

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 JULY 2018 IN MULBUIE HALL

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

ALSO PRESENT: 4 residents

APOLOGIES: PC Mark Chappell, Cllr Gordon Adam, 2 residents

POLICE MATTERS: PC Chappell sent in a report. On the A9, near Culbokie, in the past month 3 drivers have received fixed penalty notices, 2 reported for speeding and 1 recommended for the Driver Improvement Scheme.

On the 22nd June at 8pm and 10pm, separate fire raising incidents were reported along Glascairn Road and these may be in addition to other unreported incidents. Residents are being asked for information and names of any individuals they think might be involved -phone 101 (incident no. NE4283/18).

MATTERS ARISING: (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): Thanks to Miles and Chris for the **Local Health Forum**; **Bus Timetables:** Timetables in the shop; **Plastic Clear Up:** Carried out but little was found and the team spread around other roads with similar low levels of waste; **Thanks** proposed by Colin to Becky for taking over the Chair at the time of difficult meetings.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Bruce declared an interest in Tulloch Homes pre-application consultation for the Glascairn site and would not take part in any discussion.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin reported on a positive balance of £6,318 of which £1,200 is committed to projects. The new reduced (58% reduction) annual grant of £527 (net of insurance) has been received from THC.

Findon Hall's kitchen project: FCC confirmed last month it's support (£500 is ring-fenced) for this project and has also provided written support for Findon Hall's approach to the Port of Cromarty Firth.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS: Community Partnership Meeting: Becky attended on 31 May with particular interest in the Fire Service speaker. Its work is moving towards climate-change related incidents (floods, heavy snow etc) and to prevention (fire safety checks etc). The service is moving towards the use of smaller, better equipped vehicles requiring fewer personnel and may also become first responders providing emergency medical response. 14 of these vehicles are to be allocated to Mid Ross. In their preventative work helping the elderly there was a suggestion that they could alert other authorities if something was amiss in the house but concerns were raised that they could lose the trust of the very people they are helping. That approach is to be reviewed with possible training to simply inform householders of other sources of support. Becky commented on a very low level of 'public' attendance and FCC could perhaps help with more publicity.

Local Democracy Reporter Visit: Susy Macaulay, P&J, contacted all Highlands' community councils to learn and record information on community activities and issues during the July recess from following Highland Council matters. FCC took up that offer and Susy spent many hours recording views of residents and ourselves about activities of CCT (woods), Findon Hall and Church of Scotland as well as the main current issues of poor transport, the dangers of the Crask junction, broadband etc and the challenges for a community council. Susy will be broadcasting a summary as a podcast later this year:

Winter Resilience: Becky apologised for completing the survey and preventing other submissions. Becky's submission provided views of priorities for snow clearing and gritting. The Winter Resilience Programme offers help (equipment, training, insurance) to residents who wish to undertake local snow /ice clearing and FCC will consider later in the year. Meanwhile, this programme used to be the source of funding to support our volunteers' annual grass cutting programme but no longer. Bruce to make the case to the Ward Manager (for the Ward Managers' meeting) for continued funding.

Consultation on Licensing Board Policy Statement: Bruce to re-circulate to FCC for views prior to a submission by 31 August.

50mph on the Black Isle: The Department of Transport has recently published a Road Safety Management Capacity review which amongst many other points comes out strongly in favour of lower national speed limits on rural roads. The review explains that safety judgments that used to be made according to accident statistics should nowadays be made by applying a 'Safe System' approach. It is very likely that the speeds allowed on our B roads i.e. 60mph, 'are in excess of the protective elements of road and roadsides'. It is two years since residents supported an FCC initiative to trial 50mph on the rural roads of the Black Isle. Bruce proposed that FCC should try again to seek political support for this.

Cllr Craig Fraser has made FCC aware that a resident is also seeking 50mph limits in order to improve safety for horses and their riders. A meeting has been arranged with Kate Forbes MSP on 31 July which Becky will attend and seek views on how best to approach this issue.

