

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2021

MEMBERS: Karen Harcus (Chair), Alison Lowe (Treasurer), Alastair Macintyre, Iain McCallum, Bruce Morrison (Secretary).

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Gordon Adam (part), 5 residents. Karen notified the meeting of Eilidh's resignation as Community Councillor, Treasurer and Editor of Noticeboard. Karen, on behalf of FCC, recorded her sincere thanks to Eilidh for all that she has done for FCC and wished her well in the future.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (to take no part in relevant discussions): 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 Karen, seconded by Alison).

FINANCIAL REPORT: Alison reported no transactions this month with balance in the bank at £5,305.18. Ring-fenced funds of £700 leave £4,605.18 available for FCC administration and community projects. Alison to submit year end accounts in order to release THC annual grant.

Karen's Zoom costs over the past few months (approximately £14 per month) were approved and all agreed that ongoing monthly costs will be covered by FCC.

UPDATE FROM Cllr. GORDON ADAM: A full time Community Support Officer is about to be recruited for the Black Isle /Dingwall/Seaforth Area for 12 months (funded by Scottish Government covid recovery funds). Discussions are ongoing looking to devolve decision making further by separating the current area into the Black Isle area and the Dingwall / Seaforth area. Greater localisation is also evident in other initiatives such as place based planning and more funds to communities. Cllr Adam's current activities are focused on the concerns of the expected surge in tourism.

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; THC Traffic has put in an objection (more land required for visual splays)).

20/02232/FUL: Erection of two houses, 46m SW Drummondreach Steading, Alcaig (not brownfield). Developer contacted FCC with new information, requesting FCC to re-examine its decision and explain the reasoning behind its objection. FCC agreed that it could not re-examine its decision as it had to be based on the information available to FCC and residents at the time of application. Iain /Bruce were actioned to write back to the developer as a matter of courtesy.

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. Application has now been withdrawn and therefore closed. Given this application was part of the business case, FCC agreed to request a new business case be presented to THC's consultant for a refreshed view.

20/02677/FUL: Farmhouse, Urquhart Farm, Alcaig: Object. Nine new documents have been submitted by the applicant involving a new traffic layout, a drainage statement (not suitable for soakaway of rain water) and

the three sheds are now for storage and not for cattle. Iain submitted new comments, including clarification on the use of the sheds, and applying the comments to the main application number.

20/04224/PIP: House, 50m NE of Grianan, Brae of Kinkell: Object. New plans and access arrangements have been submitted. This application has now been granted.

21/01214/FUL: 67m to tip wind turbine, 2300m NW of Fannyfield House, Swordale, Evanton: Objection has been written (visual and cumulative visual impact) and is to be submitted by tomorrow's deadline (Action: Iain).

Comments lodged:

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

20/04524/FUL: House 215m East of Upper Braefindon, Culbokie: Unacceptable breach of Hinterland policy.

New Applications:

21/01624/FUL: Extension, garage, outbuilding, Willowbank, Brae of Kinkell: Comments to be lodged requesting that residents' concerns should be considered for mitigation measures. (Action: Iain).

21/01742/PNO: Agricultural extension, Bogmore Farm, Duncanston: No comment

21/01863/FUL: New House, 70m SE of Cruachan, Eight Acres, Culbokie:

21/02012/FUL: New house, 35m SE of Cruachan, Eight Acres, Culbokie: Comments to be lodged (for both Eight Acres applications) that the current condition (putting in road safety improvements) must be fully applied and requesting again sight of the upcoming work programme.

Iain reported that applications coming through as /DOM don't have to be considered by FCC.

Other Planning Matters:

Glascairn Development: Developer's contributions of £923.10 have been earmarked for THC but not yet clear how they are to be applied. Community Liaison Group to be reactivated on perhaps a quarterly basis (Action: Iain).

Progress report of all outstanding cases from Planning Department (Action: Iain).

21/01173 /PIP: House, 75m NE of Brackla Wood, Upper Braefindon: Neighbour contacted FCC for advice about contested land ownership and resident has approached the planners. Planners independently, on the basis of material planning issues, are recommending refusal to NPAC.

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): Further approach to THC has yielded a response to say that they will now reconvene a meeting with the appropriate THC Officers and Cllr Adam agreed to join FCC at that meeting.

Speed on roads through Ord Muir to Balvaird: Karen reported that Muir of Ord CC has shared a police report that speed checks have been carried out with 3 drivers provided with advice. A local resident is very appreciative of the action and our resident that raised the issue originally has been informed and thanked FCC for its efforts. Karen has also contacted the Parents Council at Mulbuie School to hear about any safety concerns.

Alastair has written to THC (Laura MacAllister) re. clarification on weight restrictions on all FCC roads but no reply as yet; FCC to assemble a priority list in advance of the Participation Request meeting (Action: All).

Ferintosh Community Bus (FCB): A new issue of difficult access by mainline buses into/out of Tore Service Station has emerged (buses bottoming) with an indefinite delay to the project. Civil works have been carried out this week and now waiting to hear whether the bus access problem has been solved and what the cost implications are for the project.

Email list: Decrease of 1 to 669 (Action: Alastair and Karen to approach those residents known to them).

FCC's List of Activities, Facilities and Businesses: Bruce expressed his sincere thanks to the resident who has spent considerable time updating all the contact details on this spreadsheet that has now been uploaded to the FCC website.

Flood Prevention into Culbokie: THC has carried out more onsite assessment of levels to inform its feasibility study.

