

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT MULBUIE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2023

MEMBERS: Sally Falconer, Karen Marcus (Chair), Jim Holden, Iain McCallum, Becky Richmond (Associate), Aileen Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Lyndsey Johnston, 1 resident.

APOLOGIES: Emilia Leese, Alison Lowe (Treasurer), Alastair Macintyre, Bruce Morrison (Secretary), PC Robert Smith, 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):

Bruce had provided written feedback to FCC after the 20/03 meeting of Alison/ Becky/ Bruce with Stagecoach and THC. The key points included acceptance by Stagecoach that advanced notice of changes would be implemented from now on; that the financial support for bus services nationwide is very uncertain; that the Saturday scheduled services were not under immediate threat despite financial pressures; that the THC school bus to Dingwall is not used during the day (the drivers are part time) and THC would be open to any community ideas provided there were no extra costs (e.g. driver costs). Becky commented that during the Place Plan consultations, especially with local schools, they had commented on the lack of funds to enable collective activities and that this may be an ideal opportunity to utilise the bus during the school day. All agreed that further discussions needed to be included in our next meeting when Bruce and Alison were present.

Cllr Johnston will look again at the previously set up consultation process and to consider community consultation before any further changes in committee structures. Cllr Johnston confirmed that the Community consultation process established by Cllr Adam had not been adopted by THC as an agreed process and therefore interaction with Councillors via Ward Business meetings and in person was the agreed process. Cllr Johnston confirmed that she will be the BIAC member attending FCC meetings for the next year and is happy to discuss and take forward any issues to the area committee as required.

Cllr Johnston was asked if she would help FCC to understand both the process and progress following Our Future Highland consultation last year from which FCC received no acknowledgement or feedback. Cllr Johnston advised that the report should be available on THC website.

Black Isle Local Place Plan: Becky fed back on the 1st phase of the Black Isle Local Place Plan Engagement events. 255 people attended the events and 1738 stickies were completed. 51 people attended the Ferintosh event, where 240 comments were fed into the consultation. One positive action has already come out of the Ferintosh event. Following resident comments and a positive meeting with Stagecoach and Highland Council, the wee bus can now take residents to Conon Bridge to connect with buses to Muir of Ord and Dingwall. The online survey is now open and is available until the beginning of May. Anyone unable to attend a drop in event is encouraged to complete the online survey.

All the comments are now being analysed and common themes identified. Two Black Isle summits to determine priorities and possible solutions will take place on Saturday 3rd June (locations and timings to follow). Work with the schools and further engagement with residents and community groups is also taking place.

Cllr Johnston commented that Becky and Nick were doing a great job.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: Alison reported the year end including three transactions in March. Ferintosh Hall received £110 for all hall hire and receipts included £250 from THC for this year's grass cutting and £103.70 cash fares into ring-fenced fund for the FCB (wee bus).

The year ended with balance of £5046.91 with £3975.54 (ring-fenced funds are: £500, Mulbuie Hall; £321.37, FCB; £250, Grass Cutting). Karen will contact Mulbuie Hall committee to ask them to draw down the £500 urgently or lose the money.

PLANNING /LICENSING MATTERS (only new information included):

Objections Lodged:

20/02232/FUL: Erection of two houses, 46m SW Drummondreach Steading, Alcaig (not brownfield). A modification to reduce to one house has been made to the application but with no reduction to the boundaries of the development site. FCC has been given consultee status and agreed to reconfirm its objection on exactly the same bases as the original application. Iain has reconfirmed objection.

21/04324/PIP: New House, 165m S of Foxlea House, Highfield Park (Hinterland, flooding, contamination). FRMT (Flood Risk Management Team) has objected. Drainage plans submitted (October) and FRMT 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 and has now been GRANTED. Iain wrote to Dafydd Jones asking why the decision had been changed. Iain reported that Dafydd Jones had overruled the Planning Officer's decision on the basis that the addition of the joining roof structure was a minor change of an agricultural building and did not require PP.

23/00446/PIP: Residential Development, access, landscaping, drainage and associated works, land At Mount Eagle, Culbokie (i.e. Mount Eagle estate in Culbokie): Objection submitted.

