

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 MARCH 2019 IN FERINTOSH HALL

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

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Gordon Adam, 2 residents

APOLOGIES: Bruce Morrison (Secretary), PC John Macpherson, Cllr Craig Fraser, 3 residents

POLICE MATTERS: PC John Macpherson wrote in his report that on 4 March the Forestry Commission had reported vandalism to a padlock at Wester Culbo Woods; that a speed check had been undertaken at Culbokie School on 7 March where no offences were detected; and that a speed check on the B9169 at Mulbuie on 8 March had resulted in two drivers being issued with fixed penalties for speeding.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: As a close relative, Becky will take no part in co-opting a community councillor and, as a near neighbour, will take no part in discussions about the development East of Dunbreck.

CO-OPTING A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR (Chaired by Colin). Colin explained that FCC had a vacancy for one co-opted community councillor. The elected community councillors had met with Eilidh Richmond, who had expressed an interest in being co-opted, and were of the view that she would be a very suitable community councillor. Colin proposed Eilidh's co-option (seconded by Sally) and Eilidh was duly co-opted by a unanimous decision of the elected councillors.

MAIN DISCUSSION: Expanding Community Transport for FCC Residents: Shona Street, Senior Development Officer of Ross-shire Voluntary Action which runs the Black Isle Community Car Scheme (BICCS), gave a presentation on the background of BICCS and the range of transport services that it can provide to local residents. In addition to medical appointments, these can include transport to and from hair appointments, shopping, entertainment events, evening groups, football, vets and other activities such as walks. Visits to Raigmore Hospital are excluded at present because of NHS restrictions. 48 hours' notice is required because this is not a taxi service. Costs vary from between around £2 and a maximum of £12 which includes return journeys. There are no restrictions on age or ability for membership of BICCS and car owners can join the Scheme. BICCS currently has approximately 200 members and 25 volunteer drivers. Although it relies at present on volunteers' private cars, it has plans to introduce two larger vehicles, one of which will have wheelchair access. BICCS currently has a fulfillment rate of 89% which includes requests cancelled by members.

Any residents who are interested in becoming members or voluntary drivers can contact BICCS on 07776 765683 or 01349 862431, or by email at biccs@rossvolact.org.uk.

FCC thanked Shona for her presentation.

MATTERS ARISING FROM FEBRUARY'S MINUTES: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda):

Democracy Matters: Consultation now out on proposals for changing the Scheme of Establishment under which community councils operate. It was agreed that this would be the topic of the main discussion at FCC's April meeting.

Community Engagement: Bruce attended a workshop (Improving community learning and development and engagement in Mid-Ross). The public bodies, led by The Highland Council, are charged with improving community engagement and involvement in decision-making. This workshop continued the discussions with communities and community groups as how best to achieve the objective.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin reported that, since the February meeting, expenditure had been incurred on FCC printing (£22), Noticeboard printing (£72) and FCC's annual insurance premium (£86), leaving a current balance of £4,828. The Mulbuie Hall Committee had offered FCC free use of the hall for its meetings and the community councillors thanked the Committee for its generous offer.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:

Street Naming: FCC has been asked by Highland Council to consider a name for a proposed future development along the lane from Findon Hall, Culbokie. Having taken account of the street-naming guidance and the suggestions of residents, FCC decided to undertake further research with a view to reaching a decision at its April meeting.

Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan: Highland Council officers have offered to meet with community councils to discuss the Plan. FCC will attempt to arrange a joint meeting with the other Black Isle community councils.

Meeting with Highland Council Chief Executive: Cllr Gordon Adam reported that provisional arrangements had been made for the meeting to take place at Fortrose Leisure Centre at 6:00 pm on Wednesday 27 March. (post meeting update: this meeting has been postponed until April).

Highland Third Sector Interface: the March members' bulletin has been received and will be included on the FCC website.

Scottish Community Councils Website: the latest news has been received and a link will be placed on FCC's Facebook page.

Planning (Scotland) Bill: The Scottish Government has published a survey on aspects of the Bill. The closing date is 22 March and Iain will submit a return on behalf of FCC emphasising the need to include arrangements for equal rights of appeal and commenting on the difficulty of completing the survey on behalf of an organisation rather than as an individual.

Raddery Trust: FCC has been informed that the closing date for the current round of funding applications to the Trust is 15 April. The Trust makes awards to enable children and young people in the Highlands who have additional learning and development needs to benefit from its grants. The Trust has notified schools and other educational establishments about its application process, but grants are also available to other local groups. The Chairman of the Trustees can be contacted by email at mail@philliphorn.com.

