

# FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE 2021

**MEMBERS:** Karen Harcus (Chair), Emilia Leese (co-opted at this meeting), Alison Lowe (Treasurer), Alastair Macintyre, Iain McCallum, Bruce Morrison (Secretary), Aileen Wilson (co-opted at this meeting).

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr Gordon Adam (part), two representatives of Culbokie Community Trust (Richard Fyfe, Penny Edwards), 1 resident.

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

**CO-OPTING COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS:** Emilia Leese, a regular attender of FCC meetings and the resident who updated FCC's list of community contacts, put herself forward after FCC's discussion at last month's meeting. Bruce proposed that FCC co-opt Emilia, seconded by Alison, and all agreed. Aileen Wilson, following her involvement in the successful campaign to create a new junction at Crask had offered to become a CC and having now agreed, Bruce proposed that FCC co-opt Aileen, seconded by Karen, and all agreed. Karen welcomed both as co-optees and thanked them for their willingness to support FCC and its residents.

**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):

**Noticeboard /Facebook:** Eilidh has generously agreed to continue as Editor of Noticeboard and Becky has agreed to update FCC's Facebook page (Karen waiting to hear more details); **Consultation on CCT's Active Travel route:** It's unclear if and when FCC will be consulted on this (Iain to reply to this resident's question); **Maintaining online access to FCC meetings:** Karen has contacted Di Agnew about halls' wifi (no answer yet); **Dangerous pothole** at the bottom of Findon Hall road: Alastair obtained support from the recent tarmac gang to repair but no follow through and will now look for an alternative solution; **Community Liaison Group** (Tullochs): Iain to suggest an on-site meeting; **Fast driving** along Balloan/Alcaig road: no response as yet from Police Scotland.

**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. Alison to gain access to online accounting.

CCT requested that £103.24 be allocated towards completion of the Lockdown Quilt project for signage and leaflets. FCC unanimously supported the funding to support this superb community project.

Karen has submitted invoices for the Zoom meeting costs as previously agreed.

**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 has submitted the same material formally into the planning system that had been presented to FCC. FCC agreed to write to the planners that FCC had received this same information and that FCC had not changed its opinion.

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.

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

21/01214/FUL: 67m to tip wind turbine, 2300m NW of Fannyfield House, Swordale, Evanton: Object (visual impact).

#### 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. Application refused. Cllr Adam pointed out that THC's paperwork recorded FCC's 'comment' as 'objection'.

Iain will write to the Case Officer.

21/02012/FUL: New house, 35m SE of Cruachan, Eight Acres, Culbokie: Comments to be lodged (for both Eight Acres applications, also 21/01863/FUL) that the current condition (putting in road safety improvements) must be fully applied and requesting again sight of the upcoming work programme.

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).

#### New Applications:

21/02095/FUL: House, north of Lochside, Duncanston: Comment questioning fit with Hinterland Policy to be submitted (Action: Iain).

21/02123/FUL: Replacement house, Shan Se, Newton of Ferintosh: No comment.

21/01558/FUL: Extension to stable block, timber clad portacabin, 160m SE of 4 Corntown: Comment to be submitted supporting neighbour's concern about the direction of lighting (Action: Iain).

21/01930/FUL: Two community buildings, 130m N of The Cairns, Culbokie: CCT's representatives provided background to the whole project with questions raised about water drainage: No comment.

21/02471/FUL: House, 85m SW of Braefindon Steading, Culbokie: No comment.

#### Other Planning Matters:

Progress report of all outstanding cases from Planning Department: no feedback from THC.

**UPDATE FROM CLLR GORDON ADAM:** Gordon explained that the new smaller Area Committee just for the Black Isle has been considered by THC as legally possible and, come the Autumn, should become approved within a review of THC's Area Committee structure. Responsibilities that may become devolved to the Black Isle Area Committee include asset transfers, parking charges, licensing and access to funds for BI projects may become possible.

**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**): Meeting date of Tuesday 22 June has been agreed (Karen, Bruce, Cllr Adam to attend). Alastair has sent to Bruce the list of outstanding service requests and Bruce will now collate and request of FCC its view of priorities.

Speed on roads through Ord Muir to Balvaird: Karen reported no further feedback; Weight restrictions: Alastair yet to receive a reply.

**Ferintosh Community Bus (FCB):** Bruce reported that Monday 28 June is now the likely start date for this pilot with the small electric vehicle coming into service in mid-August. A request for local designers to bid for the contract to create the livery for the electric vehicle has been put out on the email list. A leaflet explaining the new service is expected to be posted to all residents within the next two weeks.