Black Isle Community Councils (BICC): Karen and Bruce attended a BICC meeting and passed on FCC concerns about the formal approach being taken to organise the forum. Final minutes of the meeting are not yet completed but the mood of the meeting was to strongly support the intention of meeting to share views and look for opportunities to work together where a collective voice would have greater impact. A new draft of the Terms of Reference is to be drawn up for consultation and will not contain a paragraph on decision-making.

FCC raised residents' concerns about the provision of respite care by the new Eilean Dubh Care Home in Fortrose. This discussion in BICC and subsequent intensive exchange of knowledge between the community councils has established that respite provision is not specified as a condition of planning consent for the home. Respite care was however written into the business plan for the home and Cllr Adam has been asked by FCC to find out from THC its efforts to secure respite care. Cllr Adam reported that he had been in touch with THC to contact NHS about its views on engaging with Parklands to secure a funded respite care bed. Cllr Adam suggested that the Black Isle Community Councils may now wish to put in writing to THC the obvious demand for respite need. (Cllr Adam to provide contact details; Bruce to action with BICC).

Following BICC supporting a letter by Cllr Adam to Transport Scotland detailing the urgent need for a 50mph zone extension on the A9 Munloch Junction section ahead of the tourist season, Cllr Adam reported that he had not received a response. However, another meeting between Police Scotland and Transport Scotland was imminent and PS would then reconvene with Cllr Adam/ BICC.

REPORTS (from public bodies and local organisations):

Police Scotland: Written report was received with the following 4 traffic offences and 1 of vandalism. There were three speeding reports (two reports for speeding at A9 Findon and B9169 Mulbuie and a fixed penalty notice issued to a driver on A9 at Culbokie) and on A835 at Newton of Ferintosh there was an RTC (no injuries) which is subject to enquiries. Vandalism to the Sharing Shed, Culbokie is being investigated.

Resident has again reported fast driving along the Balloan /Alcaig road. (Action: Alastair, having received no reply from PC John MacPherson previously is now in communication with another PC and information again sent. No feedback as yet).

Karen attended a meeting with Police Scotland passing on residents' views on the upcoming visitor season. PS will now use that feedback, with other partners, to develop an action plan.

Ferintosh Volunteers (FV): A working party of Ferintosh Volunteers has cleared and made significant improvements to the garden and play area behind Findon Hall. Another FV activity took the form of a very successful litter pick in late April involving at least a dozen volunteers. Bruce has discussed with Scottish

Water a possible partnership to significantly reduce fly tipping at its site near the Cromarty Bridge (SW to feedback thoughts).

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

Organisations: **UHI:** Volunteers requested for covid related research (males, 18 to 15 or over 70, have a mental health or neurological long-term condition; **THC:** weekly updates going out to residents; **THC:** update on control guidelines for gulls; **Newsletters** from Visit Scotland, HTSI, CCT, Scottish Community Alliance, BIP, Cromarty & District CC; **Science Skills Academy:** advertising for a STEM Engagement Officer; **HTSI:** online 26 April event helping community organisations re-open (passed on to halls); **Port of Cromarty Firth:** notification of community councils meeting w.c. 10 May; **Scottish Rural Action:** videos of the Rural Parliament sessions are now on its website and the material is being assembled into a Manifesto for Rural and Islands Scotland. The full report from its Rural Reference Group is now available (sent to those residents who engaged in the consultation); **Neighbourhood Alert:** Good ventilation practice in homes; **Avoch & Killen CC:** Black Isle Litter Survey results; **Moray Firth Partnership:** consultation on marine conservation; **CCT:** contacted FCC to request road /kerb repair next to the Shop car park (service request put in); **THC:** Funding Finder; **NHS:** Green Health Week, 10th to 16th May; **NHS Highland:** covid update; **CCT:** Active Travel consultation (sent out to 'East' residents); **HTSI:** Volunteer gift bags available for Volunteers Week (first week in June); **BIP:** AGM notices; **Cromarty & District CC:** submission to IMFLDP; **WSP:** Stakeholder workshops in May for the Tore-Munloch road improvements with a public consultation commencing in late June (Bruce to attend on 25 May); **THC /Cllr Fraser:** link provided to information on power outs; **Audit Scotland:** consulting with FCC on our thoughts about its Best Value Assurance Report on The Highland Council of Jan 2020 (agreed not to action); **University of Leeds:** survey of transport and technology needs for the HITRANS area (Bruce asked for clarification before sending out to residents).

Residents: phone call to say **thank you**; email to say that opening up facilities for **amateur musical groups** seems to be absent; concern about major **new onshore wind farms**; request of THC to improve the **pothole** situation; request of THC to open up **recycling centres to DIY materials** to limit fly tipping; **vandalism** to outbuildings in the Culbokie area; asking when FCC will be consulted **on CCT's Active Travel route** (Iain to reply); **nails** on the road out of Culbokie (sent request to THC).

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: Four residents present all requested that online access to FCC meetings was somehow maintained as the only way they could stay involved (Karen agreed that FCC should explore that possibility); concern about a dangerous pothole near the bottom of the Findon Hall road (Alastair to investigate).

AOCB: Karen raised the issue of FCC's now reduced number of community councillors and what could /should be done. Agreed to follow up those residents who had shown interest at the previous election (Action: Bruce) followed by approaching residents to help with specific tasks and /or becoming coopted community councillors.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 9 June online at 7pm.

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