

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2020

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

ALSO PRESENT: 2 residents.

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

POLICE MATTERS: No monthly report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Becky /Eilidh will take no part in the discussion about their own development at the Black Isle Stud. Karen also declared interest having voiced an opinion.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): Puzzle funding: no progress but immediate need passed so put on hold; email to the Planning Department (Becky).

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: Eilidh reported that the THC grant has now been received. With no new routine transactions this month, available funds remain at £5,645.17. In addition, however, FCC is helping to process the distribution of the Back to School Grant set up by Black Isle Partnership which provided £2000. To date, £1500 has been paid out (see below).

Community Transport: The latest meeting was the first to involve all the potential partners for this project (working title of Ferintosh Community Bus) and included FCC /CCT /RVA /THC/Stagecoach /HITRANS. The basic principle is to provide a small bus (8 or 16 seater) for the use of FCC residents 24/7. During the working weekdays, the bus would be primarily used to link at Tore with the plethora of buses moving to and from Inverness through Tore. In the evenings and weekends, the bus would be available primarily for community use. The Tore trans-linkage point has not yet been agreed but the moment that is achieved is the moment that FCC will consult first with all current bus passengers and residents on the general principle followed by a further consultation on the details (timing, frequency) of fixed line services (Action: Bruce). A recent letter from a resident concerned about the sight of virtually empty large buses going through Culbokie highlights the need for a project like the Ferintosh Community Bus. Alison asked about the precise daytime hours of the Stagecoach driver and Bruce assured Alison that the driver was available for all daytime fixed line services. Introduction of a phone app would not substitute for all current methods of communication.

FCC Nominee to CCT Board: With Bruce not standing again for the position of FCC appointee to the CCT Board, Becky made the case for not filling the position. Communications and co-operation between CCT and FCC are good and can be easily maintained through other routes. By not filling the position, FCC can be seen to be independent of CCT without any community councillors having to declare interests from time to time. FCC agreed with the proposal not to take up the FCC position on the CCT Board.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS: **Kate Forbes' office** confirming email contact in order to provide updates on A9/B9161 Munloch junction; **Resident informed FCC of campfires** occurring in Culbokie's woods so FCC is issuing this reminder to avoid lighting fires during dry spells; **Resident pointed out a broadband assistance scheme for rural areas:** if average / poor broadband speeds then application available for up to £1,500 for personal homes / £3,500 for businesses to install new connection (<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk>); **CCT consultation for Sharing Shed project** was issued (a second one has gone out); **HTSI Membership** for FCC has been renewed; Received update of **Littleburn** project (wellbeing facility for young people); **Resident thanked FCC for hard work during pandemic;** **School lets** -none available until at least October; Correspondence from **Black Isle Stud** (Becky)

about her own development plans **for providing facilities for campervans** (Becky /Eilidh/Karen declared interest and Bruce chaired this discussion): FCC thanked Becky for the information. Iain has researched (and will circulate) to FCC the relevant planning background information to inform FCC should it become necessary for FCC to make comment on any future planning application. Iain also noted that applicants have the responsibility to meet planning regulations whilst community councils represent residents' views once an application is received; **Two residents wrote in concerned with speed in the centre of Culbokie** together with concerns about HGVs on Balmeanach Brae and the wastefulness of empty buses (considered in Active Projects below).

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

Road Safety and Speed: Proposal (agreed by FCC) for Becky to approach cycling clubs & volunteers to assist in looking for residents to help with road safety plan, as well as raising with Black Isle Partnership and other community councils.

A second proposal (FCC agreed) to identify for residents three projects and seek their views on priorities and seek help to pursue these objectives. The three projects are to seek ways of reducing conflict on mixed use roads; to reduce the speed limit on Black Isle roads to 50 mph; to reduce the speed limit in the Culbokie village centre to 20 mph.

Community Volunteers (added immediately post-meeting): The Steering Group has met again to progress voluntary activity beyond the covid crisis. Following the feedback from the FCC consultation, a first litter pick is being organised for Tuesday 1st September. The group has also finalised its own more comprehensive survey which includes a focus on younger people and the issue of loneliness. FCC agreed (by email after the meeting) to pass over the contact details of the volunteer group to the Steering Group which is working as a sub-group of FCC.

Email list: One less to 655.

Port of Cromarty Firth: No cruise ships this season.

Noticeboard: Eilidh is receiving mostly content to do with events but very little newsworthy material. Eilidh has the desire to develop Noticeboard into a more newsy vehicle and is interested in hearing from anyone with journalistic skills.

Becky believes that funding for printing costs could be available through Black Isle Partnership and, following discussion, it was agreed to seek funding for a monthly colour version supported by a group of volunteers.

Weekly Covid Black Isle Meeting: The Black Isle Partnership and HIE put together the Back to School Grant. This grant was to provide £100 per child to help with the extra clothing costs required for the return to school. Cash was distributed until HIE pointed out that simply handing out cash broke their rules. Agreement was reached to fulfil all existing applications but closed the scheme to new applicants. In the FCC/Resolis area that FCC is administering, there have been six applications and £1500 disbursed.

Litter picking project has been stimulated by Avoch and Killen CC with a proposal to set up a Black Isle -wide sub group. FCC rejected that idea and would move ahead with its own litter picking project through its volunteer group.

Becky will continue to interact remotely with this group rather than directly at the weekly meeting.

Community Services: HGVs on Balmeanach Brae: Gordon to find out the weight restriction situation and signage.

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).

20/02232/FUL: Erection of two houses, 46m SW Drummondreach Steading, Alcaig (not brownfield).

Comments lodged:

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

New Applications:

20/02610/FUL: Alteration to house, The Swallows, Greenleach: Already granted

20/02685/FUL: Decking plus timber screen, 9 Carn Mor, Culbokie: No comment

20/02674/PIP: House, 30m South of Dalshian, Alcaig: Object (sight lines)

20/02676/FUL: Permanent residential caravan, 105m NE of Northwood, Urquhart, Alcaig:

20/02677/FUL: Farmhouse, Urquhart Farm, Alcaig:

Iain to check whether these last two applications shouldn't also be invalid since they are linked to an invalid master plan. Once response received, then consider on what basis objections should be lodged.

AOCB: Becky received no comments following sending out THC's online training manual so considered acceptable. For planning, however, the suggestion was put forward and accepted to form a sub group for planning consisting of Becky /Iain /Karen.

October and November meetings to be put back to avoid holidays.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 21 September online.

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>;
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