

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE (after AGM) ON MONDAY 18 MAY 2020

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

ALSO PRESENT: 2 residents.

APOLOGIES: Adam Fletcher (Associate), Sally Falconer, PC John MacPherson.

POLICE MATTERS: The monthly report received contained 8 separate vehicle related incidents. On the A9 at Findon and Coulnagour there were four incidents of speeding (one fixed penalty and three reported). One driver on the A9 at Findon was reported for careless /dangerous driving. In separate incidents near the Cromarty Bridge on the A9, drivers were reported for no MOT and no insurance. A prohibition notice was issued for a vehicle with three missing wheel bolts.

Alastair had followed up on the desire to reduce speeds along the B9169 between the A9 and the A835. Police Scotland will pass the concern for monitoring to all patrols but pointed out the difficulty of finding places to stop and carry out speed checks. Once lockdown is over, FCC will raise the issue with local councillors.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): None

MINUTES: Last month's minutes were approved (proposed by Alison, seconded by Gordon).

FINANCIAL REPORT: Eilidh reported no transactions this month so the positive balance remains at £4974.01.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS: The volume remains high and is all being disseminated to website, facebook page or email list as thought appropriate; **MOO Food:** has received funding to provide support for isolated people, including those in the Mulbuie area. Karen felt that residents were being supported pretty well and Becky would write back to explain the current situation although financial distress down the line may increase need; **Developers:** Approached FCC for a view about a proposed development just outside Culbokie. FCC explained that a community council cannot provide a view until a formal planning application is lodged but has offered to circulate to residents for their views; **Resident** reported to FCC and Police Scotland the presence in Culbokie of a group of tradesmen, driving a silver Vauxhall, offering roof treatment and not following social distancing measures; **THC** informed FCC of re-establishment of limited grass cutting services; **THC** is offering free online sessions in support of EU citizens in the country; **NHS** informed FCC of a new cancer support service and the poster has been circulated around many Black Isle organisations; **Cllr Craig Fraser** passed on RNLI advice not to undertake any water-based activities in order not to put emergency services at risk; **THC** has provided advice for groups to help them support residents safely.

ACTIVE PROJECTS: (Updates below on all FCC's linkages but only if new information).

Community Resilience: Becky continues to attend weekly online meetings with other Black Isle organisations, chaired by Cllr Gordon Adam. Black Isle Partnership is applying for funding to support residents in need. Becky has the sense that, other than in Cromarty, most communities have a low level of need with support being provided by friends, family and neighbours. The biggest concern is the imagined need of those being shielded (not necessarily elderly) but the NHS is unwilling to release any level of information to help. Bruce has requested of the Dingwall Medical Group if it would be willing to send letters to the shielded on FCC's behalf to at least explain what support is available for them and is awaiting an answer. The other main concern is the absence of local information on levels of infection. All agreed that the greater the level of information, the

better the decision making would be by residents. Bruce suggested that with test, track and trace now being piloted by NHS Highland, this would be an opportunity to ensure good information flow to residents about the development of the resource in order to build deep confidence in residents that they will be informed if at risk (Becky to lobby).

Noticeboard: Eilidh /Becky are proposing to develop Noticeboard into an important communication tool during this difficult period. Eilidh has created a new format for May with the intent to issue monthly.

Buses/Community Transport: Buses – Alison, on behalf of a resident, has discovered (no Stagecoach communication) that the earliest bus into Inverness is now 11.40 with no evening service. Bruce has a possible meeting lined up in the next month with Stagecoach and HITRANS about funding a community vehicle.

Email list: Numbers increased by 4 names to 656. Becky also reported a higher usage rate of the Facebook page (200 up to 356).

Port of Cromarty Firth: Becky reported no cruise liners are berthing until July at the earliest but expectations are that none will arrive this year. Of the 18 rigs in the firth, 2 or 3 are being serviced with crews going into 14 days self-isolation both before joining and after leaving the rigs. The Port's community funding is all being redirected to support the current crisis with weekly assessment of bids from community groups.

Speeding: THC carried out the planned speed monitoring at the entrance to Culbokie from the A9 but mostly after the lockdown. Traffic flows were just over 50% of normal and average speed had risen a great deal. The average speed was 34mph (up from levels of 30mph to 31 mph in recent times) nearly wiping out all the improvements over the 6 years of actions when average speed initially was 35 mph. THC has observed higher speeds on most rural roads during lockdown. Various actions were discussed to keep on top of this issue and agreed were rumble strips (Gordon), increase the speed cap on the speed sign (Bruce), speedwatch (at an appropriate time), more frequent police presence (Alastair) and further speed monitoring in more normal times (Bruce).

Service Requests: Gordon reported that little work is being done whilst THC staff are on virus crisis issues. In relation to a cycle injury due to a bad pothole on a Mulbuie road, Gordon will lobby councillors at the right time.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Objections Lodged: 20/01084 /FUL: House and camping pods, 150m NE Grianan, Braes of Dunvornie (inappropriate scale and use of crofting land; road safety concerns). Iain raised the current concern that planning decisions are being taken with only the Chair of the planning committee but online planning meetings may be about to resume (Becky to check).

Comments lodged:

20/01453 /FUL: Retrospective application for woodworking business, Old Grain Store, Culbokie (restrict noise to working hours on Monday to Saturday).

18/05853/FUL: New house, garage/house unit, large shed, Plot 15, The Cairns, Culbokie (oversize garage).

19/03052/FUL & 18/05537/PIP: Eight acres development (roads /pavement concerns). 19/03052/FUL has been granted. Does THC have the resources to monitor this application? **Action: Iain**

New Application:

20/01568/PNO: Agricultural shed, Muir of Highfield, Highfield Park: Prior approval not required

20/01531/FUL: House on plot 1, 45m SE Mulbuie Hall: No comment

20/01632/PNO: Agricultural shed, Sornum, Easter Kinkell: Prior approval not required

20/01641/FUL: House extension at 8 Schoolcroft, Culbokie: No comment

20/01657/FUL: House extension, Little Lochsherrif, Culbokie: No comment

THC Planners: New process to be tested when comments submitted. **Action: Iain**

AOCB: None

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: A resident thanked FCC for the opportunity to take part.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 15 JUNE, venue and time tbc.

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>