Comments lodged:

21/05575/PIP: House, 55m SE of 7 Raven Croft, Culbokie: GRANTED

21/05576/PIP: House, east of Schoolcroft, Culbokie: GRANTED

21/05577/PIP: House, east of Schoolcroft, Culbokie: GRANTED

Iain noted in relation to the three PIPs granted above, the financial contribution to the Ferintosh Wee Bus, required as a Condition by THC Transport team, had not been included in the PIP grant. THC has replied saying they can find no mechanism to implement the Transport Team's recommendation. Iain reported that the process for assigning planning gain is being looked into with the view that at least a portion should be made available to the local community to which the planning has been approved.

Alleged Breaches of Conditions:

20/01531/FUL: Plot 1, 45m SE of Mulbuie Hall: No 1.2m pathway. Reply to FCC letter had been received from THC stating that indeed the pathway should have been constructed and THC will pursue.

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*). Owner to apply for planning.

New Applications:

23/01270/FUL: Replace front porch installation of windows and new roof, erection of rear extension, Kite View, Culbokie, Dingwall, IV7 8JH: No objections.

23/01325/FUL: Extension to dwellinghouse, 6 Dingwall Place, Culbokie, Dingwall, IV7 8JL.: No objections.

23/01451/PIP: Erection of house, Land 68M South Of Eight Acres, Smithfield, Culbokie: Register as consultee.

22/06187/PIP: Erection of house, land 35m N of Logie Farmhouse, Muir of Allangrange, Muir of Ord, IV6 7RB: WITHDRAWN

22/06188/PIP: Erection of house, land 30m SW of Logie Farmhouse, Muir of Allangrange, Muir of Ord, IV6 7RB: Comment lodged requesting THC implement Hinterland Policy.

Iain submitted a request to seek a meeting on site with Dafydd Jones to present the residents' concerns. Iain reported that he had a very good telephone conversation with Dafydd Jones and that he would be looking at this issue. He also reported that THC Planning department had been successfully recruiting new case officers and this was already evident in the new names showing up on applications.

ACTIVE PROJECTS (split into 'Report' and '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 'Discussion').

Community Services: Report: Together with Killearnan CC and Dingwall CC, FCC has requested maintenance for the cycle path from Tore to Dingwall. Discussion: nothing.

Speed: Report: Bruce submitted a report ahead of the meeting updating the monitoring of vehicle speeds coming into Culbokie village from the A9 direction. THC very helpfully conducted another speed monitoring exercise so that FCC could have updated data ahead of the expected installation this year of Culbokie's 20mph/Active Travel system. The data demonstrated similar speeds to three years ago which is a good sign but still considered too high with the hope that the new system would reduce speed further. Another speed monitoring exercise will take place after the new system is in place. Discussion: nothing.

Flooding: Report: Cllr Johnston was asked if she could help to ensure follow up at the next Ward Business Meeting. Discussion: No updates available from Iain Moncrieff as he is currently dealing with a major emergency situation of erosion/subsidence at Rosemarkie beach so other issues are currently put on hold as his time and resources are taken up with this.

Community Link Project: Report: The meeting of Dingwall Medical Group and Community Councils agreed to invite Community Links to the next meeting in order to explore improved co-operation. Discussion: nothing.

BICC: Report: nothing. Discussion: nothing.

Ferintosh Volunteers: Report: nothing. Discussion: nothing.

Pothole Hunters: Report: The Pothole Hunters have been busy carrying out their annual inspection of all the U/C classified roads in the FCC area. A map of the area highlighting the worst potholed areas is being prepared to be sent to THC for a review meeting in May with THC. Discussion: nothing.

Ferintosh Community Bus (FCB): Report: Daytime journeys increased even further in March and volunteer journeys increased back to over 30 journeys. Those included 13 journeys being taken by Fortrose Academy pupils having stayed on for After School Study. 2 journeys were taken for Saturday trips into Dingwall which were promoted simply to raise awareness that trips to Dingwall and surrounds are available in the evenings and weekends. New leaflets have now been delivered to all households with sincere thanks to the 30 volunteers who achieved this. Discussion: nothing.

Email list: Report: Up 4 to 792 (over 44% (est. 783) of voting residents). Discussion: nothing.