Mulbuie and Ferintosh Primary Schools: the March newsletter has been received and will be placed on FCC's website.

Quiz Night: to fundraise for The Highlands Support Refugees will be held in Muir of Ord Village Hall from 7:00 pm on Saturday 23 March. Further information can be obtained from Sheila Maher on 07881 959531. FCC will add the quiz to its Facebook page.

Scottish Community Alliance: a recent Local People Leading bulletin contained a reference to Participation Requests under the Community Empowerment Act 2015. It was suggested that a Participation Request could be submitted to Highland Council at some point in the future with reference to reduced speed limits on the B9169 (see item below under Active Projects).

Highland Senior Citizens Network (HSCN): FCC will forward the spring newsletter to local organisations and place it on its website. HSCN will be holding an Older People's Get-Together at the Muir of Ord Hub between 10:30 am and 2:00 pm on Friday 29 March. Advance booking is required.

Scottish Health Council: the latest newsletter will be placed on FCC's website.

Forestry Commission: has reported that motor bikes are being ridden in Culbokie Wood and that this is illegal. Residents are requested to report any such incidents to the Forestry Commission.

Black Isle Cares: AGM will be held at Seaforth Lodge, Fortrose at 7:00 pm on Monday 25 March.

Service Requests:

Residents reported an encroachment of foliage on the road from Findon Hall, Culbokie and numerous potholes in the FCC area. These matters will be referred to Highland Council as part of a planned drive around the area with roads officers.

Water has been reported pouring down the lane by the Culbokie Inn. FCC has been informed that Scottish Water is dealing with the matter.

Missing bus shelter panels in Culbokie have been reported to Highland Council by Cllr Craig Fraser. A resident pointed out that the bus shelter timetables do not show the times of return buses. FCC will raise this with Stagecoach.

All lighting faults in Culbokie have now been resolved.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

Buses/Community Transport: The first quarterly review meeting with Stagecoach took place in February and included a bus user and a representative from Resolis Community Council. The average number of passengers on each of the commuter journeys is currently four with a high level of satisfaction amongst the users. The community councils and Stagecoach have agreed to try and increase the numbers of users through a promotion campaign involving leafleting, newsletters and email. Other more detailed issues were raised and will be followed through at the next meeting in May.

Becky and Bruce met with Shona Street of Ross-shire Voluntary Action which runs the Black Isle Community Car Scheme. Shona agreed to attend FCC's next meeting in Easter Kinkell to discuss the expansion of the scheme and how our residents' needs could be met (see Main Discussion above).

Bruce has informed the Culbokie Action Group that the initial approaches by Cllr Gordon Adam and himself to obtaining a path to the bus shelter have failed. Since the only approach now is an intensive and persistent campaign approach, Bruce has decided that currently he does not have the time/resilience to take that on.

Broadband: Fibre broadband has become available recently to residents along the B9169 outwith the FCC area towards Muir of Ord.

Crask Junction: Tree felling has now been completed and road works are expected to begin on 23 April (see Interaction With Residents below).

LEADER: No update.

Cromarty Firth Port Authority: No update.

Reduced Speed Limits for Mulbuie/B9169 west of the A835: Colin reported that, since the February FCC meeting, he had produced a draft case for lower speed limits on the B9169 west of the A835 which he had circulated within FCC. He is currently in the process of setting up a representative group of residents to take the matter forward. Other preparatory work had been done and will be reported to the group.

Email list: Numbers increased by 8 this month to 443.

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 are obscured by the Hector Macdonald war memorial.

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 outside of shed.

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.

Previous Applications being monitored:

16/00595/FUL & 16/02591/PNO: 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: FCC has been informed by Highland Council that the site owner is about to apply for consent.

New Applications:

18/05965/FUL: Alterations to house & garage, 80m SW of Tornapress, Brae of Kinkell – now to include a letting unit: No comment

19/0211/FUL: Amendments to house design, 110m SE of The Paddocks, Greenleonachs: No comment

19/00783/PNO: Agricultural shed, Mossend, Easter Kinkell: Deemed approved

AOCB: Iain mentioned that he is looking into the options for undergrounding unsightly overhead cables in Culbokie. There is a limited possibility that funding could be available from SSE.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: A resident raised the issue of excessive mud being deposited on the road during tree-felling in preparation for the improvements to the Crask junction. FCC will report this to Highland Council's project officer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 15 April, 7pm, Culbokie Primary School

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.

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>