

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT FERINTOSH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

MEMBERS: Sally Falconer, Karen Harcus (Chair), Jim Holden, Alison Lowe (Treasurer), Alastair Macintyre, Iain McCallum, Bruce Morrison (Secretary), Aileen Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Lyndsey Johnston, 5 residents, Kenny Rodgers (District Manager, NHS Highland Mid Ross District), Dr Miles Mack (Senior Partner, Dingwall Medical Group).

APOLOGIES: Emilia Leese, PC John MacPherson, 2 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): None.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: Alison reported one transaction of £240 paid to Findon Hall to cover the cost of a replacement battery for the defibrillator. £4289.03 of non-ringfenced funds remains for projects. Annual Grant not arrived (Cllr Lyndsey will follow up). Request from Singing for Fun group to support a workshop (£270) (Alison to circulate Guidelines and reach a decision by email).

MAIN DISCUSSION: Kenny Rodgers, District Manager, NHS Highland Mid Ross District: Kenny Rodgers came along to explain his role and to hear the community's views on our local Health and Social Care Services. FCC did a quick consultation before the meeting and received four detailed replies which were circulated to Kenny Rodgers and Dr Miles Mack before the meeting and Miles also kindly joined the meeting.

Kenny explained that one of his tasks in this rural and urban community of about 26K residents was to seek views on his areas of responsibility (including Community Services, Social Work, Care at Home, Care Homes, Ross Memorial Hospital). He has been particularly focused over the past 3 years on improving the service in Ross Memorial by reducing delayed discharges, increasing outpatient services (e.g. camera pill not endoscopy) and increasing the proportion of Mid Ross patients to better co-ordinate with other local services and maximise usage. His budget is £20M of which 40% goes on social care but with little leeway at his level to change the proportion of spend.

He would particularly welcome input into the idea of replacing Ross Memorial with a more sustainable and modern community hospital. He sees this as a ten year project from now. Kenny and Miles both see the development of a new community hospital as a key asset within a stronger community health ecosystem that would keep residents closer to their homes and communities and with less need for the more intensive hospital environment (i.e. Raigmore and beyond).

Asked about out of hours service, Kenny/Miles responded that this was separate from Ross Memorial and very difficult to provide in a vast rural area.

Considerable discussion focused on care in the community and at home and is a key element of current discussions about the National Care Service. With an increasingly older population, increased co-morbidities, insufficient care workers or care homes then there are considerable difficulties ahead. Kenny felt that by focusing on the 'local' there are good current examples of increasing the pool of care workers and their skills. Kenny felt that the current quality of care provided was very high but acknowledged the lack of resource. Here was the opportunity for FCC's community to work with Kenny/Miles in providing the community view on the improvements required for the likes of social care so that their lobbying power was enhanced. FCC raised the need for Kenny/Miles to feedback on the results of consultation to develop a continual dialogue for the lobby.

Mental health resources were considered problematic with demand outstripping supply of support. The key concern seemed to be the scarcity of specialists coming through into this service.

Miles apologised for some difficulties in obtaining GP appointments during the period of covid with shortages of GP capacity. He acknowledged that the appointment system was complex and is under continued scrutiny to see if it can be improved. Telephone appointments have proved valuable to a proportion of residents and was an efficient use of GP time

but the use of Near Me (video call) had not proved particularly helpful. He felt that DMG is nevertheless in a strong position (able to recruit GPs) and with a strong flow of very well trained new entrants to the GP profession.

PLANNING /LICENSING MATTERS (only new information included):

Objections Lodged:

20/02232/FUL: Erection of two houses, 46m SW Drummondreach Steading, Alcaig (not brownfield).

21/04324/PIP: New House, 165m S of Foxlea House, Highfield Park (Hinterland, flooding, contamination). FRAT (Flood Risk Action Team) has objected.

22/02928/PIP: Erection of a house, Land to West of Achnairn, Highfield Park, Conon Bridge. FRAT (Flood Risk Action Team) has objected.

Comments lodged:

21/01624/FUL: Extension, garage, outbuilding, Willowbank, Brae of Kinkell.

21/05575/PIP: House, 55m SE of 7 Raven Croft, Culbokie: FCC registered as consultee.

21/05576/PIP: House, east of Schoolcroft, Culbokie: As above.

21/05577/PIP: House, east of Schoolcroft, Culbokie: THC has agreed to consider as a group. Transport team has agreed with access through Raven Croft provided a culvert design is accepted. FRAT (Flood Risk Action Team) has objected. A planning gain has been applied to submit funds to support the Ferintosh Community Bus.