Primary Care Issues (from Dingwall Medical Group meeting): Report: Bruce attended a meeting of Community Council representatives organised by Dingwall Medical Group as the first of a quarterly series. Minutes have been received back from the meeting and Bruce (below) has identified his own highlights from what was a very constructive meeting that begins to develop something of a partnership. Actions from the meeting included the following: sent post codes and population of the FCC area for DMG to estimate the proportion of FCC residents covered by DMG; FCC and two neighbouring Community Councils collaborated to send in a request to THC to maintain the active travel route from Tore to Dingwall; FCC Agenda now included 'Primary Care Issues' as a standard Agenda item for residents to target any issues; Community Link project to be invited to the next meeting to discuss FCC's ideas for further development.

Highlights from the meeting:

- very constructive and engaging medical practice that currently is fully doctored-up, changing practice to provide a single doctor for patients with complex needs and, with their own pharmacy team, changing the system to improve the repeat prescribing system.
- higher level of phone consultations has endured after lockdown but didn't find video consultation helpful (but still available).
- not happy that vaccination has been taken out of GP's hands with now higher costs, lower uptake and higher travel costs.
- post flu and Strep spike now over and things settling down but workload issues still to be dealt with to reduce staff burnout.
- green health initiative to reduce environmental impact e.g. changing asthma medication (to reduce use of greenhouse gases).
- keen to keep Ross Memorial Hospital discussions going in order to achieve a fully functioning Community Hospital in the future.

Discussion: nothing.

REPORTS (from public bodies and local organisations):

Police Scotland: Received the monthly report with three incidents reported in the FCC area as follows: an assault in Culbokie; dog worrying livestock on a farm in Culbokie; vandalism in Ferintosh.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS (split into 'Report' and '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 'Discussion').

Organisations: Report: **Newsletters** from CCA/CCT/SCA/; **Bear Scotland:** informing FCC /residents about upcoming roadworks from Allangrange to Tore roundabout (out to email list); **THC/NHS:** fortnightly community resilience briefings; **HM Lord-Lieutenant, Ross & Cromarty:** readily accessible funds available for community events for the Coronation; also publicity about launching Coronation Champions Awards (for community volunteers); **CCT:** upcoming market; request for help at the Culbokie Green; **Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Port Consortium:** invitation to a community webinar; **Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association:** providing background to funding sources for war memorial maintenance; **Nairn Community Councils:** encouraging lobbying against the vaccination policy; **Royal British Legion Industries:** support for Coronation parties; **SG, Safer Communities Division:** invitation to Fireworks Workshop for Community Councils; **SSEN:** extension of consultation about power lines until 14 April; **BICC:** next meeting is on 19/04 (Alison attending); **THC: Local Transport Strategy;** consultation open until 29/05 (sent out to email list); **NHS:** Spring into Digital: event on 27/04 for all residents on how better to use technology to help wellbeing ; **BEAR Scotland:** Cromarty Bridge resurfacing works (sent out to email); **University of Kent:** attitude towards species re-introduction, consultation; **THC:** Development Plans newsletter and a short survey on THC's approach to participation in development planning; **BIP:** online survey for Black Isle Place Plan. Discussion: nothing.

Residents: Report: copied into THC request to deal **with serious pothole** on Greenleonachs; stopped using the **morning 22 bus service** because of its unreliability; raise awareness **of theft of farm equipment** in Munloch; generous **compliments** to FCC; raising awareness of **very different prices between oil suppliers**; asking **about progress on tree felling** (FLS contacted, responded and passed on to resident); raising awareness of **local thefts of catalytic converters**; raising awareness of a HITRANS consultation for its **Regional Transport Strategy**; lobbying for **extra bus services** using Ardersier as a model; no progress on plans for **extra car parking** beside the shop. Discussion: nothing.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENT: Resident apologised for not taking photograph of litter at Corntown Junction as area had already been litter picked by FCC Volunteers by the time he got there. They will keep an eye on the area and report back.

AOCB: Becky led a discussion about the future of Noticeboard which resulted in agreement from those present that Becky would pull together a leaflet that will be printed and hand delivered to all residences within the Ferintosh CC Area. The aim of the leaflet is to both alert residents to a change in format and to ascertain how many are not able to receive an electronic copy. This will then enable Becky to produce a shorter but more frequent Noticeboard. Becky is going to look locally for an assistant editor to help her out when she needs it. Discussion on the printing of hard copies of future Noticeboards agreed that this would depend on the outcome of the response to the leaflet but that the existing printer in the church hall was not a realistic option.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING (incl. AGM): Wednesday 10 May, 7.15pm at Culbokie Primary School

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>