

# FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT CULBOKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2022

**MEMBERS:** Sally Falconer, Karen Marcus (Chair), Alison Lowe (Treasurer), Iain McCallum, Bruce Morrison (Secretary), Becky Richmond (Associate), Aileen Wilson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr Lyndsey Johnston, 3 residents.

**APOLOGIES:** Jim Holden, Emilia Leese (on line failed), Alastair Macintyre, PC John MacPherson, 1 resident.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (to take no part in relevant discussions): Cllr Lyndsey will take no part in discussions about planning applications.

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

Speed on Ord Road: Karen has received feedback from Muir of Ord CC that they're discussing at their own meeting tomorrow night and following up with Cllr Graham Mackenzie.

Noticeboard: Becky suggested a single leaflet drop to all households to stimulate expansion of the Noticeboard email list in order to minimise the requirement for printed copies. Other ideas suggested included local pick up points, business sponsorship for inks/paper, black and white only in print, Ward Discretionary fund may be able to help with equipment/materials. FCC would discuss these ideas further and decide on a course of action.

Feedback from FCC team meeting: Karen explained that the CCs met informally to discuss work load, task priorities and individual responsibilities. These discussions will continue on 22 November at a further informal meeting.

Feedback from Tulloch's interactions: Karen reported back from a productive meeting with Tullochs progressing their main outstanding actions and now interacting with individual residents and their concerns. Some actions were weather /seasonal dependent. Exploring the concern about the unsightly container (Action: Aileen).

FCC agreed to support a request for new installations in Monadh Mor (Jim to script).

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Alison reported on three transactions this month. The THC Grant of £613.16 has been received. The annual payment to the ICO of £35 was paid as well as 8 monthly payments of £14.39 (£115.12) to Karen for FCC's Zoom facility. Total funds stand at £5182.07 (of which £700 ring-fenced).

Senior Citizens Dinner in Findon Hall has requested some financial support for this year's dinner. FCC agreed to contribute £150 this year to cover the equivalent of £50 pa over the past three years missed. Cllr Lyndsey suggested that the group might look at Cost of Living Grants to help.

CCT applied for £91.75 funding for tools to be dedicated for use on Culbokie Green (FCC agreed).

**MAIN DISCUSSION: CONSULTING WITH RESIDENTS and FORMING AN FCC VIEW: Are there practical ways in which FCC could improve its current methods?**

FCC sent out a request to its email list in advance of the meeting for thoughts on this topic and the 13 responses were presented to the meeting in Paper 1. Karen noted the wide variety of ideas that had been contributed by residents for consideration by FCC.

A lively discussion explored issues of timescales; numbers of responses; demographic spread of respondents; variation of types of consultations requiring different degrees of effort; comparison of FCC's efforts with others; involvement of new residents; skewed nature of respondents towards the older residents; target the younger demographic through social media, schools, focus groups; degree of transparency by FCC; portal for responses; web clicks; ask for simpler consultations; different types of responses (all welcome). FCC looking for greater efficiency of use of its effort and not just keep adding tasks.

FCC will continue these discussions specifically looking at some suggested ideas to make consultations more effective and take action.

**PLANNING /LICENSING MATTERS** (only new information included):

Objections Lodged:

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

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

22/03826/PNO: Erection of roof structure between agricultural buildings, Land 105M NE Of Northwood, Urquhart, Alcaig, Conon Bridge: THC has deemed 'NOT PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT' and full application required. Applicant has put in more detail to justify the development.

Comments lodged:

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

21/01624/FUL: Extension, garage, outbuilding, Willowbank, Brae of Kinkell. FCC supported residents' comments. GRANTED

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.

22/02840/PIP: Erection of 3no. houses, Muir of Allangrange, Muir Of Ord, IV6 7RB: Comment relating to Hinterland policy. THC Drainage and Traffic have both objected. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

Alleged Breaches of Conditions:

20/01531/FUL: Plot 1, 45m SE of Mulbuie Hall: No 1.2m pathway. FCC agreed to Iain's suggestion that he write into the planners and ask how they are dealing with the required safe route to school across several planning applications.

