

# FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2020

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr Gordon Adam, 2 residents.

**APOLOGIES:** Sally Falconer, PC John MacPherson.

**POLICE MATTERS:** The monthly report received contained a response to FCC's concern about higher vehicle speeds into and through Culbokie. Over one day, high visibility speed checks were carried out with no offences detected. On four separate days, on the A9 between Coulnagour and the Cromarty Bridge, there were four separate police interventions. Drivers were reported for dangerous driving and an overweight vehicle and two drivers received fixed penalties for speeding.

**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 Alastair, seconded by Alison).

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Eilidh reported one transaction this month of £24 for website domain costs so reducing the balance to £4950.01. It was agreed that the accounts would focus on the net balance after all transactions rather than on the current bank balance.

## **MAIN DISCUSSION: OUR RURAL COMMUNITY'S EXPERIENCE OF COVID-19**

Becky had prepared and circulated some thoughts and challenges in advance of the meeting and views from all community councillors were discussed. The general view was that the impact individually had been modest and in the community the feeling was that most residents were coping pretty well thanks to the support of friends, family and neighbours. Behind that general impression however there are individual cases of the difficulties of business leaders, of employees getting to work and mental health issues of some who find it difficult to request help. There was general concern though that the worst may yet to come with some fears of coming out of lockdown and loss of financial support.

Becky raised a concern about the lack of cohesion of responsiveness by all the groups in the area but no clear way of dealing with that. Becky will consider further what might be FCC's role and especially should mental health issues surface. Cllr Adam reported that SG /THC are committed to supporting community resilience further for these sorts of issues.

Becky, from attending regular weekly meetings of Black Isle organisations, raised a particular concern for the 16 to 24 year olds whose job and educational prospects could be severely affected. Contact will be made with the Youth Convenor to seek ideas to help and explore how local volunteer projects and businesses may be able to help.

The future of the volunteer group was discussed since FCC has received strong support from the volunteers themselves to develop this resource for the future beyond covid. FCC agreed that Becky /Bruce should come up with proposals to create a sustainable resource for the FCC area.

Active Travel. There has been a very obvious increase in cyclists and walkers on the single track roads as residents have become more active during lockdown. There is also a sense that road rage incidents have

increased with conflict between vehicle drivers and those travelling actively. CCT requested help from FCC to make contact with the Community Police Officer in order to seek support for an active travel event for the community once it is safe to do so, looking at road safety for all. FCC agreed to assist. Alastair and Penny to write to Police Scotland.

**CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:** All relevant consultations have been passed on to residents and no other correspondence needs highlighting.

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

**Community Transport:** Bruce has received a proposal document from HITRANS which was circulated for discussion before a potential partnership meeting on Thursday. Bruce explained the background to the proposal to fund a community mini bus with particular reference to a funding model that would finance and provide governance for a pilot period before local organisations /residents would have to take ownership. The partnership would consist of HITRANS, Stagecoach, THC, FCC and a local organisation that would eventually run the community service. FCC discussed the proposal and agreed that Bruce should pursue implementation of this proposal with positive comments about the use of an electric vehicle, use for community groups and with community control. Concerns /queries raised that need to be followed through included the timing of the introduction of the service (vis a vis covid), length of pilot period, policing potential misuse by community groups, degree of flexibility between service routes and community demand routes, insurance cover for resident volunteers and insufficient charging points (Bruce to pursue).

**Email list:** No change at 656.

**Port of Cromarty Firth:** Becky reported on the regular meeting last week with the news that the Port is putting in a proposal to become a Freeport post-Brexit. Becky felt it was very likely that no cruise ships would arrive this year but decisions are being taken on a monthly basis.

**Speeding:** Bruce had again requested of THC that the speed cap of 45 mph on the speed sign into the village be increased to 55 mph given that there are now 25 vehicles a day coming into the village at speeds higher than 45 mph. The request was refused but a compromise is to be implemented (speed sign will trigger a 'slow down' message for those vehicles over 45 mph). Gordon suggested the idea of a camera and fine system.

**Service Requests:** Gordon has had no feedback from THC on any of the service requests.

**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:

20/01849/FUL: Replacement extension and new dormer: Crasky, Duncanston: No comment

20/01794/FUL: Single storey extension: Linswood House, Easter Kinkell: No comment

20/02040/FUL: Shed: Woodend House, Alcaig: Comment to be submitted that this is supported provided there is no intended business use.

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

**AOCB:** Becky is seeking funding for a specific type of jigsaw but no other needs identified; Bruce has indicated that he won't put his name forward this year as the FCC appointee to the CCT and Becky is in discussion with CCT about the nature of the role for the future.

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 21 July online.

Contact details for comments; to join the email list; to receive minutes electronically:

Bruce Morrison, Secretary, 01349 877127; [ferintoshcc30@gmail.com](mailto:ferintoshcc30@gmail.com), <http://ferintoshcc.co.uk>;  
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