

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2017 IN CULBOKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sgt Mel Fowler, Cllr Craig Fraser, Cllr Jennifer Barclay, David Summers and 10 residents

**APOLOGIES:** Bruce Morrison (Secretary), PC Mike Howitt, Cllr Gordon Adam and 5 residents

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**‘PREVENT’ COUNTER-TERRORISM PROGRAMME – PRESENTED BY SGT. MEL FOWLER (POLICE SCOTLAND):**

Sgt Mel Fowler delivered a very informative and quite detailed overview of the “PREVENT ‘ Programme. The programme responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism, aspects of extremism and threats we face from those who promote these views. It provides practical help to prevent people from being radicalised and drawn into terrorism and it works within the wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation.

The main message from Prevent is that Communities Defeat Terrorism, and that terrorism isn’t just ISIS. It is any form of extremism, be it right wing / left wing / religious viewpoints that someone is prepared to commit a terrorist atrocity for.

Within our community, the Police are asking us to listen to our ‘gut feeling’. If something doesn’t feel right or sound right, then pass the information on to an authority which can follow it up. There are points of contact within NHS, Highland Council’s Education Dept or you can call the Police on 101.

If you would prefer not to speak to the Police, Community Councillor Evelyn Campbell is a Prevent Trainer and she is happy to be contacted by anyone with any concerns.

Sgt Fowler closed his talk by making the point that newspaper headlines can be manipulative and misleading and are often designed to create fear. Don’t take things at face value and check the facts. It’s important that people think for themselves.

**BUSES:** David Summers, Transport Development Officer, Highland Council, attended this Community Council meeting to respond to requests for information and an update on the ongoing situation with the lack of peak time provision of bus services between Culbokie and Inverness.

Evelyn began by outlining the situation to date and put forward the following points:

- 1) Once THC found out that Culbokie would no longer have a lifeline service this information was not passed back to the committee for further consideration.
- 2) A FOI request for a list of all subsidised services shows that Culbokie is not being treated equally to other areas.
- 3) The recent HiTrans Regional Strategy states that rural communities must have safe and reliable lifeline services. Even with the interim provision from D and E Coaches, Culbokie does not have this.
- 4) Could the South Side of the Black Isle, which currently has half hourly buses to Inverness, have the Service reduced to allow the re introduction of the Culbokie Service?
- 5) Could we lose the two published services from Inverness in to the village at 7.20am and 7.25am and have them replaced at more crucial times?
- 6) Mr. Summers had advised Evelyn that a paper would go to the Places Committee to apprise them of the situation and consider allocation of a new service or a community option. This did not happen.

- 7) A community transport option has been explored, without consultation with the community. It is believed this would not start until January and would only provide a service to A9 similar to the one currently provided by D and E. People will still have to stand on the edge of the slip road to the A9 with no pavement, lighting or shelter. An already dangerous situation that is set to increase as we head in to the shorter days.

Evelyn, as a Community Councillor representing residents, feels that Highland Council need to accept responsibility for not providing committee with accurate information and need to resolve the situation by providing a safe and equitable service to the people of Culbokie. Following a conversation with Kate Forbes MSP at her recent surgery in Culbokie, she is happy to give us her support.

Mr. Summers was invited to respond to the above points, and explain what he and his dept. have put in to place to resolve matters.

- 1) The information that Culbokie would no longer have a lifeline service was not passed back to committee as no further committee meetings took place prior to the change in timetable.
- 2) Losing the two published services at 7.20am and 7.25am would not save a penny as they are already part of the cost of the contract. If these buses don't appear in the timetable then grant funding would be withdrawn.
- 3) The hourly service on the South Side of the Black Isle is a commercial service, not a subsidised service.
- 4) The re-introduction of half hourly buses on the South Side of the Black Isle is as a result of developer funding.
- 5) If a reduction in the middle of the day, or the loss of the Saturday service were a possibility, then it may be possible to re introduce peak hour buses.
- 6) Highland Council have asked Stagecoach for a quote to reinstate the service and a price for providing a separate bus, but no decisions can be made on these until committee meet.
- 7) Discussions with Community Car scheme have taken place, with the suggestion that Highland Council would provide them with a bus that would take people to and from Inverness. There is the possibility of a paid driver, or a definite pool of volunteers to run the bus so that residents would not be left high and dry if a volunteer driver called in sick or had to take time off.

