

## FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2017 IN CULBOKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**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, 8 residents

**APOLOGIES:** PC Mike Howitt, Cllr Craig Fraser, 2 residents

**POLICE MATTERS:** PC Mike Howitt reported on Police Scotland's (PS) initiative to carry out speed checks at our three schools over two days last week. PS received positive comments from schools and residents alike for its initiative. Two drivers were charged with speeding (both at Culbokie) whilst eight drivers were provided with corrective advice. Elsewhere, one driver, in early November, was caught for drink driving on the A9 near Culbokie. Police Scotland would like to remind us all of the need to prepare our vehicles for winter driving. With PC Howitt moving on to a new role, PC Mark Chappell becomes FCC's new liaison officer.

**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 (**Action: Colin**).

**Black Isle Community Councils:** Fortrose and Rosemarkie CC has organised a meeting on Monday 11 December with invited guests to discuss the future possible roles for community councils. FCC will be represented by 2 CC's; **Mid Ross Community Partnership:** Bruce will attend on 30/11 with Becky as substitute; **Community Network Meeting:** Ros attended (see Support project); **Community Empowerment Act, Participation Requests:** guidance was communicated in Noticeboard; **Road Maintenance, Rolling Programme:** Becky, after consultation with FCC, has submitted the three priorities of Mulbuie to Newmore (part), Braefindon, Culbokie main street. The Mount Eagle road and the B9169 NE of Culbokie is already on next year's programme; **Flooding risk:** Becky reported that gully clearing had been completed but the sump specific to the house is still due to be emptied whilst THC continues to review and report back on other options; **FCC's email consultation list:** one address received from CC's and this will be moved to Active Projects.

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

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** For item 'CCT Stakeholder Group', Bruce declared an interest as a Trustee of CCT; Evelyn declared an interest as unable to be seen to be impartial, and Margaret as unable to represent FCC so all would take no part in the discussion.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Margaret confirmed that the THC grant had been received and that approx. £6K remains available to support community projects. In the month, all remaining cheques paid. Two cheques remain uncleared (for Forest activities and for the hire of Ferintosh Hall). Margaret confirmed that the annual £200 advance payment for grass cutting had not been received and agreed to investigate.

**CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS: Black Isle Community Car Scheme:** Publicity information received together with a review of performance; **Preliminary Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places:** Following consultation through the email list, the majority view was in support for the new arrangements. However, there were a significant number of views either requiring improvements

(better signage, improved disabled access, more desks) or a return to the existing arrangements (further to travel, unnecessary disruption to children and parents). A summary of all comments would now be submitted.

**Action: Colin**

**CCT Stakeholder Group:** (Bruce, Evelyn, Margaret took no active part). Culbokie Community Trust has invited FCC to become a stakeholder for the CCT's main project of developing the Glascairn site. The purpose of the Stakeholder Group is to bring in more expertise and activities to the community hub. There was a view that becoming a stakeholder would make it difficult for FCC to be seen to be impartial when eventually any planning application came before FCC. Support for the project could continue without a presence on the Stakeholder Group. There was a counter view that FCC has always supported this community project and any planning application could be determined on its planning merits. The absence of FCC on the Stakeholder Group could hinder CCT's efforts to find the funding. A proposal to become a Stakeholder was agreed with 3 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention. Becky agreed to become the Stakeholder representative.

**HTSI AGM:** Bruce will attend on 23/11 and will confirm FCC's agreement to new Governance plans that provide greater say to members; **SSE Highland Sustainable Development Fund:** FCC has been made aware of this £1M fund available to local groups for transformative community projects. The applications deadline is 31/01/18 to Marianne Townsley at marianne.townsley@sse.com and 01463 728069. The details are to be circulated to the email list and SSE to be approached about advice towards a community transport scheme.

