

# FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

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

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

**APOLOGIES:** Sally Falconer, Adam Fletcher (Associate), Alastair Macintyre, PC John MacPherson, 1 resident.

**POLICE MATTERS:** Report received covering August and September to date. There were 6 speeding incidents including 5 fixed penalties (1 on B9169 Culbokie, 4 on B9169 Mulbuie) and 1 reported (A9 Findon). Two drivers were reported for driving without valid insurance (B9169 Culbokie, B9169 near Rootfield Farm). 1 driver was issued with fixed penalty in relation to using hand held device.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): Becky has informed CCT of FCC's decision not to take up the available position of Director on the CCT Board; Becky will go ahead later with a resident consultation (too many currently) about possible road safety tactics.

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Eilidh reported available funds of £5034.17. FCC confirmed an earlier email discussion approving £200 to CCT for its 'Sharing Shed' project and the cheque has been sent to CCT. Back to School Grant: £700 of the £1500 of approved requests remains unpaid until online banking is fully set up.

Alison agreed to help Eilidh in the next few weeks with ways of presenting the financial information. FCC agreed to go ahead with seeking certification now of its 2019 /2020 accounts and Bruce to send contact details to Eilidh.

**CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS: Resident:** response to road safety and speed limits and pushing for enforcement of current limits and Bruce responded; **Resident** commented on community transport and road safety projects; **Residents** have provided updates about planning application at Urquhart Farm; **Resident** thanked FCC for BTSG; **Scottish Rural Action:** Bruce on behalf of FCC has pitched to become a member of a local reference group and has been accepted; **Highlands & Islands Airport (HIAL):** Air Traffic Management Strategy consultation: proposal to centralise and upgrade its systems in Inverness and operating other airports remotely (close 30/09/20); **Stagecoach** on back to school services; **Resident** provided update on her contact with Kate Forbes MSP regarding the A835 crossing from Alcaig to Conon Bridge; **Resident** queried 8 Acres development and selling of further plots (4 plots are being sold individually through Munro and Noble); **Resident** copied FCC into his response to CCT re. Active Travel Plan. FCC responded that its involvement would be limited to any future planning applications; **Community Conversation** invitation with Cllrs Davidson and Adam: Becky was unable to attend due to technology failure (will compile written response including a request for more evening meetings to better accommodate the employed community councillors); **Data protection renewal** due on 19<sup>th</sup> October to be collected by DD; **Resident** informed FCC of dangerous driving on entering Culbokie; **Transport Scotland:** consultation on North Kessock to Tore A9 section (including Munloch junction) on Wednesday to consolidate views; Becky provided residents' feedback in an earlier one to one session and not being able to attend this workshop, Cllrs Adam and MacLean will reflect FCC's views; **Abilitynet:** been in touch for a joint effort (including funding support) to raise profile locally; **Mulbuie Parents Council:** informed FCC about failure of the 20 mph flashing signs (extra risk whilst the children are using the hall heavily) and asked FCC to help seek information about fixing the problem. Becky has contacted Ross

Bartlett (THC) who explained that contractors are working on this and other parts of the same system. The installation of the new 40mph zone is expected at the end of October but no word yet on a date; **Port Authority** notified FCC of covid positive crew members but no risk to residents. A new crew is now on the deep-cleaned vessel; **BT Consultation on Phone Boxes**: none in our area on this occasion but we have heard from Alcaig residents that a group has been formed to take ownership of its local phone box; **Planning Aid Scotland**: survey to community councils to understand any difficulties of dealing with planning applications and offering training.

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

**Ferintosh Community Bus:** The first consultation with FCC residents has been completed. A consultation document was sent out to the email list on 11/09 (also on FCC's media sites) with a supplementary question a week later. Printed copies of the document were also made available in the shop and in all the bus stops. Some bus stop interviews were also carried out. Feedback was received from 38 residents in total (with a few representing more than one resident) with some residents providing feedback just on the supplementary question.