With the Places Committee not meeting again until 8/11/17 and even allowing for the possibility of options being discussed at the Area Meeting on 25/10/17 this did not answer what Highland Council intended to do now.

Cllr Barclay raised the possibility of an emergency meeting being held, but Mr. Summers felt this was highly unlikely to happen. Highland Council are committed to providing a bus shelter, but require agreement from BEAR Scotland.

Colin suggested that the situation could be presented at the weekly meetings held by Margaret Davidson, the Leader of Highland Council.

In conclusion, Mr. Summers agreed to report to William Gilfillan and will email Evelyn at the end of the week with the results of that meeting.

Mr. Summers agreed to take a trip on the bus, to gain first hand experience of how hazardous and stressful this is. Kate Forbes MSP has already agreed to take a trip. Evelyn to organise a date and invite William Gilfillan, Tracy Urray and our 3 Highland Councillors to join them on the trip. **Action: Evelyn**

**MINUTES:** July's minutes were approved (proposed by Sally, seconded by Ros) and duly adopted.

**MATTERS ARISING:** (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): A letter had been sent in support of the John O'Groats Trail. A response had been submitted opposing the proposals contained in the 20mph Member Bill. A response to HiTrans Regional Transport Strategy had been submitted congratulating them on their strategy but pointing out much of it was unlikely to happen. Colin reported that he is working on arrangements for an interim election.

**POLICE MATTERS:** PC Mike Howitt submitted a written report that two speed checks were carried out in Culbokie in the early morning. One person was charged with speeding in the 30mph limit of Culbokie at 7.37am on 09/08/17. On 16/08/17 between 7.40am and 8.10am two drivers were advised/educated about their speed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Margaret reported that cheques have been issued and receipted. A letter had been received from the bank informing of changes to bank account signatories. Colin asked if monies for the relocation of the defibrillator had been paid out. Margaret to report back with final cost for the relocation. **Action: Margaret**

**CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:**

**Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust** AGM /Conference on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September – no FCC action;

**Cycling UK** help to set up Community Cycle Clubs can be contacted at [www.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org);

**Cromarty Bridge** works have begun and will continue for the next 6 months;

**Highland Military Tattoo** 8 – 10<sup>th</sup> September at Fort George;

**Link to Highland Council claim form for motorists to use if their vehicle has been damaged by road defects** – [www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads\\_and\\_pavements/96/roadside\\_problems](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/roadside_problems)

**A9 Kessock Bridge – Cable Stay Painting** BEAR Scotland, on behalf of Transport Scotland, is proposing to carry out essential maintenance on the A9 Kessock Bridge Cable Stays. This will last 7 weeks. One footpath to be closed;

**Highland Outcome Improvement Plan** – FCC to submit response. **Action: Colin;**

**Cromarty Firth Port Authority** – nominee for Stakeholder Panel to interview and make recommendations on appointment to the Board. 5 year appt. **Action: Evelyn;**

**Scottish Patient Safety Programme for Mental Health and Carers Trust Scotland** event on 5<sup>th</sup> September – FCC to consider attending. **Action: Ros;**

**HTSI Adult Health and Wellbeing Forum** on 14<sup>th</sup> September – FCC to consider attending. **Action: Ros;**

**Connecting Carers' Review of 2016/17 & Implementation of the Carers Act 2018** event on 13<sup>th</sup> September – FCC to consider attending. **Action: Ros;**

**Consultation on the role of Scottish Health Council** - survey to be completed by 20/10 **Action: Ros / Evelyn;**

**Letter from Highlife Highland** – notification for re commencement of Culbokie Primary School After School Badminton Club and request for Parent Volunteers to help run the club.

