

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2019 IN MULBUIE HALL

MEMBERS: Sally Falconer, Adam Fletcher (co-opted at this meeting), Colin Lawrence (Treasurer), Iain McCallum, Roslind MacNaughton, Bruce Morrison (Secretary), Becky Richmond (Chair)

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Gordon Adam, Cllr Craig Fraser, Cllr Angela MacLean, Cllr Margaret Paterson, 45 residents.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Graham Mackenzie, Cllr Alister Mackinnon, PC John Macpherson, 6 residents

POLICE MATTERS: PC John Macpherson wrote in his report that some vandalism had occurred in Easter Kinkell on 27 January but no crime was established. In January, one motorist was reported for careless driving on the A835 near Mulbuie.

CO-OPTING A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR (Chaired by Colin). Colin explained that come the election in November, there will be no community councillors representing the west end of the FCC area. However, one resident from that area, Adam Fletcher, has come forward for co-option. Adam's co-option was proposed by Colin, seconded by Ros and unanimously approved by the elected community councillors.

MAIN DISCUSSION: CAMPAIGN FOR A REDUCED SPEED LIMIT FOR THE B9169/MULBUIE PRIMARY SCHOOL/MULBUIE JUNCTION

Colin led this discussion by first thanking the residents for coming along to the meeting in such large numbers. Colin explained the background that a campaign to introduce a 40mph fizzled out a few years ago since when the problem of speeding has only become worse. The evidence for this is both anecdotal from residents and more formally from Police Scotland and their reports of higher numbers of convictions for speeding. One key factor was felt to be the introduction of traffic calming measures in Conon, Muir of Ord and Maryburgh resulting in the B9169 now providing the quickest route to Dingwall and beyond. Further housing development locally will only exacerbate the situation.

A meeting with the Parent Council has generated significant momentum now to campaign to reduce speed outside the school and backing has been received from all the Councillors of the Black Isle and Dingwall. A member of Muir of Ord Community Council was also present to lend support in the knowledge that their residents send children to Mulbuie School and also provide some of the vehicle drivers using the B9169 as a rat run.

The specific concerns that have been raised in addition to high speeds include children walking between the school and hall without the protection of a temporary 20mph zone; no control by the school of the 20 mph timings; larger bus and larger vehicles parked outside the school; school buses stopping on other parts of the B9169; slow moving vehicles entering /exiting side roads along the B9169; poor visibility joining the B9169.

Actions already taken include Cllr Mackenzie visiting the site with a THC officer who was sympathetic to the problem. Cllr Maclean also reported on her investigations and uncovered the following: that the school can influence the timing of the 20mph zone by emailing Inverness a day in advance of requirements; Safer Routes to School programme is a key source of funding and the officer will come along to a future meeting; a larger bus is now in use for a higher number of pupils and the bus company is now looking at alternatives; the path down to the houses below the school may well be able to be upgraded; Robin Pope(THC) is organizing a fresh set of speed monitoring data and is also contacting Police, Planners and Traffic for their views; that 40 mph along the whole road may not be 'reasonable' in coping with the specific issues and a survey will be needed bearing in mind the policing required.

Possible solutions and contributions included the following: Parent Council recommended 40mph from Muir of Ord to the Leanaig with a 30mph around the school area; PC is also open to improving their own traffic management; general agreement that moving from 60mph to 20mph needs to change to smaller steps of reduced speed; double white lines to inhibit overtaking; thick white lines at side to provide a perception of narrowness; speed restrictions won't work without physical barriers to reduce speed; clear vegetation and obstructions at junctions to improve visibility; parking local cars strategically can slow traffic; a complete overhaul of local signage is required; install dashcams in cars to provide police with evidence.

All agreed that the risks to all road users was too high with particular concerns for the safety of the school children. All agreed that a speed limit of 40mph was at the core of the plan and Colin would assemble a small group to flesh out a plan that will be presented back to the community before approaching THC.

