

# FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021

**MEMBERS:** Karen Harcus (Chair), Emilia Leese, Alison Lowe (Treasurer), Iain McCallum, Bruce Morrison (Secretary), Aileen Wilson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** 1 resident, CCT represented by Martin Sherring, Richard Fyfe.

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

**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): Karen to approach Becky about updating Facebook page; Karen to approach DI Agnew re. online access for future meetings; following resident complaint about lack of support from FCC for residents local to the Glascairn development, Iain has requested an on-site meeting with Tulloch Homes and awaiting a response; fast driving along Balloan road (no response from Police Scotland).

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Alison reported £103.24 paid to CCT for Lockdown Quilt, £24 to Calico for domain name, £57.56 to Karen for 4 monthly Zoom subscriptions. New Balance of £5120.38 and therefore £4420.38 available for projects (£700 ring fenced). Calico offering 10% discount for three-year fee (next meeting).

**PRESENTATION: ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE:** Richard Fyfe /Martin Sherring gave a presentation on the latest progress with CCT's project. Richard provided the introduction explaining that this project has had a long multi-year gestation period arising from residents' concerns (expressed in previous consultations with residents) about high vehicle speeds through the village and the risks and discomfort for those engaging in active travel.

The latest consultation has focused on place-making and traffic calming tactics. The full details of this consultation's results will be available publicly soon through the CCT website and is based on 53 online responses, 25 face-to-face interactions and worksheets from school children. The consultation demonstrated ongoing clear majority support for most aspects of the project. Specifically, and firstly, for the proposed traffic calming measures, there was 65% support for e.g. making the road seem narrower, build out at Glascairn, crossing into the village green (into a more formal crossing?) and removal of chicane to be replaced with wider shared use pavement. No majority support however for removing the central line. Secondly, the reaction to open /community spaces was 80% support. Some concerns about maintenance will be addressed through low maintenance, self-cleaning equipment, more litter bins and enhancing volunteer support. Plans for outside school are to be kept 'light touch' with safety for the children and privacy for nearby houses in mind. Thirdly the 'gateways' to the village were broadly welcomed with one specific concern at the west end of the gateway being too visually intrusive. Finally, changes to the pump area were generally not considered to be necessary. Concerns about safety at the junction with Balmeanach Brae were raised which were to be met with a proposal to extend the 30mph down the hill to Netherton (later FCC discussion wondered about that opening up a new area for village development -Iain to check with planners).

Richard explained that the next steps lie with Sustrans and THC developing the technical detail with THC considering whether to take the lead in this project fitting in as it does with its ambition to roll out 20 mph zones and reduce the seriousness of road accidents. The nature of the statutory consultation process to come is in the gift of THC and depends on the nature of the traffic orders required. The formal statutory role of a community council in a traffic order consultation process is weaker than in that for planning applications.

Karen thanked the presenters for an informative session and for bringing FCC up to date with their project.

**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 wrote to the planners that FCC had received this same information and that FCC had not changed its opinion. Iain has been in touch with Scottish Government to establish that 'brownfield' is defined as part of an existing settlement and should be formally designated in a local development plan.

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.

More documents submitted and FCC put in some comments explaining no withdrawal of objection.

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). New retrospective application submitted (i.e. readvertised) because drawings showing new positions for some machinery have been submitted.

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 lodged requesting that residents' concerns should be considered for mitigation measures.

21/02095/FUL: House, north of Lochside, Duncanston: Comment questioning fit with Hinterland Policy submitted.

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

21/01173/PIP: House, 75m NE Brackla Wood, Upper Braefindon: Granted despite proposed refusal by planners.

New Applications:

21/02794/FUL: House /Detached Garage, 35m SE, Elder, Cruachan, Eight Acres: Registered as consultee. Agreed to object but would withdraw objection should evidence (e.g. schedule of works) be provided that the condition to deliver road safety measures is to be satisfied.

21/03333/FUL: House, 70m SE, Elder, Cruachan, Eight Acres: Agreed to object but would withdraw objection should evidence (e.g. schedule of works) be provided that the condition to deliver road safety measures is to be satisfied.

21/02720/FUL: Extension to form gym, The Hutt, Drynie Park: No comment

21/02950/FUL: Amended house design, 4 Fowlers Croft, Culbokie: No comment

20/01453/FUL: see above in Comments Lodged.

21/03096/FUL: Restoration of Ruin, Logie Farm, Allangrange, Mulbuie: No comment

Other Planning Matters:

Progress report of all outstanding cases from Planning Department: no feedback from THC. Receiving good responses currently so will not follow through on this previous action.

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

**Speed on local roads: Culbokie:** Kate Forbes' office (Helen) has stimulated a speed monitoring exercise near the school and FCC will receive the results; **Ord Muir to Balvaird:** Karen reported no further feedback; **Weight restrictions:** Alastair yet to receive a reply.