Planning Enforcement Charter Report lodged for alleged breach in the grounds of the former Church of Scotland site at Urquhart (22/00103/ENF). Iain has been assured that the containers will be moved once extensions are completed but details not available (sub judice).

New Applications:

22/04388/FUL; Change of use Office to Residential, Muir House, 117 Newton of Ferintosh: No comment

22/04699/FUL: Additional dormers & alterations, Kenmhor, Balvairst: No comment

22/04931/FUL: New house and garage, 7 Fowlers Croft: No comment

Other Planning Issues:

Resident: has observed groundworks ongoing in neighbouring field and Iain is researching any planning history.

**ACTIVE PROJECTS** (split into 'Report' and 'For Discussion'. 'Reports' are now circulated to Community Councillors before the meeting (and to residents at the meeting) and not presented orally at the meeting. Questions welcome under 'Interaction with Residents' and 'AOCB'. The meeting now only addresses those issues under 'For Discussion').

**Community Services:** Report: further flooding at drain on Glascairn road (reported to THC); repeated requests of THC for information about existing road weight restrictions has led to a response that the local Dingwall office has requested the information from THC HQ. For Discussion: nothing.

**Flooding:** Report: Bruce has received no feedback on the suggested Ward Business Meeting with Iain Moncrieff. The sump clearance that was 100% guaranteed by the end of October did not take place. Bruce sent an email to THC (copied to FCC) explaining that, in his opinion, this was a 'breach of trust'. THC replied in defence of its actions. For Discussion:

Cllr Lyndsey has kindly agreed to pursue this matter with Iain Moncrieff and if there is no resolution then FCC will firstly take the matter higher and then, if necessary, file a Complaint.

**Consultation on Active Travel Village:** Report: Karen /Emi circulated their detailed notes from the consultation feedback session with THC (notes were circulated to those residents that contributed). For Discussion: nothing

**Community Link Project:** Report: One resident has been helped. For Discussion: nothing.

**BICC:** Report: Fortrose & Rosemarkie CC has suggested a further meeting after apologising for a delay and FCC has replied to say that FCC would be willing to field a representative if a date emerges but would be discussing whether the effort involved is yielding the necessary benefit. For Discussion: FCC agreed not to continue supporting the regular meetings of BICC but will propose to support partnership with the BICC should relevant common issues arise. Would attend next meeting to explain.

**Broadband:** Report: Bruce has received further correspondence from Kate Forbes' office but no new information. For Discussion: nothing

**Ferintosh Volunteers:** Report: nothing. For Discussion: nothing.

**Pothole Hunters:** Report: Bruce reported back from a positive meeting with Iain Moncrieff and Tracey Urry and one of FCC's volunteers. The impasse has been overcome and a new plan is now being carefully put together with clearly agreed and dated deadlines for both parties to adhere to. After the meeting, Bruce submitted a draft list of actions with dated deadlines and a draft script to be sent to the Pothole Hunters with clearly agreed objectives for them to consider their future involvement. THC agreed to respond by 18/11 and a response has been received with clear agreement on actions. For Discussion: nothing

**Ferintosh Community Bus (FCB):** Report: Community journeys have grown significantly in the last two months (see data below) with a further increase to about 50 journeys already planned during November. If this proves sustained, then recruiting another cohort of volunteer drivers will be considered. The launch of the app and the charge point this month provided some valuable hard copy publicity in the P&J as well as a posted video clip of resident interviews. The hosting of the launch party at the Church Café (our sincere thanks to them) gave rise to a steady stream of residents keen to understand how the app is going to work and its benefits. An agreement has been reached with Fortrose Academy to provide wee bus transport back from the school on Wednesdays at 5pm thus enabling the students in our area the facility to stay in for After School Study.