**Email list:** Increase of 3 to 672.

**Black Isle Community Councils (BICC):** Minutes of the April meeting were lodged and noted. Emerging from that meeting, a modified Terms of Reference (now entitled Joint Meeting Agreement) has arrived which was discussed and agreed (Bruce to inform BICC).

**Provision of respite care by Parklands** (in the new Eilean Dubh Care Home): FCC submitted its request to THC/NHS for respite care provision having received evidence of demand from residents. Replies were received explaining that respite would not be provided in the short term as the new home has to be allowed to establish sustainably its core provision. However, the demand from Black Isle residents has been noted and discussions will take place between NHS and Parklands. Fortrose and Rosemarkie CC has a meeting with Parklands planned tomorrow and would raise this particular issue and feedback the response.

**Munloch Junction:** Further feedback from Police Scotland/Transport Scotland and the WSP workshops (Bruce attended) suggested that a quick implementation of an extended 50mph zone around the Munloch junction was not being supported. Cllr Adam suggested an even more focused request for a southbound extension only, in addition to speed limits approaching Tore roundabout on all incoming roads. FCC supported this first step approach whilst not losing sight of the need for more comprehensive longer term improvements.

Cllr Adam provided very detailed feedback from his meeting with Transport Scotland /Police Scotland last week. In general, he was dissatisfied with the lack of progress and action from TS. In particular, the specific proposal for a southbound 50mph extension was rejected on the basis that reducing the speed limit would create 'streaming' traffic which would create greater difficulties for traffic to merge. TS did agree (within months) to look at 40mph speed limits on all roads into the Tore roundabout (particularly addressing the concern of school children accessing the primary school). TS also agreed (within a year?) to look at lighting at the Munloch junction and, within a few years, lengthening the slip road for southbound access to the A9.

Cllr Adam expressed his willingness to continue with a campaign of community support and lobbying (including at BICC July meeting). FCC thanked Cllr Adam for all his good efforts in this campaign.

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

**Police Scotland:** Written report was received with the following traffic offences and 1 of vandalism to the pavement in Culbokie. On the A9 at Duncanston a driver was reported for careless /inconsiderate driving and again on the A9, at Findon, two drivers were reported for speeding.

**Ferintosh Volunteers (FV):** Nothing to report. Bruce has discussed with Scottish Water a possible partnership to significantly reduce fly tipping at its site near the Cromarty Bridge (no reply yet from SW).

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

**Organisations: Performance Communications:** looking for phone box to use as an ev charging point (sent to Alcaig contact); **Scottish Government:** Survey of volunteers for their covid experiences; **Arup:** Inner Moray Firth Active Travel Plans consultation; **Port of Cromarty Firth:** Green Hydrogen Masterclass event for community council representatives on 15 June; **THC:** details of its Seasonal Access Ranger Team; **THC:**

Regeneration Capital Grant Fund available; **THC**: Glascairn road closure on Monday 14 June; **Newsletters** /updates from THC/BIP/HSCN/HTSI/ Scottish Community Alliance; **University of Leeds**: HITRANS Consultation on future travel and technology needs (sent to email list); **Forestry Land Scotland**: Notified FCC about the unannounced arrival of scalplings into the Culbokie recycling car park and unapproved work carried out locally to improve the car park surface. FCC informed FLS about a potential agreement set up locally with THC a few months ago to do exactly that but had heard no more. FLS received a complaint locally and was following up. Subsequently, FCC received a phone call from resident informing FCC of the voluntary work carried out to repair the car parks at the football field; **THC**: all the feedback from residents to THC about the Main Issues consultation can be viewed (<https://consult.highland.gov.uk/kse/>); **Fortrose Academy /Education Scotland** have highlighted Intergenerational Community Partnership Work across the Black Isle as good practice.

**Residents**: looking for FLS contact to **report fly tipping** in Monadh Mor woods; enquiring about possible **development** going ahead in field opposite football pitch; passed on information from Crimestoppers about **its Rural Crime Campaign** encouraging residents to report and also **online holiday fraud**; reporting **spray painting vandalism** around the church centre /car park area (removed with a wire brush and Cairn removed its vandalised sign); concerned about **surface water being deliberately passed on** from neighbour's land to his land (provided advice and contact details); notified of a new initiative around **Think Healthy, Think Nature** funding; informing FCC of new sub group to Neighbourhood Watch now launched as **Driver Watch Highlands and Islands** (a network of users of our transport pathways sharing up to date information); pointing out that some Spar stores (including Conon Bridge) are **closing their Post Office counters**.

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS**: None

**AOCB**: Bruce requested feedback on draft minutes tomorrow. Alison confirmed Iain as second signatory for bank transactions.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**: Wednesday 14 July 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>