22/02748/FUL: Erection of house, 140M NW Of Broombank, 108-109 Newton of Ferintosh, Conon Bridge, Dingwall, IV7 8AS: Comment challenging crofting status. Crofting status has been confirmed subject to registration.

22/02840/PIP: Erection of 3no. houses, Muir of Allangrange, Muir Of Ord, IV6 7RB: Comment relating to Hinterland policy.

Alleged Breaches of Conditions:

20/01531/FUL: Plot 1, 45m SE of Mulbuie Hall: No 1.2m pathway. Iain will advise Planning that FCC considers the condition to apply to Plot 2 and Plot 1.

Logie Steading development is also required to develop a pedestrian path (Iain to enquire).

19/02467/FUL: 1 Fowlers Croft, Culbokie: 2m high fence when only 0.9m is permitted? To pursue at October meeting.

Planning Enforcement Charter Report lodged for alleged breach in the grounds of the former Church of Scotland site at Urquhart.

Glascairn development: pavements not accessible.

New Application:

22/03826/PNO: Erection of roof structure between agricultural buildings, Land 105M NE Of Northwood, Urquhart, Alcaig, Conon Bridge: Object (Iain to circulate draft objection).

Other Planning Issues:

Tulloch's Glascairn development: Karen reported that a copy of a resident's complaint and Tulloch's response have been forwarded to Dafydd Jones for further investigation and feedback when we meet with him in October.

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

Community Services: Gully beside the Glascairn development has been cleared. Submitted request to investigate collapsing road structure in Schoolcroft.

Consultation: Culbokie Active Travel Village: Karen reported that no agreed minutes had yet been issued despite repeated chasing. No confirmation that the individual property matters were being dealt with so Bruce to follow up.

Culbokie Woods Core Path: Aileen /Jim reported that the chicane had been installed and Aileen to check on the accessibility and to thank FLS. Jim also had discussions with FLS about the absence of way markers in Monadh Mor despite this being the most heavily used site on the Black Isle. FCC agreed to support a request for new installations (Jim to script).

Community Link Project: Community Link has been helping one of our residents and contacted FCC to see if a face-to-face meeting was possible. Bruce met the resident and helped access some self-help material. In parallel, an attempt to link a resident to become involved in some community activity was declined by the resident.

BICC: Karen /Jim: Nothing to report.

Jim met with members of other Community Councils and the Development Officer, recently appointed by Black Isle Partnership, as part of a Steering Group to create a brief for a Black Isle Local Action Plan. Seven consultants were subsequently invited to tender for the work but all declined to respond to the brief because the tight timescales made satisfying the brief's requirement to undertake the detailed consultation with Black Isle communities impossible. THC is now being approached to seek agreement to review the timescales for production of the plan.

Broadband: Bruce phoned Kate Forbes' office (Keith Nicolson) to emphasise that the lack of transparency and response from BT Openreach simply encourages the belief that some special arrangement was set up for a small number of residents previously that wasn't made available to residents generally. Keith Nicolson emphasised his continuing intent to fully understand what happened previously and to clarify what options are available for other residents. He has pursued BT again.

Ferintosh Volunteers: Another tidy up of Findon Hall's garden took place in August making it fit and safe for young children to enjoy.

Noticeboard (the newsletter): Eilidh Richmond has stood down as Editor in order to focus on her University studies. FCC would like to record its sincere thanks to Eilidh for developing the newsletter into a much more comprehensive, informative and entertaining medium which was appreciated by many of our residents especially during lockdown. Becky Richmond has very generously offered to step into Eilidh's shoes.

Becky to be contacted to consider reintroducing Noticeboard delivery to all households (Action: Jim).

Pothole Hunters: Bruce has received no response from any part of THC involved in this project. Bruce therefore asked Cllr Lyndsey if she would be willing to organise a meeting with Cllr Graham Mackenzie (Chair of Communities and Place Committee) and Allan Gunn (Executive Chief Officer, Community). Cllr Lyndsey agreed but waiting to hear about any date. If no response by a week on Friday, then Bruce/Cllr Lyndsey to consider next moves. The objective is to unblock the impasse. Meanwhile, THC is still responding to safety critical requests and recently that has included comprehensive work on Balmeanach Brae. However, the flooding situation has not been resolved so Cllr Lyndsey agreed to pursue the proposed business meeting with Iain Moncrieff.

Flooding: Bruce has again requested that a date be set for the previously agreed Ward Business Meeting with Iain Moncrieff. The flooding issue was raised as part of the feedback in relation to the Culbokie Active Travel village consultation. No response has been received.