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

Democracy Matters: Seems to be a delay in the review of community councils' scheme but communication has been poor; **Public Toilets: Highland Comfort Scheme:** Culbokie Inn: not relevant to its business.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Bruce: as a CCT Director, will take no part in discussions about the Glascairn development; Becky, as a near neighbour, will take no part in discussions about the development East of Dunbreck.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin reported on two transactions (£50 for each of the senior citizens events in Culbokie and Easter Kinkell) leaving about £4.8K available for supporting projects. Roger has found a source of two cartridges for the printer for £50 and FCC agreed that he should purchase.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:

Black Isle Cares: All invited to its AGM at 7pm, 25 March at the Seaforth Lodge, Fortrose with invited speakers including Isobel Grigor, CEO, Calman Trust; **Scottish Community Alliance:** Becky highlighted a comment that focused on the power of residents to reduce loneliness and isolation as being at least as important as any national strategy; **LEADER:** Post Brexit, 15 March, Eden Court.

Service Requests: Various lighting faults in Culbokie have been reported. Becky has contacted Iain Moncrieff to arrange an on-site meeting to review all service issues including gritting priorities and Mulbuie School signage.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

40mph Zone at Mulbuie: Main discussion as above.

Buses /Community Transport: The first review of the new routes with Stagecoach has been postponed until Monday 25 February. The Chair of Resolis CC has kindly agreed to come along since residents from that area can now link with the Culbokie commuter services. Becky pointed out that Cromarty residents were also interested and Cromarty CC should also be contacted.

CIlr Adam has reported back about the path with THC being clear that labour from the Community Payback team could not be used.

Becky and Bruce have had an initial discussion about a BI wide project on community transport. An initial discussion with the Aviemore group made it clear that using buses with paid drivers to solve our local

issues was not sustainable. They suggested an expansion of the community car scheme to include other vehicles. The current community car scheme could even now be better used by residents to link with the regular bus services on the main arterial routes.

Broadband: No new information.

Crask Junction: A further planning application has been submitted (simply to notify a change of the boundary for tree felling) but THC has confirmed that the plan is still in place for tree felling to begin this month and road works next month.

LEADER: Meeting cancelled but funds remain available despite Brexit.

Port of Cromarty Authority: Becky reported from its recent meeting that Ross Sutherland Rugby has launched a range of activities for all (e.g. senior citizens touch rugby) and wishes to encourage people to come and watch; 11 rigs currently with 2 more rigs coming in; Caissons for Aberdeen Harbour being added to but will eventually be used for construction; 109 cruise ships expected this year and several meetings with Stagecoach have taken place to prevent last year's travel disruptions for local travellers; Contract to assemble wind turbines for the offshore wind farm has been secured with more contracts available; Brexit not expected to interrupt the cruise ship business as UK is outside the Schengen area but cargo business could be affected; Extension of a berth is under way with completion in 2020; the contract is providing further funds into the Community Benefit Fund.

Wellbeing Project /Community Transport / CCs working together: No further information.

Email list: Numbers increased by 10 this month to 435.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Update on Objections lodged:

17/03599/PIP: New house, SW of Feoran, Crask: Granted, subject to road works completion.

Three Logie Farm PIP Applications: NPAC approved on 22/01/2019 with note that sight lines at the junction with the B9169 cannot meet the standards of a 60mph road.

Comments lodged:

18/05808/FUL: 33 Houses, 130m N of The Cairns, Culbokie: Comments lodged on road safety grounds.

18/05806/PIP: 6 House plots, SUDS, Community Area, 130m N of The Cairns, Culbokie: Comments lodged on road safety grounds.

18/05537/PIP: 3 House plots, 70m SE of Cruachan, Eight Acres, Culbokie: Comments lodged on road safety grounds.

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; also late advert.

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

Previous Applications being monitored:

16/00595 /FUL: New House, East of Dunbreck, Culbokie: No update until house is occupied and business should then be up and running.

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

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

New Applications:

19/00128/FUL: Demolish and renew house, 30m SW of Cala Ni Sithe, Highfield Park: No comment

19/00155/PNO: Agricultural building, Logie Farm, Mulbuie: Noted
19/00119/FUL: 2 Holiday letting units at Beaufort, Culbokie: Comment to consider warnings to traffic entering /exiting the premises of the proximity of pedestrians.
19/00437/FUL: Re-definition of tree felling area, Crask: No comment
18/05937/FUL: New house and garage, E of Dun Fionn, Crask: Subject to completion of the new Crask junction: Comment on phasing development along the Crask road.

AOCB: Pothole at Duncanston to be reported; Culbokie Speedwatch: Carrbridge Community Council is considering putting in speedwatch activity and has been in touch to hear about our experiences; 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 operating as a unit on some matters.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: Just to say 'thank you'.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 18 March, 7pm, Ferintosh 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>;
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