Newhall Bridge Replacement: From 10th August to 19th August there will be local road closures to allow the replacement of the Newhall bridge; **Tulloch Homes Pre-application consultation:** A drop-in session is being held from 2pm to 7pm on Tuesday 17 July in Findon Hall to present its plans for the development of the Glascairn site; **Visit from Ryo Lizuka:** Becky met with this Japanese gentleman, based in Oxford, conducting a study of two commuter villages (Culbokie, Munloch) by looking at the impact of transport evolution on the development of these villages. Further meetings are planned for the 28th July and Ryo is keen to meet up with long term /native residents in the Culbokie area; **Democracy Matters:** Bruce to forward this consultation for FCC to decide how to approach the consultation; **Private Water Supplies:** THC has informed FCC that landowners are responsible for any private water supplies and not Scottish Water. Bruce to issue to the email list; **Highland Small Communities Housing Trust** is looking for nominations from residents to become Directors; **Play Improvement:** this correspondence may be of interest to CCT and the Football Club (Bruce to forward); **Noise:** A resident is concerned about noisy gatherings in recent weeks going on into the early hours with fireworks etc. This would normally be a neighbour to neighbour issue but, in persistent serious cases, Police Scotland can be asked to intervene. FCC put a comment on its Facebook page to publicise the issue.

Service Requests: THC has emptied the drain twice over the summer and is meeting with the residents (SW end of Culbokie) about the flooding issue to review the situation.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

Buses /Community Transport: The D&E bus, from 20 August, will arrive earlier at Duncanston (7.49) in order to link with the 7.54 X98. This still continues to cause problems. Stagecoach has reviewed its decision to stop the morning diversion through Culbokie and has confirmed its original decision. Its consultation with passengers on the long distance X98 has confirmed that they wish faster buses, particularly for students to the UHI who are starting their journey very early in the morning. Stagecoach /THC has also confirmed that holiday buses cannot divert through Culbokie and the use of the BSG service (Gaelic School) is not possible. Stagecoach was thanked for following up on the options to help

the Culbokie commuters with the result though that there is therefore to be no single bus commuter service from Culbokie. The absence of a commuter service needs to be continually profiled and particularly when re-tendering the bus routes returns in 3 to 4 years time.

One detailed issue remains to be confirmed and that is the changed timing of the Invergordon bus starting in November (Action: Resident /Bruce).

Broadband: No update this month

Crask Junction: Cllr Adam has reported a positive response from THC concerning an electronic warning system and this is now being explored.

Cllr Mackinnon has recently become aware of an underspend in one of the Capital Programme lines and, as was agreed on the 7th March this year at the full Council, any underspends would be allocated to the Roads Maintenance Budget. Cllr Mackinnon is proposing therefore that a paper is provided that would be heard at the next EDI meeting which is scheduled for the 16th of August. His recommendation will be that £250,000 of funding be allocated to the Crask Project. That procedure will ensure correct governance. Cllrs Fraser and Adam have been asked for help and advice on the value of lobbying the EDI Members.

Journalists who have followed this project have asked to be made aware of the minute of this meeting and FCC will express cautious optimism that finally this project may soon be awarded its necessary funding.

LEADER: No further update.

Port of Cromarty Firth Authority: Nothing to report. Next meeting is Wednesday 18th July.

Speedwatch: THC has carried out further speed monitoring near the first houses in the village and the information sent to the residents for them to decide on any further actions.

Email List Development: Net decrease of two this month to 423. FCC agreed, using Noticeboard, to make the extra effort to seek all residents' views about Tulloch Homes' proposed development and encourage residents to join the email list to both submit views and follow FCC's actions in progressing these views.

Black Isle Cares, Meals on Wheels: 2 volunteers from the FCC area are now fully trained with 2 more entering training. With 4 residents in the area to support, one meal a week will be supplied initially.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Update on Objections lodged: New house SW of Feoran, Culbokie (17/03599/PIP: no update); 18/00493/PIP: New house, 80m NE of Beechfield, Newton of Kinkell (no update).

New Applications: None

Letter is to be submitted by Becky on behalf of FCC to the planners to better understand how the necessary safety measure are to be implemented for the Eight Acres development.

AOCB: A resident is concerned about large quantities of rubble being moved into the developable land next to Mount Eagle Drive and Bruce will continue discussions to see how FCC can help.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: A resident suggested producing fewer agenda /minutes copies for these meetings in order to reduce waste.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 20 August, 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>