

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 JUNE 2017 IN MULBUIE HALL

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 Craig Fraser, PC Mike Howitt, 10 residents

APOLOGIES: Cllr Gordon Adam, 3 residents

POLICE MATTERS: PC Mike Howitt reported two speed checks at Mulbuie School with one driver reported to the Procurator Fiscal for 42mph in a 20mph zone. A person was arrested from a Culbokie address for threatening and abusive behaviour and reported to the PF. A driver, involved in a collision, was charged with driving without a licence and valid insurance. A speed check was also carried out at Ferintosh School with one driver warned. In response to a question, Mike was not aware of any extra local effort from the 'prevent' initiative.

MINUTES: May's minutes were approved (proposed by Ros, seconded by Becky) and duly adopted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Bruce declared a conflict of interest (as a CCT Director) in the CCT request for FCC to take a role in looking strategically at playpark provision and would take no part in the discussion.

MATTERS ARISING: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): **Findon Hall** explained the need for the Chair of FCC to be the appointee to their Trustees and so Colin would take on that position.

WRITTEN FINANCIAL REPORT: Margaret has lodged the necessary paperwork with the Bank of Scotland to register her as Treasurer and a cheque signatory. No cash movements to report but one cheque to Spanglefish needs to be raised.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS: Colin is now circulating all the detailed correspondence to the FCC before the meeting but is aware that residents are not aware of what may be discussed in advance. Colin suggested that a small number of specific topics be discussed at each meeting with advance publicity. **HM Fire Service Inspectorate for Scotland Consultation:** Agreed to submit comments including attaching FCC's recent response to the Local Fire Plan Survey. FCC was supportive of its excellent service and wanted to encourage extra community engagement; **20 mph Members Bill Consultation:** This will be discussed at the July meeting; **Scottish Resilient Communities Conference:** 27 October, Cambuslang. FCC is interested but not able to travel to take part; **Site at Upper Braefindon:** being used for storage of builders' materials. FCC action of a year ago stimulated enforcement action which is now the subject of litigation and therefore THC will not provide any comment; **Cromarty Bridge Overnight Resurfacing** has now been completed but FCC will send comment back that the expansion joints are causing vibration and unevenness; **Scottish Community Development Centre** is seeking interested community councillors for an initial research meeting about strengthening the role of Community Councils. Colin's name has been put forward; **Edward Mountain MSP** sent a letter inviting community councils for initial meetings. Colin /Becky will take up the offer; **Black Isle Swimming Pool:** April meeting re-established a Steering Group to look at community structures to take this project forward. The group is appealing for residents to join the group; **Inclusion Scotland:** As part of a Highland

Project to increase the involvement of disabled people in local decision making, a survey has been sent for disabled people, their organisations and community councillors. FCC looked at the survey and it seemed designed to be used best by organisations representing disabled people; **Fireworks Displays:** There is a new system of licensing (Public Entertainment) now in place; **Crossroads**, a local care company, is looking for carers in the Dingwall area; **Enterprising Village Halls:** Training day available in Contin on 28 June to help all those running village halls. This was circulated to all three of our halls and at least one has taken up the offer; **Highland Outcome Improvement Plan:** Received an interim feedback report on workshops with a full consultation set to take place over the summer; **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 A9), 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, **Potholes** to be filled in the **Culbokie recycling area**. New issue arising included a **faulty 20mph** sign before Mulbuie School. FCC agreed to re-visit the concern about the **railings at the junction** beside Mulbuie Hall (Bruce /Becky); **Volunteer drivers** are being sought for the community car schemes and should contact Jamie McJimpsey on 01349 862431 / 07443 111008; **CCT** requested FCC's help to take a holistic look at **playpark provision**, in particular, in Culbokie. Following an exchange of thoughts, FCC decided that it had neither the expertise nor the resources to tackle such a complex issue; FCC has been made aware by CCT of a desire by a national organisation to create a walking trail through to **John O'Groats** passing through FCC territory at Culbokie Woods. Becky agreed to represent FCC at any meeting organised by CCT to hear more about the project; The **defibrillator in Culbokie** has now been moved from Findon Hall into the Phone Box nearer the centre of the village. Dr James Hayward has also let FCC know that his White Isuzu Pickup houses a defibrillator for his use, 24/7. His defibrillator would also be available therefore when he is at home in Sandyford, beside the Culbokie Inn.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

Buses: Evelyn explained the history that led to the removal of the commuter buses for Culbokie residents. Evelyn also explained all the actions that had taken place to try to recover the service without any success so far. Cllr Craig Fraser offered to ask THC for a full review of all the actions taken setting up the procurement process that led to this result. Evelyn has also submitted a Freedom of Information request to THC to list all the subsidised services in its area and the reasoning behind these decisions. It was agreed that all this information should be collated to see if a case for unfair treatment of Culbokie can be determined for a formal approach to THC.

Broadband: Colin expressed an opinion that, as with the buses, the absence of broadband was another assault on services for those who most need them. Kate Forbes MSP, using collated evidence supplied by FCC from about 60 residents with poor service, obtained a response from BT. In summary, BT could find no specific technical problems with the service but that there was no plan detailed to upgrade the broadband service in the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, in discussions with Edward Mountain MSP, there is the possibility of a BT representative becoming available for a meeting in the FCC area. Whilst FCC cannot promote the interests of one commercial supplier over another, FCC would like to update its full list of all providers and FCC would like to hear from any resident willing to do this specific piece of work.

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

Action: Ros

Crask Junction: Cllrs Gordon Adam and Jennifer Barclay both visited the junction, talked with residents and reinforced their commitment to the planned re-routing of the junction. There are two possible funding sources. The first is from the budget of Iain Moncrieff (Area Manager) who is supportive of this project. Iain will be looking for opportunities throughout the year to allocate the necessary funding but the funds required are a big proportion of his budget. The second source is for the project to be formally listed on to the Capital Plan that may be put to the relevant committee in August for approval. Our Councillors have agreed to lobby and ensure that this project is included in the Capital Plan.

Culbokie Speedwatch – No update

COOLbokie Gathering, Saturday 16 September: No update

Safer Routes to Schools: No update

Port of Cromarty Firth: No further application will be coming forward before the Autumn.

FCC Website: Is now up and running at <http://ferintoshcc.co.uk>. In conjunction with the Facebook page for Noticeboard, Becky is going to look at ways of generating higher usage levels of these channels of communication.

Update from Appointees (i.e. LEADER, BICCS, Findon Hall, CCT): None

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** (Granted with 8 fewer units and restricted hours).

New Applications:

17/01883/FUL: House and Garage, S of Croft House, Brae of Kinkell, Amendment to 16/03161/FUL: No comment

AOCB: Colin raised the idea of FCC holding its own elections to strengthen its current position. Specifically, FCC is currently running with the minimum number of elected members and would have to cease operating the moment that the number was reduced by one. Colin will explore the implications of running its own elections enabling the three current co-opted members to stand for election.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: A resident generously offered his thanks to Bruce for his work as Chair and the FCC for finding a way to continue its excellent work.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 17 July, 7pm, Ferintosh 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>