

# FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2021

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** 3 residents.

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

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (to take no part in relevant discussions): Alastair noted an interest in correspondence about access near Findon Cottages and Becky /Eilidh noted an interest in the planning application for a new house east of Upper Braefindon.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda):

Gordon Morris has resigned from FCC due to ill health. Becky said how sorry she was to see him leave FCC and wished him well. Gordon was thanked for all his efforts over the past year especially in engaging with THC. In the light of Gordon's resignation, both Becky and Eilidh have generously decided to remain in their positions both as community councillors and as Chair and Treasurer respectively. Becky had also approached Karen to become Vice Chair in order to share the work load. Karen generously agreed and following a proposal by Becky (seconded by Bruce), all agreed. The role now of interacting with THC on matters of Community Services will be split between Becky as co-ordinator and all community councillors dealing with individual issues in their respective areas.

Road from Mulbuie School through to the A835: Resident to be contacted (Karen).

The Upper Badrain road to be added to the priority areas for attention by THC (Becky /Bruce at PR meeting).

40mph signs now installed around Mulbuie School (one delimiting sign needing removal: Becky to follow up).

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Eilidh reported three transactions this month (£200 out for Sharing Shed; £200 out for BTSG; £200 in for verge cutting) and remaining available funds of £4,719.17.

Annual Accounts for 2019 /2020 were proposed for approval by Bruce (seconded by Alison) and duly accepted.

A Multi Ward application to support /reject a Clarity Walk project (walking in nature for mental health benefit) was received from the Ward Manager for a view. FCC agreed to reject on the basis of insufficient information and clarity of implementation (Bruce to reply). (Added after meeting: this application was sent to FCC in error.)

**PLANNING /LICENSING MATTERS** (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).

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

Comments lodged:

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

20/04224/PIP: House, 50m NE of Grianan, Brae of Kinkell: Iain has written for explanation of planning status of site.

New Applications:

20/04524/FUL: House 215m East of Upper Braefindon, Culbokie: Unacceptable breach of Hinterland policy (confirmation of email discussion and decision by FCC). Planning department has acknowledged input.

20/04566/PIP: Two houses, east of Suil Beinne, Mulbuie: Granted by delegated powers.

20/04651/PNO: Agricultural building, 1 Kinkell, Easter Kinkell: Prior approval not required.

20/04721/PIP: House, 25m east of Tyree, Mulbuie: No comment.

20/04948/PNO: Extension to agricultural building, 40m SW of Solas, Duncanston: Prior approval not required.

20/04698/FUL: House, amendment to Permission 16/00385/FUL, 75m NW of Fyrish, Wester Shoreton, Culbokie: No comment.

20/05020/FUL: House /garage, amendment to Permission 18/05937/FUL, land east of Dun Fionn, Bog of Findon, Culbokie: No comment.

21/00022/FUL: Extension, Achonachie, 7 Cocked Hat Wood, Culbokie: No comment.

21/00056/FUL: Two Air Source Heat Pumps, Rowan Glen, Upper Braefindon, Culbokie: No comment.

Other Planning Matters:

Iain voiced a need for a progress report of all outstanding cases from Planning Department (will raise during training with Planning).

Scottish Forestry: Felling Permission Consultation for Brae Kinkell. FCC was approached as a consultee and the application was sent out to the email list. Eight replies were received (5 objections, 3 comments) and a report compiled of all the comments and sent to community councillors. Discussion covered whether it was a planning matter; whether FCC could have a credible opinion; whether there was a right to a view; positive and negative environmental views. Following discussion, by a clear majority, FCC decided to submit the views of the residents to Scottish Forestry but, without expert knowledge about the criteria for judging such an application, would refrain from stating an opinion (Becky to submit).

THC would welcome FCC's local knowledge at any time and agreed to share the work programme for the Eight Acres development (Becky to follow up). Developer has written to FCC confirming that it is its own responsibility to construct the footpath (not the individual plotholders) with a plan to complete by the end of May.

FCC was copied into a letter (name and address not supplied) sent to Highland Council (Planning and Council Tax departments) and Health and Safety Executive with concern about possibly non-approved development.

Resident has voiced concern about the drainage from the Glascairn site being directed down Ben Wyvis View with no obvious exit route. To be raised with Tulloch's Community Liaison Group (Iain to progress).

Main Issues consultation for the Local Development Plan has been received (Becky to take forward).

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

**Community Services** (requesting greater involvement in local decision making through a Participation Request): The PR was accepted by THC once the wording for the benefits and outcomes was agreed (social wellbeing). Progress on this has been delayed (and agreed by FCC) by 6 weeks due to THC's re-focus on the covid pandemic.