**Service Requests Outstanding:** Becky and Bruce met with Iain Moncrieff and did a drive through of the FCC area, looking at the various outstanding requests.

- 1) White lining – partially completed. Surface dressing to take place next year, when white lining will then be completed.

- 2) Speed monitoring on the Old Leanaig road – council in process of purchasing a speed gun. Speed during commuting hours will be looked at.
- 3) Change of speed from 60 – 40mph outside Mulbuie School – Iain Moncrieff to follow up.
- 4) Sight lines at the Newmore junction and agreed that there is adequate visibility from the junction and that for the safety of the children who walk that path, they needed to stay.
- 5) Crossing the A835 at the Corntown Junction – Iain Moncrieff suggested putting an island in and is to follow up with BEAR, Becky to follow up with residents and Cllr Alistair MacKinnon.
- 6) Filter lane on A9 at the B9163 junction – Iain Moncrieff suggested putting in ghost islands. We need to put together a case detailing number of accidents at that junction, which he can present to BEAR. **Action Becky & Bruce**
- 7) Proposal to strip widen the laybys and broken edges on the road up to Mouteagle, to be included in 2018 programme.
- 8) Pothole at entrance to recycling area and school croft to be done within next 3 – 4 weeks.
- 9) Faulty traffic lights at Culbokie School are now fixed.
- 10) Weed killing on pavement edges should be completed by end of this month.
- 11) Flooding down road opposite the shop in Culbokie – Iain Moncrieff to organise offlets to be dug on the road down in order to reduce flooding.
- 12) Iain to action bus stop demarcation. Knows this is long overdue.

Iain and Becky to meet again in 6 months time, along with Road Officer Laura MacAllister.

#### **ACTIVE PROJECTS:**

**Broadband:** Colin reported that he and Becky will be meeting with Edward Mountain and BT on 08/09 to discuss Broadband provision. Residents encouraged to notify us of any points they would like raised at the meeting.

**COOLBOKIE GATHERING, Saturday 16 September:** Becky reported that everything is going to plan. Programmes are being delivered. Risk Assessments have all been completed bar one for the Strip the Willow, which is still to be finalised. Encouraged residents to promote and attend.

**'Support' project:** Ros reported that she now has a list of charities for her and Evelyn to go through. A list of those relevant to the area will be put together and will go up on the FCC website.

**Crask Junction:** Colin reported that plans for the junction improvement, including the acquisition of the necessary land, should be completed by the end of August. He particularly wished the Community Council to minute its thanks to Highland Council's Officers, the Black Isle Highland Councillors, Bruce Morrison and the residents of Crask for their input to the project. The next key stage is likely to be the meeting of Highland Council on 14 December when its capital programme is likely to be discussed. The 2018/19 Road Structural Capital Works Budget of £5.85m is currently unallocated.

**LEADER:** Iain reported that the programme is advancing, with applications coming in from Rosemarkie Amenities, North Kessock Ticket Office and Culbokie Community Trust.

#### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** (only new information included):

Update on Objections lodged: None

New Applications: 17/02846/FUL: Stable block, lighting towers etc, 160mSE of 4, Corntown – Retrospective application. 1 objection from neighbour. No comment from FCC

17/03599/PIP: New House 90m SW of Feoran, Culbokie. FCC are registered as Consultee and Objector. Until, as & when the junction realignment is a fact, application should not be considered.

**AOCB:** None

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** A reminder from Evelyn that rehearsals for this years Culbokie Panto begin again 22/08/17.

Residents thanked Evelyn for all the work she has put in to the Bus campaign.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 18 September, 7pm, Mulbuie 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>