Monthly data (single passenger journey equivalents): Jan:34; Feb:38 (1 volunteer journey); Mar:50 (2 volunteer journeys); Apr:49 (6 volunteer journeys); May:39 (3 volunteer journeys); June:43 (8 volunteer journeys); July: 52 (8 volunteer journeys); August:47 (5 volunteer journeys); September:46 (27 volunteer journeys); October:83 (36 volunteer journeys). For Discussion: nothing

**Email list:** Report: Increase of 13 to 778 (nearly 44% (estimated as 783 residents) of voting residents). For Discussion: nothing

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

**Police Scotland:** Received a report with four incidents as follows: on B9163 next to Broomtown Wood, a road rage incident occurred whereby suspect assaulted the victim and also vandalised property, enquiries ongoing; on A9 Coulnagour a driver failed to stop for Police, enquiries ongoing; on A835 near Conon Bridge a driver was reported for driving without insurance; on A835 at Mulbuie a driver accepted a fixed penalty for careless driving.

**CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS** (split into 'Report' and 'For Discussion'. 'Reports' are now circulated to Community Councillors before the meeting (and to residents at the meeting) and not presented orally at the meeting. Questions welcome under 'Interaction with Residents' and 'AOCB'. The meeting now only addresses those issues under 'For Discussion').

**Organisations:** Report: **THC/NHS:** Fortnightly updates; **Newsletters** from Scottish Water/CCT/SCA/SCN; **Singing for Fun:** thank you; **NHS Scotland:** encouraging residents of 11 and over to join SHARE (research studies. Permission to use leftovers from blood samples for genetic testing etc); **BIP:** Black Isle Local Place Plan: update, consultation between February and April 2023; **Cromarty & District Community Council:** low frequency noise, background information (also Port of Cromarty Firth response); **Eilean Dubh Home Care:** looking to urgently recruit home carers and can FCC help (will put into fb page and Noticeboard, with donation and meeting up to explore other actions); **CCT:** informing us that the barrier at the school is not now to be removed (Active Travel proposal); **Port of Cromarty Firth:** annual public meeting on 3/11; **FLS:** public consultation on Land Management plans at Findon Hall, 7pm to 9pm, Thursday 24 November; **NatureScot:** consultation on new National Park Commission; **Scotland's Towns Partnership:** promoting Scotland Loves Local, a campaign to encourage local purchasing; **Boundary Commission for Scotland:** consultation on its Revised Proposals of UK Parliament constituencies (deadline, 5/12); **National Lottery Community Fund:** has launched a Household Hardship Fund beginning on 22/11.

For Discussion: **John O'Groats Trail** requested a **letter of support** for further development and FCC consulted through the email list with feedback (See Paper 4). FCC agreed to send a letter of support plus the detailed feedback; **Scottish Forestry:** consulting on **felling trees** around the Culbokie Recycling area. FCC consulted through the email list with feedback (See Paper 3). FCC will write supporting the felling proposal and also send the detailed resident feedback; **THC:** **'Our Future Highlands'** consultation with community councils. Initial views have been expressed (see Paper 2: FCC only). Draft response (Bruce) will highlight the need of THC to work in partnership with communities to support community activities; **Scottish Parliament: Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee:** consultation on Community Planning (no response); **National Library for Scotland:** requesting permission from FCC to make publicly available archived examples of FCC's website (FCC agreed).

**Residents:** Report: copied into enquiry to Highland Councillors about effects of THC moving to **inhouse school transport** (Cllr Atkin replied with concern about Stagecoach's poor school service to Fortrose Academy; concern about incomplete **landscaping** by Tullochs at Glascairn; concerns about the Active Travel proposals in Culbokie; help with **contact** to Avoch & Killen CC (done); concerns about possible **unauthorised development** in a neighbouring field (Iain is following up); **appreciating** the receipt of the planning applications in FCC's area; concern about **the Glascairn site** being left in an untidy condition and does the presence of a container require planning permission?

For Discussion: concern about **consultation methods** (see Main Discussion above); **noting incorrect minutes** re. Urquhart Farm but not what the error is. FCC can see no error in its minute; **no finger sign at shop:** Becky offered to investigate.

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** HITRANS literature still referring to a membership not client scheme (Bruce to check).

**AOCB:** Bruce asked Cllr Lyndsey about BIAC plans to continue with the agreed consultative processes set in train under the previous administration (Cllr Lyndsey to investigate).

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 14 December, 7.15pm at Ferintosh Hall.**

**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>