

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 MAY 2019 IN MULBUIE HALL (after the AGM)

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

ALSO PRESENT: 26 residents

APOLOGIES: Roslind MacNaughton, PC John Macpherson, Cllr Gordon Adam, Cllr Craig Fraser, Cllr Angela MacLean, 2 residents

POLICE MATTERS: PC John Macpherson reported that four checks had been done over the month. One at Culbokie Primary School resulted in 3 drivers receiving fixed penalties for speeding. A second in Easter Kinkell resulted in 2 drivers receiving fixed penalties for road traffic offences (RTO). Two checks at Mulbuie resulted in 5 drivers receiving fixed penalties for RTOs.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: As a near neighbour, Becky will take no part in discussions about the development East of Dunbreck. 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 Naming: The name 'Fowlers Croft' (without the apostrophe) is now a long way through the approval process.

Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (IMFLDP): Becky to make contact with the other Black Isle community councils for a joint approach.

Meeting with THC Chief Executive: No new date yet.

Newsletters – On website yet?

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

MAIN DISCUSSION 1: How should Community Councils be formed, governed and run?

FCC met informally on 8th May to consider its response to the current consultation about the Scheme of Establishment under which community councils operate. It was proposed to support all the recommendations in the consultation and all agreed at tonight's meeting. The proposals are of quite a detailed nature but include provision for greater use of co-option, more flexibility in continuing to function even in circumstances of below minimum numbers of elected members and the facility to invite representatives of community bodies to FCC.

The main discussion was around 'any other issues' as part of this consultation. Becky explained that FCC was minded to submit comments that showed FCC's desire to be more involved with THC in relevant decision making. Community councillors well understood that greater involvement would lead to greater use of their time. The reason for greater involvement was current frustration that, although heavily consulted, FCC is usually unaware of the results of those consultations and any impact on the FCC community.

In open discussion with residents, who generally supported this approach on their behalf, the role of Area Committees was raised and FCC's representation on those. Becky explained that FCC would prefer to be present at key meetings rather than be invited into regular meetings that may contain no relevant items.

A resident suggested that FCC should request participation as a way to change the relationship and another comment was simply to request THC to involve community councils according to their policies.

The residents were asked about FCC taking on budgets and control of services funded by those budgets. There seemed to be little appetite for that and Colin explained the great difficulties of taking on that responsibility without considerable attention being paid to the resources required for that function.

Following the discussion, FCC agreed that Becky should submit comments that requested greater involvement in THC decision making and requesting THC to explain how community councils could become more heavily involved.

MAIN DISCUSSION 2: Reducing the speed limit for the B9169 /Mulbuie Primary School/ Mulbuie Junction

Colin had previously circulated a very detailed background paper on this whole issue emphasising the increasing volume and speed of traffic in recent times. The community's concerns were being backed up by the 7 Highland councillors and Kate Forbes MSP with strong activity on the ground from Mulbuie Parents Council and the Mulbuie Hall committee.

The road engineers at THC had now looked at all the historic speed data and concluded that the conditions were right to support the case for a 40mph zone from just beyond the 20mph signs at the A835 end and beyond the double bend at the Muir of Ord end. THC has also indicated (with no guarantees) that funding may well be available to install this zone by the time the new school year begins in the Autumn.

The road engineers have also looked at the conditions on the rest of the B9169 between the A835 and Muir of Ord and concluded that the conditions fall way short of justification for a 40mph zone. The resident group helping Colin included relevant professional experience and agreed with THC's conclusions.

Following open discussion with residents, the meeting agreed the following two-pronged approach.

1. Support Highland Council's proposal for the introduction of a permanent 40mph speed limit on the B9169 from an agreed point east of the Mulbuie junction to a point beyond the Community Council's western boundary and make the necessary representations to Highland Council requesting an immediate start to the process for its introduction; and
2. Separately make representations to Highland Council for a future extension of the permanent 40mph limit to the junction of the B9169 with the A835.