The feedback (full report provided to FCC prior to the meeting) showed that 30 supported the idea (2 unsure, none against). In terms of usage, 13 thought their usage would go up whilst 16 said there would be no change (none said that usage would reduce). In response to the supplementary question imagining the situation where no private transport was available, 6 said they would move house and 24 said they would stay in their current houses and rely on a community bus scheme.

Comments in the discussion included the value of a door to door service, the need to reach out to secondary school students and their parents to raise awareness and the support of the community.

Following discussion FCC noted the community's support for this project and noted that there are encouraging indications that bus usage would increase. FCC also noted the strong desire of residents to remain in the community supported by a community bus service. FCC agreed to support the project to its project partners and onwards to the planned second and more detailed consultation.

#### **Road Safety and Speed:**

**Speed into Culbokie from the A9:** THC completed a speed monitoring exercise and Bruce circulated a report to FCC which also included speed observations at the speed sign.

The average speed at the kite sign (measured by speed monitor) has reduced from 34.0mph earlier in the year to 32.5mph. Although this is a welcome reduction (probably due to increased volume of traffic), lower average speeds of 30mph have been recorded before. Three tactics to reduce further were discussed. The introduction of rumble strips has been accepted as a credible idea by THC but would only be considered as part of an overall traffic management plan. Due to workload, that cannot take place until 2021 /2022. The painting of 30mph roundels on the road surface both at this position and throughout the village is now being considered as a feasible short-term measure but not yet guaranteed to take place this year. The third suggested tactic is another Speedwatch campaign and two of the original team are willing to support local residents should they wish to go down this route.

**Ferintosh Volunteers:** Ferintosh Volunteers has successfully carried out its first project requested by residents, namely a litter pick. 11 volunteers spent over an hour in various spots around Culbokie's environs and into the wider FCC area filling 14 bags. The bags were unable to accommodate an oven and a Hoover! FCC congratulated the group on its valuable efforts. Given the areas where litter were found, it is mostly local people who are littering so FCC is encouraging all residents to help keep our area as litter free as possible.

**Email list:** Remains the same at 655.

**Port of Cromarty Firth:** As above, taking bookings for next season.

**Weekly Covid Black Isle Meeting:** Becky continuing to attend because BI wide projects are being discussed but will need substitutes from FCC from time to time. The idea of FCC and other community councils creating a resilience plan was raised but considered of little value at such a local level. Becky reported back that some community councillors and volunteers around the wider area have had to step aside due to heavy workloads during the pandemic. Becky suggested expanding the volunteers' pool should lockdown conditions return.

**Community Services:** Gordon has pressed the case for clarity on the weight restrictions on all our roads, including the Balmeanach Brae and is seeking help with signage. Still awaiting feedback from THC.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS** (only new information included):

A planning sub-group of Iain /Becky /Karen has been formed and Karen has generously agreed to monitor the applications and bring forward issues for discussion with the sub-group.

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:

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

20/02989/FUL: Two agricultural buildings, 105m NE of Northwood, Urquhart, Alcaig: Object

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

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

All four applications were discussed in detail noting the strong objections of all close neighbours. Cllr Gordon Adam has been in discussion with the planners to make them aware of local feeling. FCC agreed to lodge an objection focusing on the non-agricultural practices that would contravene Hinterland policy together with the consequential inappropriate traffic movements.

20/02869/FUL: Outbuilding, Brackla Wood, Culbokie: Already granted

20/03298/FUL: Sun room and decking, 2 Kinkell, Easter Kinkell: No comment

Other Planning Matters:

Becky has contacted Dafydd Jones twice now with no reply. Objective is to seek a better shared understanding on how conditions on approved applications can be better met. Cllrs MacLean and Adam to seek help from Alison Clark in facilitating a meeting between FCC and the planners.

**AOCB:** November meeting now on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (not the 30<sup>th</sup>) in order to avoid a clash with CCT's AGM.

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** Expressed their thanks for being able to join the meeting and for the detailed consideration given by FCC to their concerns.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 26 October online (not the third Monday this month).

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>;  
<http://fb.me/Ferintosh>