

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

MEMBERS: Evelyn Campbell, Sally Falconer, Colin Lawrence (Chair), Iain McCallum, Roslind MacNaughton, Bruce Morrison (Secretary),

ALSO PRESENT: 5 residents

APOLOGIES: Margaret Kinsman (Treasurer), Becky Richmond (Vice Chair), Cllr Craig Fraser, PC Mike Howitt, 8 residents

POLICE MATTERS: PC Mike Howitt reported that one speed check had been done in Culbokie in September between 8.10am and 8.30am with no offences detected.

MATTERS ARISING: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda):

Cllr Craig Fraser to contact Highland Council's Finance Director about changes to community councils' insurance arrangements.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin reported on behalf of Margaret that approx. £5K remains available to support community projects. In the month, £332 was paid to Findon Hall to move the defibrillator and £21 was paid for FCC's hire of Mulbuie Hall. No confirmation yet that the THC annual grant has arrived in the FCC account.

A proposal (by Bruce, seconded by Ros) to donate the remaining funds (just over £100) that are ring-fenced for the COOLbokie Gathering to Culbokie Primary School, which is running future events, was agreed and approved. Bruce reported on the review by the team of organisers for the Gathering. The net takings of £2286 have been used to help provide new playground equipment at Culbokie Primary School. Since the team felt that the new all-village format had been highly successful, despite the poor weather, Culbokie Primary School has agreed to take the lead from FCC and run the next event in two years' time whilst supporting a 2018 event at Resolis School.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:

Black Isle Community Councils: Colin reported that discussions have taken place to resurrect this informal group on a twice yearly basis and FCC agreed to pursue (**Action: Colin**); **Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council** held a meeting with Cllr Maxine Smith, the new Chair of the Northern Planning Applications Committee (Bruce attended) to explore issues in the planning system, particularly in relation to Fortrose's developments. Two main messages emerged of general relevance. The first is that local Members (who are not on NPAC) can be permitted to speak at NPAC on local applications. The second is that community councils need to be vigilant during the building phase of major developments;

Mid-Ross Community Partnership Meeting: Bruce to attend next meeting on 30/11; **Highland Public Health Network:** Bruce explained that a series of five weekly workshops (Living Better with a Long Term Condition) was starting on Tuesday 17 October, 2pm to 4.30pm, Dingwall Community Centre;

Preliminary Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places: To be reviewed and discussed at the November meeting (**Action: All**); **LILDEM Stakeholder Report:** Colin reported on this research study by Edinburgh Napier University on training and information needs for community councillors. Colin noted that, although THC has a useful on-line training programme, locally and nationally there are significant

gaps in knowledge that could be plugged with the help of local councils and libraries; **Community Network Meeting** – Ros will attend the November 17 meeting to discuss the Adults Plan; **Scottish Community Development Centre** guidance on participation requests under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act to be publicised in the next Noticeboard; **Parklands Care Home Development:** FCC has been made aware of the local lobbying for this development which is to be discussed at the North Planning Applications Committee meeting on 17th October; **Service Requests:** Pothole at recycling area has been filled; FCC will submit suggestions to the rolling programme of road re-surfacing (**Action: Colin /Becky**); residents have approached FCC for help to gain THC support to prevent flooding (**Action: Becky**).

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

Buses: Evelyn reported that THC has sent the bus shelter dimensions to BEAR for installation in a few months' time. THC closed applications for tendering a commuter bus service for Culbokie on 29 September. The results of the tender will be published towards the end of December. Evelyn met with Sheila Fletcher to hear more about the potential plans to extend the community car scheme. Evelyn has also written to the Traffic Commissioner to highlight the absence of a commuter service. Sustrans has just published a national report on travel poverty (where costs exceed 10% of income) and other disadvantages with Culbokie identified as a prime example and a future case study. Culbokie Action Group gained invaluable PR with exposure on both BBC and STV and were congratulated on the effectiveness of their campaign. Further lobbying to Cllr Gordon Adam would be carried out as well as to Kate Forbes and Rhoda Grant (**Action: Evelyn**). Citizens Advice Bureau is conducting a Scotland Your Bus, Your Say campaign into which FCC councillors will make their individual contributions (**Action: All**).

Broadband: Edward Mountain MSP, following a meeting with Colin and Becky, has written to Fergus Ewing MSP asking why local broadband suppliers are not being involved in consultations to provide universal coverage and a reply is awaited. Colin has also been informed that the newly laid fibre from Muir of Ord to Mulbuie is part of the infrastructure for the next phase of the roll-out.

Since the meeting with Edward Mountain and BT /Open Reach, Colin has explored, with Robert Thorburn (Open Reach) the possibility of Community Fibre Partnerships to provide high speed broadband to the smaller settlements e.g. Easter Kinkell, Mulbuie that could be part publicly funded (i.e. not commercial). It was agreed to test this idea in the first instance in Easter Kinkell with a meeting with residents (**Action: Colin**).

Support Project: Ros reported on the recent meeting that is looking at the possibility of extending the Meals on Wheels Service provided by Black Isle Cares (BIC) into the FCC area. Ros has been out with the Fortrose group and was impressed by the impact of this volunteer run service and gained valuable insight into how the service was provided. Ros has begun to approach four potential suppliers of meals with some encouraging signs of interest. BIC already provides meals for two residents in the FCC area and the initial objective would be to provide for those two residents.

Crask Junction: THC is deciding on capital allocations at its main Council meeting on 26 October. It is expected then that the Environmental, Development and Infrastructure Committee (EDI) on 8th November will be considering the detailed allocations (including Crask) of that capital budget. The local Members who sit on the EDI will be encouraged to support funding for the Crask junction. Members of the public can attend the EDI meeting.

LEADER: Iain explained that although an extra meeting had been held to consider an application, there remained unallocated funds for community projects that are able to spend the finances by the end of 2019.

Port of Cromarty Firth Authority: Evelyn attending meeting this month.

Safer Route to School: Discussions between the Parents Council (Culbokie Primary School) and THC continue to re-think the original plans. FCC will be duly consulted as and when new plans emerge.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Update on Objections lodged: New house SW of Feoran, Culbokie (FCC has received confirmation that this application is in abeyance until the outcome of the re-routing of the Crask junction becomes clear).

New Applications:

17/04489/FUL: Erect sun porch, 'Uplands', Newtown of Kinkell: No comment

17/04320/FUL: Erect shed /field store, Knole House, Highfield Park: No comment

AOCB: Undergrounding electricity cables: Bruce reported on a site meeting with SSE to explain to SSE that there is likely to be major development in the centre of Culbokie within the next two years providing a possible opportunity to underground the unsightly cables. SSE is going to scope the possible project cost in preparation; **Xmas Cards:** Ros to see if customised cards can be produced for FCC; **Expanding the email list:** All community councillors agreed to try to add one new email address per month over the next year with the objective to build FCC's list to over 50% of residents; **Volunteering activities and opportunities:** FCC could take on the role of publicising the current high levels of volunteering in the FCC area and promoting further volunteering opportunities in all parts of the community but has deferred the idea until other projects are completed.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 20 November, 7pm, 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>