing a meeting of all BI organisations with THC's new Chief Executive and that may be an opportunity to raise the issue of the Black Isle as a unit.

Public Toilets: Highland Comfort Scheme: Culbokie Inn to be approached; **Defibrillator notices:** To be pursued; **Gritting School Routes:** Iain Moncrieff has replied by explaining that the priority roads for gritting are the higher density, higher speed roads and many school bus routes therefore come into the second priority. He does not have the resources to move all school routes into the top priority and the decision about individual road usage lies with the bus driver and the bus company. FCC decided to lobby for very specific routes to be moved into the top priority whilst approaching the bus companies to see whether timely local advice to the bus company may improve decision making and safety; **Education Scotland:** Its review of community learning and development in our area has been published and can be accessed at <https://education.gov.scot/assets/contactorganisationinspectionreports/>; **Noticeboard Newsletter:** Suggestion has been put forward that the newsletter could be increased to 6 pages and FCC agreed to support those discussions to see how it could evolve into something more comprehensive.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Bruce: as a CCT Director, will take no part in discussions about the Glascairn development.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin reported on two transactions (£12 meeting hall hire, £50 gift for retiring editor of Noticeboard Newsletter). The £200 for verge cutting has been paid out with next year's £200 paid in and now coming with an agreement that payment is from a Community Services budget and could become annual. Bruce was thanked for gaining this THC agreement.

Available reserve is now £5.1K. Following a question, Colin confirmed that FCC could fund raise but cannot take on any loans. However, with an anticipated spend this year of £1400 against a newly reduced grant of £500, it is inevitable that reduced support for community projects will come about.

FCC approved payments of £50 to each of the Senior Citizens events in Culbokie and Easter Kinkell.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS: The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust: Notification of its AGM on 1st February including some proposed changes to its Articles e.g. a new object of promoting the advancement of citizenship or community development. FCC to send support and apologies; **Community Council Challenge Group /THC:** William Gilfillan, Community Services Director, having heard from FCC about frustrations in our interactions with his service, is resurrecting an old idea of forming a small advisory group to raise these issues directly and on a regular basis. Bruce has agreed to participate on behalf of FCC.

Findon Hall: As part of its fund raising drive to repair its roof, Findon Hall has suggested publicising a bottle recycling scheme using labels delivered with every copy of Noticeboard. FCC has agreed to support this idea. Findon Hall also requested of FCC its help with the planning application for the roof and Iain agreed to look into FCC's possible role.

THC Consultation on active travel in Inverness, circulated; **Galloping horses in the woods:** Resident requested guidance on rules and monitoring but following consultation with the horse community and Forestry Commission, the behaviour is down to the courtesy of the horse rider. The concern will be publicised by FCC; **Undesirable items of litter around Findon Hall:** FCC will publicise the concern; **Community Network Meeting:** Bruce to attend and possibly Becky; **BEAR Scotland:** Consultation about works on Cromarty Bridge but no serious concerns.

Service Requests: Becky to follow up the poor response by THC over the months by requesting that Iain Moncrieff carry out another tour taking in the main school bus routes of concern about lack of gritting.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

Community Council Steering Group /Review of Community Councils Scheme: THC has approved a set of proposals for change that are now subject to a three month consultation period. FCC will discuss at the next meeting how to proceed with this consultation. Meeting in June for THC to finalise proposals.

40mph Zone at Mulbuie: Agreed as a main issue for discussion at the Mulbuie Hall meeting in February. Three Ward Members have committed to attending in order to hear residents' views with Cllr Graham Mackenzie agreeing to lead the project once the views of the residents have been gathered. Local residents and Parents Council representatives are to be specifically invited.

Buses /Community Transport: The new commuter service for Culbokie started, as planned, on 7 January and seems to be functioning well. The suggested timetable changes to provide a connection for all commuters on the north of the Black Isle with the Culbokie commuter service have also been implemented. Stagecoach did not agree, however, to diverting the UHI bus through Culbokie or to a

Saturday service. The first of quarterly review meetings with Stagecoach has been agreed to take place on 4 February.

FCC, following the advice of the Culbokie Action Group, would still like to pursue the creation of a path to the bus shelter at Duncanston. Cllr Adam has agreed to find out about sourcing materials for the path whilst Bruce will approach the Community Payback Team for the labour.

Broadband: New cabinet has been installed near Balnabeen House to further increase the reach from the Culbokie exchange. There is also a new box at Spittal Wood on the B9169 SW of Mulbuie School.

Crask Junction: Proposed delays to this project led FCC to question the commitment of THC to this project especially in the new environment of even more severe budget cuts. Very strong commitment to the project was received in writing from both THC's Budget Leader and the Director of Infrastructure.

An update received today, stimulated by Cllr Fraser, has explained that a contract for tree removal in February has been lodged with the actual road works planned for the second week in March.

LEADER: No meeting in January.

Port of Cromarty Authority: Becky is attending a meeting this week.

Wellbeing Project: Increased youth suicides on the Black Isle were concerning Police Scotland and they approached Fortrose Academy. That initiative led to a drop-in café where views were assembled. The subsequent report was discussed by community councils and other stakeholders, facilitated by Fortrose Academy. CCs were asked to consider what services were both present and absent to pull information together for a meeting in March. With good working together of community councils so far, the drive now is to seek residents' views and Becky will construct a request to be put to FCC's residents.

Email list: Numbers increased by 3 this month to 425. Becky raised the idea of asking residents to provide some simple indication of where they live (by area and not by address) so that FCC could better target emails and not simply circulate everything to everyone. Bruce to follow up with request to residents.

Black Isle Cares, Meals on Wheels: 8 clients now being served and volunteers would always be welcomed so that more clients can become involved.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Update on Objections lodged:

Three Logie Farm PIP Applications: Recommended for approval by THC to the NPAC of 22/01/2019

New Applications:

18/05808/FUL: 33 Houses, 130m N of The Cairns, Culbokie: Comment on density of traffic on Glascairn Road for this and two other applications and current lack of pedestrian pavements. Undergrounding electric cables to be explored (Iain).

18/05806/PIP: 6 House plots, SUDS, Community Area, 130m N of The Cairns, Culbokie: No further comment.

18/05537/PIP: 3 House plots, 70m SE of Cruachan, Eight Acres, Culbokie: Transport Team has lodged an objection

18/05202/PIP: House, 35M SW of Braefindon Steading: No comment

18/05561/FUL: Change of use to offices /vets, Alcaig Farmhouse: No comment

18/05572/PIP: 2 House plots, 70m SW of Marsden, Muir of Allangrange: Concern about road infrastructure together with other developments on this road to be communicated.

18/05853/ FUL: House, garage/house unit, shed, Plot 15, The Cairns, Culbokie: Comment to be submitted that it is out of character (i.e. of a commercial character) with neighbouring domestic properties.

Previous Applications being monitored:

16/00595 /FUL: New House, East of Dunbreck, Culbokie: No update

16/00248 /ENF: Builders yard, Braefindon: No update

Builders rubble at Mount Eagle Court phase 2 site: No update

Letter has been submitted by Becky on behalf of FCC to the planners to better understand how the necessary safety measures are to be implemented for the Eight Acres development. Still no response so extra pressure now on THC to provide a judgement. Becky to meet up with Iain to review this issue together with the developer's comments.

AOCB: Website to be updated (Becky).

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: Resident pointed out that undergrounding electric cables will be an issue for Tullochs at the Glascairn development.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 18 February, 7pm, Mulbuie Hall

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>