Becky thanked Colin and all the residents for all their contributions and involvement.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin reported no transactions in the month and therefore nothing to add to those accounts presented at the AGM earlier.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:

Abilitynet Enquiry: Abilitynet is a charity offering free technical support (computer, online) for those over 55 or with disabilities. They're keen to find out how they can help communities so to be put out on the email list to enquire; **Black Isle Cares:** BIC has contacted us about a possible BI wide initiative to look at a WEA course for carers and volunteers. Becky to find out more; **CC Networking Meeting on 8th June:** Need a community councillor to attend this consultation; **Resident** informed us about a dangerous driving incident (driving with dog on lap) which can only be dealt with by the resident directly contacting the police on 101; **CCT:** Becky and Iain attended a CCT meeting about proposed affordable community homes. Two routes were available to progress. Either go with Cairn as the lower risk route but with perhaps less community control or a route with

CCT managing and owning which would increase local control but also financial risk. FCC contributed to the discussion and CCT has decided to go down the route of partnership with Cairn; **CCT Updates:** CCT has suggested that FCC becomes an 'associate organisation' in order to receive the regular and detailed newsletter but FCC decided not to join and to retain its independence for any future planning decisions. Becky will write to CCT to seek clarification; **BBC:** FCC received a request to publicise its requirement for residents to come forward for a debate programme. Becky wanted to check with FCC/residents whether it was right not to put this out on email and the meeting agreed that it was outside the agreement with residents about the use of their contact details; **THC, Flood Management:** Progress reports on the Local Flood Management Plans are available at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1226/emergencies/81/flooding/3>; **Ross-shire Voluntary Action:** Promoting a Volunteer Week in early June with a Fair on 4th June, 10am to 2pm.

Service Requests: Drive through with THC officer to be pursued. Bus stop panels not entirely resolved (Action: Cllr Fraser).

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

Buses/Community Transport: Outstanding bus issues are largely unresolved with Stagecoach now postponing the planned May meeting until July. The promotional leaflet is currently to be prepared in advance of that meeting.

Broadband: No update.

Crask Junction: Having enquired and been informed by THC of further delays, Bruce wrote to Colin Howell and Councillors. A response has been received that tenders went out last week and the road works (12 week construction programme) are now expected to begin in July.

Speed into Culbokie: FCC, together with many residents, has been working for over 5 years to reduce vehicle speeds coming into Culbokie from the A9. Bruce presented a 5 year summary report to record a 4 to 5 mph reduction in mean speed over that period. The mean speed of all vehicles is now down to 30mph before passing any residences. The report had been circulated to all concerned residents for comments about future proposals with one supportive comment received. FCC agreed to endorse proposals to monitor speeds within a year, to track CCT's efforts to provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists (including looking at a permanent 20 mph zone) and to continue to record residents' concerns. Bruce and residents were thanked.

Undergrounding Cables: SSE fund is opening in October and Iain has registered FCC's interest.

Meals on Wheels: 8 clients in the FCC area are currently receiving meals but with the loss of 1 volunteer, a replacement is urgently needed.

Update from organisations with FCC involvement (i.e. LEADER /CCT /Findon Hall /Cromarty Firth Port Authority): No updates

Email list: Numbers increased from 636 to 639 residents this month.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Update on Objections lodged (SW of Feorvan): None.

Update on Comments lodged (Glascairn; 8 Acres; SW of Marsden; Plot 15, the Cairns; Beaufort):

Glascairn: Roads team is now content with the application provided that the road is completed before any housing development. Team is also content with drive accesses on to the Glascairn road. The application will go for a delegated decision; **Eight Acres:** Roads team has objected due to insufficient information; **SW of Marsden:** Application withdrawn; **Plot 15, The Cairns:** Flood risk team has objected due to insufficient detail; garage issue not dealt with yet; **Beaufort:** approved with conditions of good sight lines at the access and holiday lets must not be used for permanent residency.

Update on Applications being Monitored (East of Dunbreck – THC will not enforce the condition so FCC to request a check on the legality of non-enforcement; W of Culbo Cottage; Mount Eagle Court).

New Applications:

19/01623/PNO: Forestry access into Bogbuie Wood at Upper Braefindon: No comment

19/01624 to 19/01628/PIP: 3 new houses and 1 rebuild: Drummondreach Steading, Alcaig: FCC to object to Plots 2 and 3 (against Hinterland Policy); Comments to Plot 1 and Cottage that developments should lie within existing footprints and in keeping with the character.

19/01714/PIP: New house, Urquhart Farm, Alcaig: FCC to object (against Hinterland Policy) with comments about inadequate sight lines and flood protection.

19/01194/FUL: House extension, Viewhill, Easter Kinkell: No comment

AOCB: Community Transport: Becky /Bruce proposed that this project be pursued on a resident by resident basis. So if someone comes to our attention, then FCC will work to find transport support for that individual. FCC agreed with this way forward.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: Mulbuie Parents Council offered their thanks to Colin / FCC for the good progress on the speed reduction project.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 17 June, 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>;
<http://fb.me/Ferintosh>