Ferintosh Community Bus (FCB): The charge point beside the shop was commissioned and handed over for use in August and, from the 26 August, the wee bus has been operating from its proper Culbokie base rather than Dingwall. This enables us now to make volunteer drivers available for journeys in the evenings and at weekends. The formal launch of this new and final phase is now planned for Tuesday 18th October which will include demonstrations of the new booking and tracking app at the Church Café. New bay markings in the shop car park have been discussed and agreed with THC (implementation soon).

Monthly data (single journey equivalents): Jul:36; Aug:45; Sep:52; Oct:56; Nov:54; Jan:34; Feb:38 (incl. 1 community journey); Mar:48 (incl. 2 community journeys); Apr:45 (incl.6 community journeys); May:39 (incl. 3 community journeys); June:43 (incl. 8 community journeys); July:48 (incl. 8 community journeys); August:42 (incl. 5 community journeys).

Email list: No change at 756 (over 42% (estimated as 740 residents) of voting residents).

REPORTS (from public bodies and local organisations):

Police Scotland: Five separate incidents were reported including: at Duncanston a driver was arrested/reported for drink driving; on B9169 Easter Kinkell a driver was reported for careless driving; on B9169 Culbokie a driver failed to provide/identify of driver requirement – report submitted; on B9169 at Mulbuie Primary School, in 20mph zone, driver accepted fixed penalty for speeding; on B9169 Driver reported for driving without insurance.

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

Organisations: **THC/NHS:** Fortnightly updates; **Newsletters** from CCT/HTSI/HSCN/Funding Scotland/SRA/SCA; **CCT:** now working with SWARCO to explore putting in rapid charge points in Culbokie Green; **University of Nottingham:** PhD student alerting us to a Rural Energy Survey; **THC:** Community Food Growing event, 30 September, Aviemore; **THC:** Nature Restoration Fund open until 09/09; **Black Isle Gathering:** FCB to be promoted through the Tourism Group; **HUG Action for Mental Health:** Citizen's Action: Power to the People; **THC:** World Suicide Prevention Day; **THC:** Funding updates/Funding Finder; **THC:** Food Plus grant scheme to support families in the October school break; **BIP:** concern about redirection of Glascairn core path (referred to CCT's activities to resolve); **THC:** notification of the Proclamation of the Accession in Dingwall (Karen attended); **The Haven Appeal** (play centre in Inverness, respite provision): information event in Dingwall.

Residents: suggesting incorrect assumption on planning condition re. **height of fencing**; asking about use of **café and facilities** (referred to CCT); approached about erecting a **bus shelter** for school students (Bruce provided advice); seeking advice (Bruce provided) on working with THC to improve **boundary** between THC adopted road and private road; concern about **hunting** in woods; complaints about **non-arrival of bus** service 25 in the morning at Culbokie (Stagecoach now put on an earlier 22 service but there was no advanced notification of the change, complaint put in); looking to put on a **new social group activity** in Findon Hall (provided contact details); providing **link into road safety** consultations; recommending that to change anything **through consultation should require 51%** of the voting population; reported **accident due to loose slabs** at steps between the Sharing Shed and the Church Centre in Culbokie (FCC followed up and Cairn Housing fixed very quickly even although it probably isn't on their land; Cairn thanked); specific **boundary and flood concerns** relating to the Active Travel consultation (residents and planner put in contact by FCC); thanks to FCC on its **effective persistence** on improving roads; request for **7.5mt restrictions on e.g. Balmeanach Brae** (Bruce to find out current restrictions); **crumbling edges in passing place** on Balmeanach Brae; concern about gap between new houses and those in The Cairns (referred to comments in the May minutes and resident provided proof that Tullochs have not done what they had said (Karen has received no response and will try again)); concern about the **poor condition of the Pump Area** (other than flower barrels) (CCT informed, have apologised, will solve); **thanks to the Community Council Team** for their time and effort on everything; thanks to FCC for gathering views with an **apology** for the tone of their own response; concern about **collapsing road structure** (FCC has submitted service request and safety critical request); suggestion to **increase** the number of **parking places** at the shop (FCC helping residents to form their view); continuing **noise nuisance of vehicle reversing** alarms (cc'd into Tulloch's correspondence with Tulloch's responding saying they've fixed it); copied into two reports to Police Scotland of **neighbour's antisocial and threatening behaviour** which PS followed up; further **noisy vehicle activity** by Tulloch's contractor (Tulloch's response: all vehicles not necessarily its contractors' vehicles); disagreeing with the **Proclamation process**.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: None.

AOCB: Office Bearers to meet up informally to discuss working together. FCC agreed to use the November meeting to have the Main Discussion on how FCC conducts consultations (Jim to explore evidence of other consultation processes).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 12 October, 7.15pm at Mulbuie Hall.

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>