**Action: Colin**

**Service Requests:** Becky reported that requests had been lodged to fix a faulty speed sign and three faulty street lights in Culbokie. There had been a request for more signage to warn drivers about horses on roads but previous requests had met with the view that extra signage for a problem affecting small numbers was not effective. Near miss information would be sought from horse owners and Noticeboard would be used to raise the profile of the issue to both drivers and horse owners.

#### **ACTIVE PROJECTS:**

**Buses:** Evelyn reported that a community transport solution has now been considered not viable and therefore it was now very unclear what further effective action could be taken. A bus shelter is to be installed on the A9 at Duncanston but is not likely until May 2018. A THC representative had been invited to attend tonight's meeting but declined and no replies had been received from approaches to William Gilfillan and Steve Barron. Technically, since the tendering process is ongoing (the result of which will be reported in mid-December), the commuter route could be reinstated but it is also clear that there is no funding available. A full discussion took place with residents with the main arguments for the reintroduction of the service expressed (e.g. provision of lifeline services should be subsidised; passengers at grave risk whilst transferring at Duncanston; no provision for disabled people; trivial extra cost for Stagecoach to re-route A9 services through the village).

It was agreed that lobbying activities to Stagecoach should be tried again through Edward Mountain MSP and other MSPs, Ann Gloag and directed to the highest levels in Stagecoach. Meanwhile, a grass roots community transport scheme would be investigated in order to quickly remove the hazard of commuting.

**Broadband:** Colin reported on good progress towards a meeting between Open Reach and Easter Kinkell residents in order to explore a possible pilot for small housing clusters. **The meeting will take place at 7:30 pm on Monday 4 December at Ferintosh Hall in Easter Kinkell.** Flyers will be distributed and the email list will be used to publicise the meeting.

**Support Project:** Ros attended a Community Network meeting at which Chris Arnold, NHS, outlined the development of a more co-ordinated approach for residents to access support and help. The first step has been the creation of a single point of contact on the number 01349 860460 (to be publicised through the email list). Information is also being assembled in libraries. In addition to NHS services, there is also a drive to strengthen social support in the community including intergenerational work and social prescribing. FCC will provide a three monthly update to residents.

**Crask Junction:** Bruce reported that the collective effort of the residents, FCC and the Ward Team had presented the case for Crask by email, informal lobbying and attendance to all members of the Environmental, Development and Infrastructure Committee (EDI) on 8 November. Colin Howell, Head of Infrastructure, has now agreed to a site visit and attendance at a Ward Business meeting where our Ward Members and FCC will continue to make the exceptional case for this work. The official position remains that end of year underspends will be carried forward in the capital programme and the earliest that the Crask project can be approved on to this programme is May 2018.

**LEADER:** Iain reported that this programme of funding remains short of applications.

**Port of Cromarty Firth Authority:** Evelyn reported from the October meeting that the Port had now received its licence for decommissioning but not yet for the nuclear element. The presence of the aircraft carrier had dramatically boosted the local economy. There was no word of a re-application for the ship to ship oil transfer proposal but FCC will be informed formally when that happens. H&S regulations upgrade following a previous fatality continue. Security had been tightened on rigs since some individuals successfully boarded a static rig.

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

Update on Objections lodged: New house SW of Feoran, Culbokie

New Applications: None

Other: Changes to the planned ditching at Eight Acres to be investigated.

**Action : Iain**

**AOCB:** Sally reported that a new sign had appeared falsely indicating Braes of Dunvornie. **Action: Becky**

Evelyn regretfully announced that she is resigning from FCC due to a conflict of interest with regard to the development at Glascairn, now that FCC is to become a stakeholder in CCT. Colin expressed his regret but also sincere thanks for everything that Evelyn had done for FCC and residents.

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** A resident explained that on delivering Noticeboard, the residents receiving Noticeboard online were pointing out the unnecessary delivery. Plans to try a pilot in one area separating the online receivers from others would be re-investigated.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 15 January, 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>;  
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