

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 MAY 2017 IN CULBOKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL (after the AGM)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Gordon Adam, Cllr Craig Fraser, PC Mike Howitt, 7 residents

APOLOGIES: None

POLICE MATTERS: PC Mike Howitt reported that four speed checks had been carried out in Easter Kinkell (1 fixed penalty, 5 warnings), one in Mulbuie (no issues) and one on the A9 (no issues) over the past month. One car was stopped on the A9 at 3am with a driver over the limit and passengers in possession of drugs but none had a local connection. A man acting suspiciously outside a yoga class was reported but no evidence of criminal activity. There was a reiteration of the advice to be wary of cold callers and their interest in our homes. We were advised never to allow access to our houses under any circumstances and ensure proper commercial paperwork if they are offering a service.

MINUTES: April's minutes were approved (proposed by Sally, seconded by Margaret) and duly adopted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

MATTERS ARISING: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): Inspector Ogilvie checked the **visibility of the 30mph signs** into Culbokie from the A9 and found no issues; Update on **the ship-to-ship oil transfer** situation was fully discussed with the conclusion that the earliest likely sight of a new licence application would be October with 42 days to respond thereafter.

FUTURE DIRECTION OF FCC: Colin initiated this discussion with an objective to spread much wider the work load around a stronger team. An additional objective would be to improve succession planning starting with broader Office Bearer experience which will now come about with the new incumbents. Colin also noted the well-balanced geographic spread with 2 community councillors living SW of the A835, 2 SW of the A9 and 4 in the most populated Culbokie area.

Bearing all that in mind, Colin went through a list of possible responsibilities for topics and projects to which the FCC team largely agreed. It was agreed to continue the 'Support' project but not as a 'lead' project. More formally, for appointees to outside bodies, the following was agreed: Culbokie Community Trust (Bruce); Findon Hall (Becky or Colin); LEADER Panel (Iain, Colin); Black Isle Community Councils (Colin, Bruce). Colin also suggested that FCC should reach out to collaborate more with the neighbouring Dingwall and Seaforth Ward.

WRITTEN FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin presented the accounts on Margaret's behalf (handover to be completed over the next two weeks) explaining that FCC avoided any transactions last month in case of possible dissolution.

Colin suggested we revisit outstanding commitments at this new juncture. With no update on the £400 commitment to moving the defibrillator, a progress report would be requested. The £500 commitment towards a kitchen for Findon Hall was confirmed and a similar amount was committed towards a heating project for Ferintosh Hall. A new request from CCT for £70 to complete a £800 package to run an

Orienteering taster event, primarily for school children was approved (proposed by Ros, seconded by Becky) along with a request to include the children from all three schools in the FCC area.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS: Rangers' events for 2017 were received from THC and circulated; **Improved Parking in Scotland** consultation was received from Scottish Government: FCC agreed that this was not sufficiently relevant to respond; **HM Fire Service Inspectorate** consultation about level of community linkages: discussion was deferred until the next meeting; **THC** has informed us of a new annual charge of £30 to be imposed for the **brown bin collection; Concessionary rail travel for those 60 and over** is being withdrawn by THC from 21 May.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

'Support' project: Meeting needed to re-start this project.

Action: Ros

Crask Junction: THC has clarified that a paper containing a list of suggested capital projects will be put in front of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee in August. Although it is likely that the Crask project will appear in the Minor Roads section, the new Members for the Black Isle Ward are being informed of this project and being asked to understand how our views can be fed into the decision-making process. Cllr Fraser has already visited the junction, agreed his support and circulated a paper within THC. Cllr Adam agreed to visit the junction in early June to form a view.

Action: Bruce

Buses: Evelyn provided the history of the tendering process that has led to Culbokie losing its commuter bus services and has led to the formation of the Culbokie Action Group and an extremely well attended public meeting. A full discussion took place which seemed to conclude that the loss of the services was an unintended outcome of a tendering process that was poorly planned with an inadequate impact assessment. Since the outcome has become clear, the response by THC has been wholly inadequate and both Cllrs Adam and Fraser agreed to liaise with the Culbokie Action Group and FCC in making further representations to recover the situation. The case to be made is that the solution that has been put in place with better linkage between the D&E services and the A9 services is not acceptable on grounds of safety, wellbeing and cost. The extra annual cost is an extraordinary £900 per commuter. Cllr Fraser will be mentioning to the Chief Executive on Friday the failure of THC Officers to respond and advises that a general argument of inadequate infrastructure for a growing village should also be used.

Action: Evelyn

Culbokie Speedwatch – No update.

Action: Bruce

Broadband: Colin has responded to Kate Forbes' (MSP) request for resident information about poor broadband. About 50 residents responded and Colin has compiled a list of issues that BT will now be asked to investigate and offer a timetable for resolution. Edward Mountain MSP has been approached to follow up his offer to invite a BT representative to an FCC meeting.

Meanwhile the service offered by AB Internet has been offline for 13 days and again with the help of Kate Forbes' office, BT has accepted responsibility but has missed the deadline for reinstating the service. An extension to the service offered by Cromarty Firth Wireless Networks is now available for residents in the SW end of the FCC area and will be added to the list of commercial offerings.

Service Requests Outstanding: Actions to be carried out include **speed monitoring** on the old Leanaig road, **white lining on B9169** (partly completed west of the Leanaig junction), most **severe potholes** to be filled and two signs outside **Mulbuie School** to be removed. The remaining outstanding issues include **Pedestrian crossing** at A835/B9163 junction, **Flooding down** road opposite shop, **Passing places** and

broken edges on Mount Eagle road, **40 mph outside Mulbuie School, Bus Stop** markings on A9. Request for potholes to be filled in in the **Culbokie recycling area** has been added. Cllr Fraser recommended contacting Laura McAllister as well as Iain Moncrieff for progress. **Action: Becky**

'Cool'bokie, Saturday 16 September: No update.

Action: Bruce

Safer Routes to Schools: No update.

Action: Bruce

Representative and Appointed Positions: All were discussed to change or confirm appointments.

Black Isle Community Councils – Representatives will be Colin and Bruce.

Culbokie Community Trust – Bruce will remain as the FCC appointee.

LEADER – Iain will remain as the FCC appointee.

Findon Hall – Becky to be proposed to Findon Hall as FCC's new appointee with Colin also willing.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Update on Objections lodged:

Beechfield, 2 Houses (Flood specialists in THC have lodged concerns; to be considered by NPAC); Self storage units, **Corntown Steadings**.

New Applications:

17/01561/FUL: Holiday let extension alteration, SE of The Paddocks, Greenleonachs: No comment

17/01749/FUL: Install dormer windows, Claymore Cottage, Brae Dunvournie: No comment

17/01855/FUL: 17/01855/FUL: Kitchen extension, 14 Rowan Drive, Culbokie: No comment

AOCB: The Community Empowerment Act is driving more effort to involve communities in the direction and decisions of public services. Bruce attended a community consultation run for the Community Planning Partnership, the overall strategic body. A more formal consultation will come out in the summer.

Iain attended the Mid Ross Community Partnership; a body formed as a result of the Community Empowerment Act to encourage more joined up thinking and action amongst all the service organisations and to achieve greater community involvement. The immediate task is to create a Locality Plan which is focused on the more urban areas with the greatest levels of deprivation. **Action: Iain**

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 19 June, 7pm, Mulbuie Hall

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

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