**Flooding at entrance to Culbokie:** THC is continuing with its feasibility study with no options yet ruled out.

**Community Services** (requesting greater involvement in local decision making through a **Participation Request**): Karen and Bruce met with THC Officers to discuss FCC's Participation Request. The major outcome is agreed to be better allocation of THC's stretched resources to the priorities of residents. Discussion took place around better understanding of how THC makes decisions and allocated resources and how, in partnership, FCC's community could help to deliver improved services. Since potholes were considered by FCC/residents as one of the top priorities, discussion exposed the value and need for more detailed and regular pothole information on all FCC's roads. THC agreed that quarterly information would help THC be more efficient and deliver better surfaces on our roads. Further meeting between Bruce /Iain Moncrieff took place to fully understand how residents' information could be combined with the new technology of the nu-phalt system such that the equipment could be used very efficiently using local intelligence (i.e. the position and density of potholes on all C and U classified roads). Emilia to help Bruce draft a second request for volunteer pothole hunters.

**Ferintosh Community Bus (FCB):** Bruce reported that the new daytime, demand responsive service began on Monday 28 June. Leaflets were issued to all households by volunteers the week before and, in the week before, all passengers on all Culbokie -Inverness were contacted to discuss the upcoming changes and to help them access the new service as smoothly as possible. Some residents were not surprisingly concerned about the change to a booking system and a two-bus journey but once explained and helped into their new journeys, no major issues emerged and the residents were thanked for their flexibility.

7 journeys took place in the first week. Stagecoach's figures for June have yet to be received to act as a baseline for comparison but impression from previous week's observations (see above) is that the numbers are lower. Measuring actual journeys will, of course, be one of the key measures throughout the pilot.

Some residents in some of the most remote parts of the FCC area have been approached to test the FCB service and about 10 have kindly agreed to do so over the next few weeks. The first 5 journeys have taken place successfully with pick-ups in some of the most remote areas and with some useful learning points to help develop a reliable service.

Volunteer drivers were sought from the Ferintosh Volunteers group and an initial team of 5 has emerged that is now going through PVG checking and training for community use of the electric vehicle when it comes into service (September is the likely starting month).

**Email list:** Increase of 19 to 691. For the first time, the number of residents FCC is able to contact exceeds 40% of all voting residents.

**Black Isle Community Councils (BICC):** Requested more information on meeting between F&R CC and Parklands re. respite care but no response as yet.

**Munlochy Junction:** The whole assessment of road safety from North Kessock to Tore is now open to public consultation (circulated to email list).

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

**Police Scotland:** Written report was received with the following traffic offences: on A9 Coulnagour a driver was issued with a fixed penalty in relation to speeding and on the B9169 Culbokie, a one vehicle RTC is being looked into.

**Ferintosh Volunteers (FV):** Yet another litter pick was carried out by, what is becoming, an established team of about 10 to 12. There was some evidence that this regular activity is reducing the amount of obvious litter.

**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: Scouts:** received information about a recruitment drive and looking for volunteers to help (on to Facebook page); **Newsletters /updates** from Port of Cromarty Firth/ Black Isle Partnership /HSCN/ Scottish Community Alliance/HTSI; **HTSI:** NHS commissioning opportunities; **BIP:** more details about its Think Health: Think Nature weekend and seeking walk leaders (funding available for training); **CCT:** offer to present update about Active Travel Route (accepted for this meeting); **Police Scotland:** invitation to a meeting concerning updates on fraudulent behaviour; **Boundaries Scotland:** report to Ministers is available at <https://boundaries.scot/2019-reviews-electoral-arrangements>; **Neighbourhood Alert:** Consultation on fireworks and pyrotechnics; Vehicle security and crime prevention guidance; **Support in Mind:** introduction to this new organization providing support for carers of those with mental illness; **Transport Scotland:** North Kessock to Tore study: public consultation now open until the end of August; **FRS:** looking for retained firemen in Fortrose; **SSEN Transmission:** Annual Engagement Plan; **Cycling UK:** new project, Shift, to encourage more cycling; **SG:** Consultation open until 15 August about stricter firework control (sent to email list); **HTSI:** Volunteer Long Service Awards; **Victim Support Scotland:** Volunteer recruitment campaign.

**Residents:** Alcaig phone box now into community ownership (enquired about insurance, provided a contact); complaint about lack of FCC support for residents local to the Glascairn development (see above); in touch with FLS for fly tipping concerns (now resolved by resident and THC) but also wider concerns of poor water management and overgrown access (FLS now stimulated by resident to look at options); informed FCC of a fire at David's Fort, Bishop Kinkell which the Fire Service managed to contain.

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** None

**AOCB:** Bruce reported back on a discussion (in a personal capacity) with Alison Clark (Head of Policy, THC) about restarting THC discussions about the place and role of Community Councils in the democratic system and decision-making processes. From many consultations over the years (locally and nationally), residents and Community Councils have a desire for greater involvement in decision making and not just consultation. Whilst THC has a desire to bring Community Council representatives together now to work out how improvements could be made, Bruce suggested that we start with residents' views, find out what participation they would wish and then delegate decision making to community councils, area committees,

Highland Council, instead of the more normal approach of working out what to delegate downwards through the democratic system. Discussion that followed suggested a CC as a better route for residents to make useful contacts and we should be using our Ward Manager more for her impressive network connections.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 11 August (Karen away, Emilia to chair) 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>