**Ferintosh Community Bus (FCB):** 1<sup>st</sup> February start has had to be delayed because of the latest covid restrictions and new timetables have yet to be drawn up for consultation. Requests have been put into the funding partners seeking an extension to the funding in order to retain a full 18 month trial period.

**Email list:** Up by 15 to 670 with sincere thanks to Alastair for his help.

**REPORTS** (from public bodies and local organisations):

**Police Scotland:** Between 29/12/20 and 30/12/20 an electric fence was damaged at Culbokie East Farm and enquiries are ongoing.

**Ferintosh Volunteers:** Now has a single mobile number (07516 261429) for residents to contact for requests and will now be widely publicised (poster, Facebook etc). The Christmas Trail in the woods was very successful with many families enjoying the spectacle and to be repeated next year. New projects to be considered include additional pavement gritting and a painted pebble trail.

**Black Isle Community Councils:** Becky attended this first meeting for a number of years to explore the benefits of working together. Three issues to be tracked initially include the Freeport proposal, transport across the BI and attendance of Highland Councillors at CC meetings. Meetings will be held quarterly, having a rotating Chair and agree to differ between communities if necessary when residents' views between areas differ.

**Black Isle Partnership:** Now co-ordinating weekly meetings again with improved communication of information from the meetings. Becky will attend but not necessarily every week.

**Port of Cromarty Firth:** Now that the Freeport proposal is a live issue, Becky will attend next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS** (please contact FCC on [ferintoshcc30@gmail.com](mailto:ferintoshcc30@gmail.com) if you would like any further information on these items):

**THC:** Related to the pandemic, THC requested an update on actions of community groups (FCC replied); has provided contact details for sources of mental health support; has informed us on Business Closure grants and other business support (including personal bank accounts for applying for grants); linked us to an Inclusion Scotland survey (and conference) asking for views and experiences of disabled people in Highland and the impact of covid on key areas of their lives; linked us to a webcast providing a covid update; provided regular updating briefings (now weekly) as a Community Resilience Group; **Scottish Community Development Centre:** FCC responded to this consultation about our experience of partnership working and connections made during the pandemic; **University of Southampton:** an invitation to join covid research project into preventative behaviour and symptoms; **HTSI:** sent a survey for volunteers to provide feedback (Ferintosh Volunteers has circulated).

**THC:** has informed FCC about guidance for developers of campervan waste facilities and provided updates on its gritting programme together with opportunities for communities to help; **Ferintosh Hall:** is seeking funding from Port of Cromarty Firth for insulation and FCC provided a letter of support; **Transport Scotland:** received a holding response (via Black Isle Partnership) about the request for a speed limit around the Munloch junction. Full surveys are underway and all other options are being considered before considering the 'last resort' of a speed limit; **Triage:** is an organization that is delivering Fair Start Scotland (a programme to help people, particularly those with health and disability issue, back into employment); **Scottish Water:** has

replaced its Annual Consultative Meeting with a video update; **SRA**: notification of Rural Parliament from 6 to 18 March (Bruce has registered); **Kate Forbes' office** not yet achieved THC commitment to carry out a speed monitoring exercise at the NE end of Culbokie and will follow up in May.

**Residents have** contacted FCC about **flooding** in the Culbokie area and the Alcaig area (FCC provided contacts, advice and follow up to try and help); about the continuing concern of **non- functioning 20 mph zones** around Mulbuie Primary school (THC has responded that it has now found a fix for the system and hoping to instigate in January); about **dog fouling** in Culbokie woods (THC /FLS reported back that they may be able to approach any individual resident identified by residents as not picking up after their dog but the resident felt the better approach was to carry on with the current efforts of moving signs and volunteers maintaining the bins) and in a Culbokie street (provided advice); about **bus turning at Schoolcroft** with suggestion to park further away from the junction (passed on to Stagecoach); asking for clarity on the **right to walk** past Findon Cottages (resident is awaiting guidance from THC on whether he is breaking 'right to roam' regulations); informing us of **Scottish Water's** intention to bring up to scratch /maintain the SUDS behind Carn Mor beginning 25 January (woods' access path will be closed for 6 weeks); concern about **overweight vehicles** using the road from the shop to Crasky and beyond (Alastair to co-ordinate).

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** A resident expressed continuing concern about the impact of the Urquhart Farm development on the local area e.g. flooding.

**AOCB:** Iain passed on his thanks to Eilidh for the War Memorial information in the latest Noticeboard which helped with family history research. Someone attempted to join the FCC meeting using a number code and didn't reply to a request for a name before being accepted so new instructions for residents will be written.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 10 February online at 7pm.

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>