

# FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON TUESDAY 21 JULY 2020

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** 2 residents.

**APOLOGIES:** Sally Falconer, Adam Fletcher (Associate), Alison Lowe, Alastair Macintyre, PC John MacPherson.

**POLICE MATTERS:** There will be no monthly report until September. However, Police Scotland has been keeping an eye on speeds in Culbokie with no serious concerns emerging. In response to Alastair's request for guidance with the ever increasing numbers of cyclists and walkers on the roads, some safety advice has been sent through to FCC and has been published in Noticeboard.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Becky and Eilidh will take no part in the discussion about the Findon Hall planning application.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): NPAC is now convening online so issue about the Chair taking planning decisions no longer applies; Becky will circulate some thoughts about new options concerning FCC's appointee to the Board of CCT; Funding for puzzle to be followed up (Becky).

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Eilidh reported that the THC annual grant of £613.16 has been approved (not yet received) and that the £91 issued cheque is not going to be cashed. That leaves funds available of £5,645.17. Alison is to be approached about helping Eilidh.

## **MAIN DISCUSSION: Community Volunteers: How best could they support our community?**

The current group of volunteers assembled for the covid crisis has shown interest in developing into a more permanent resource for the community. A steering group met with Becky /Bruce last week and agreed to look at the possible contributions that such a group could make. The areas now being explored are a 'community to do' list and support for both the younger residents and also the issue of loneliness.

There's been strong feedback from an email consultation about what residents would prioritise for the 'community to do' list with litter picking the most supported element (also emerged as a need from the Black Isle communities meeting). FCC agreed with the priorities set by the residents so Becky /Bruce would take these ideas back to the steering group with two ideas in mind. The first that through the Black Isle route, funding for the necessary equipment could be possible and the second that to involve groups in the community would generate more awareness of the issue. Issues to be considered included insurance, avoiding replacing THC roles, consider conservation issues in relation to verge cutting (very local control?) and the composting of garden waste.

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

Resident informed FCC of **timetables being removed** from the bus shelters (Alison has now replaced); **FCC website:** agreed not to pay for gold status and permit /monitor adverts (encourage local businesses to advertise) before reviewing; Resident looking for **volunteering work** was put in touch with Black Isle Cares; Residents have raised the issue of **speed on our open roads** (as well as inappropriate parking) and Becky /Gordon will take up the issue of road safety with the Black Isle communities group once the immediate covid crisis is over; Becky joined an **NC500 meeting** to involve community councils and will continue to do so – all

residents are to be encouraged to report to FCC (and then to NC500) any local issues with tourist traffic; **Scottish Rural Action** has sent FCC detailed responses of the first survey and has requested completion of the second survey (send out to email list and Bruce to initiate an FCC response); Cllr Gordon Adam had requested at short notice some thoughts for **priority spending to aid economic recovery** for a THC meeting (Cllr Adam to provide feedback).

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

**Community Transport:** A meeting took place with Stagecoach, HITRANS and CCT where the detailed issues raised by FCC were put into the debate. However, progress cannot be made until HITRANS finds out THC's position and FCC is waiting to hear.

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

**Port of Cromarty Firth:** Becky will no longer attend all meetings but will distribute the meetings' presentations.

**Speeding:** THC has now re-programmed the speed sign into Culbokie so that it constantly flashes a 30mph image to those driving over 45 mph. Bruce's own observations since the change suggest that there has been a small but significant reduction in speed at the sign. THC has now agreed to set up speed monitoring in early August so that FCC can receive accurate information for speeds nearer the start of the 30mph zone.

**Covid Meeting:** Becky continues to attend these weekly Black Isle-wide meetings chaired by Cllr Gordon Adam. There is now a commitment to maintain these regular meetings long after the pandemic issues are resolved. Meeting today was considering the need by schools for children to wear freshly cleaned clothing daily and to set up funding support for parents in need. Becky /Karen to contact our schools' Parent Councils for discussion. Community Hub in Dingwall is now providing a very low level of food support for Black Isle residents.

**Service Requests:** No requests and no feedback. FCC noted the new surfacing of the A9 and the improved visibility at the Dunvornie bend.

**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). FCC received a business plan in confidence from the developer with a request to withdraw its objection. FCC decided not to consider the business plan unless and until the business plan was made available for all residents to consider so that a fresh decision could be taken on behalf of the community.

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): A condition of 'solely for private residential use (garages)' has been applied to this granted application.

20/02040/FUL: Shed: Woodend House, Alcaig: Comment to be submitted that this is supported provided there is no intended business use. A condition of 'solely for domestic purposes' has been applied to this granted application.

New Applications:

20/02231/FUL: Erection of self-contained residential unit, Stoneybank, Culbokie: No comment.

20/02232/FUL: Erection of two houses, 46m SW Drummondreach Steading, Alcaig: Object. Draft to be circulated (Iain) containing clear objection that the application does not meet the conditions for a brownfield site development.

20/02515/FUL: Extension and cycle shelter, Findon Hall, Culbokie: No comment.

20/02536/FUL: Change of use, hotel to residential plus extension, Kinkell House Hotel, Easter Kinkell: No comment.

Ongoing Development: Residents raised concerns about the scale of development at Urquhart Farm which seems excessive. THC has now designated this development as 'unauthorised use' and no work is currently ongoing.

A general discussion took place about the concerns about THC's ability to track /monitor /sanction ongoing developments. FCC to request that THC joins an FCC meeting to explain its role and scale of resources and to work out a new partnership with FCC.

**AOCB:** None

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 17 August 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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