

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2017 IN FERINTOSH HALL

MEMBERS: Evelyn Campbell, Sally Falconer, Margaret Kinsman, Colin Lawrence (Treasurer), Iain McCallum (Vice Chair), Roslind MacNaughton, Bruce Morrison (Chair /Secretary)

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Isobel McCallum, 7 residents

APOLOGIES: PC Mike Howitt, 7 residents

POLICE MATTERS: PC Mike Howitt reported that no speed checks had been carried out over the School holiday period but will now resume. A resident raised the need for more speed checks outside Ferintosh School. Vandalism to FCC's noticeboard at the Culbokie Shop was reported and FCC agreed to have it repaired.

MINUTES: November's minutes were approved (proposed by Ros, seconded by Sally).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

MATTERS ARISING: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): **Planning Aid Scotland** – it has been clarified that there is no new statutory role in place for community councils; **Port of Cromarty Firth** – Evelyn reported back that the consultation meeting laid out its defence of its plans to go ahead with its ship-to-ship oil transfer proposals in order to boost economic activity and in the absence of a shore-based facility. Local community councils present were in favour and those across the water were against. Following a query about timescales, Cllr McCallum explained that a modified licence application was coming forward soon, restarting the consultation process; **Highland Council's Redesign Board** – has received feedback from community consultation around four themes to assist community action (the right supports in place e.g. Community Gateway, access to expertise, small grants; need for more willing /able /caring residents and to be supported to make a difference; more supportive behaviours from public and community bodies; shift the balance of power towards Community Partnerships). The redesign activity, is part of a wider programme, entitled 'Democracy... Changes in Highland', as a briefing note from Margaret Davidson, Leader of Highland Council explained. The briefing note particularly focused on the changes that are coming about in our democratic system to assist greater community involvement. She identified four main work streams that are underway:

1. Localism - the creation of the new Area Committees (ours is Ross and Cromarty) devolving decision making.
2. Community Empowerment Act - encouraging community ownership and participation.
3. Commission on Highland Democracy - has been open for a while on <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2YZ788R> and still available for views, with a meeting with Community Councils coming up soon.
4. Redesign of the Council - a major review and consultation with communities is underway to re-think the way THC operates and the latest information is available at http://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3790/highland_council

WRITTEN FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin explained a small number of transactions and the completed project of ensuring that ring-fenced funds had been spent. Colin was thanked for completing that

project. FCC is now on target to have about £4800 available for community support. FCC has applied to the Ward Discretionary Fund for support to buy a new Electronic Speed Sign but the issue of ongoing ownership needs to be established. **Action: Colin**

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS: Stagecoach consultation on changes to bus timetables: apology was received for the incorrect omission of vital services to Culbokie. FCC has received confirmation of existing services with the added bonus that the bus from Inverness in the evening that was 'divert request' to Culbokie will always come through Culbokie i.e request not required; **Education Governance** meeting: badly run; workshop dominated by teaching profession wanting more money, not responsibility, no feedback; **Highland Third Sector Interface AGM**: Community partnerships will be focused on areas of deprivation; **Landscape Sensitivity consultation**: used residents' feedback to put in the FCC view to protect our landscape; **Polling station consultation**: residents were consulted on the proposal to use local schools as polling stations in order to reduce cost. The arguments for and against were presented with residents equally divided. FCC decided to support the proposal provided that there were genuine cost savings. A comment will also be submitted that the consultation had the appearance of tokenism but Cllr McCallum confirmed that no decision had yet been taken; **Culbokie School** looking for support from residents with an engineering background. If you are interested in helping, please register with Primary Engineer Programmes Ltd, at engineers@primaryengineer.com; **Cromarty Bridge** – a new licence is being requested to conduct Phase 2 improvements from 1 April to 30 November.

MAIN DISCUSSION: SEEKING A NEW CHAIR OF FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FCC agreed at a previous meeting to a final effort to publicise the need for a Chair before the May AGM. A proposed text for a front page article in Noticeboard had been previously circulated and was agreed at this meeting. A draft press release is now to be created for approval by FCC and issued to local media next week. **Action: Bruce**

A proposal to run the FCC without a Chair if no one came forward was deferred to the next meeting together with any other proposals.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

LEAD PROJECT - SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO NEED SUPPORT

1. FERINTOSH BUS LINK SERVICE. Promotion in the local media is being planned.
2. OTHER ACTIVITIES. **NHS Communities meeting** was attended by Ros and Bruce. Many community support groups were present and provided views to the NHS on how they should be involved and linked together. The area of weakness seemed to be the linkage of community support to patients and their carers and the Support Group may seek further discussions on that. However, a resident felt that mainstream care was also an issue. The **Support** group will meet again tomorrow.

Crask Junction: THC has put in a planning application to re-route the junction on to the B9169. The issue of finding the finances for the scheme remains. Salt bin has now been positioned at the junction. One of the two planning applications for development has been withdrawn.

Speed Issues Outstanding: Culbokie Speedwatch team has brought forward a proposal to change its position to the opposite end of Culbokie with Police Scotland approval for the position. FCC supported this change (proposed by Evelyn; seconded by Sally).

Broadband: Colin and Bruce met Kate Forbes MSP and requested information on the plan for rollout in the FCC area; details of the funding from Scottish Government and how it compares with the estimated needed finance; explanation of the 66% achieved rollout against an 84% target.

Service Requests Outstanding: Pedestrian crossing at A835/B9163 junction- no feedback but resident felt that Police Scotland would not support this idea; **Flood damage** to house -no feedback; **Inadequate signage around Mulbuie School**- no feedback; **Flooding down** road opposite shop -no feedback.

Bus Stop at Duncanston: Contact Bear Scotland.

Action: Sally

Culbokie Gathering: All the main organisations in Culbokie to meet this week. Attempt to liaise with Resolis School and its Country Fair has not yet led to useful discussions.

Safer Routes to Schools: The plan that has been agreed by Culbokie Primary School was discussed in advance of public /neighbour consultation. A query is to be raised about the proposed cycle lanes possibly providing a false sense of security to child cyclists.

Representative and Appointed Positions:

Black Isle Community Councils – Meeting in February.

Culbokie Community Trust – Discussions continue about the Glascairn site

Findon Hall – accounts approved.

LEADER: Looking for more projects to fund.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Update on Objections lodged:

Beechfield, 2 Houses (24 objections; to be considered by NPAC); New house, NW of Feorvan (to be considered by NPAC); Eight Acres – Developer has gone to appeal; the Reporter has conducted a site visit.

Update on Comments lodged: New House, E of Dunionn, Bog of Findon (concern about Crask junction; decision awaited).

New Applications: None. New online system for community councils to access new applications is not working and notification seems to have ceased. To be investigated. **Action: Cllr McCallum, Iain**

AOCB: email access is now possible for all community councillors.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: A resident raised concern about vehicle speeds on the old Leanaig road, a designated cycle way. The poor visibility of the bollards at the Corntown junction with the A835 was raised. Increasing numbers of potholes are being observed and residents are encouraged to report potholes through the THC website. Poor street lighting in Corntown was raised and the appropriate contact name would be provided.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 20 February, 7pm, Culbokie Primary School

Contact details for comments; to join the email list; to receive minutes electronically:

Bruce Morrison 01349 877127; <http://ferintoshcc.co.uk>; <http://fb.me/Ferintosh>