

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2018 IN FERINTOSH HALL

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

ALSO PRESENT: 4 residents

APOLOGIES: Cllr Gordon Adam, Cllr Craig Fraser, PC John Macpherson, 2 residents

POLICE MATTERS: PC John Macpherson sent in his report. No incidents have been reported in the last month. There have been four speed checking operations this month. On the A9 at Findon, two motorists received fixed penalties for careless driving and at Coulnagour, two motorists received fixed penalties for speeding. Outside Mulbuie School, three motorists received fixed penalties for speeding and a further three for careless /dangerous driving. Colin made the observation that police activity has probably increased in our area in recent times.

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

Public Toilets: Highland Comfort Scheme: Owner of Spar shop sees no way of opening the toilet facilities to the public. Culbokie Inn to be approached.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Bruce: as a CCT Director, will take no part in discussions about the Glascairn development; Becky: as a close neighbour, will not take part in discussions about the development east of Dunbreck.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Colin reported on two transactions (£17.50 meeting hall hire, £35 for data protection registration). Available reserve is now just under £5K. £50 gift was approved for Carol and with thanks from FCC as retiring editor of Noticeboard over many years.

Winter resilience payments for grass cutting: Bruce has discussed the principle of volunteer support with John Mackay, Community Works Officer, THC, who was supportive and promised an answer by the end of the month.

CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:

Findon Hall: Request to FCC for financial support to replace batteries for the defibrillator: Whilst FCC cannot take ownership of the defibrillator, FCC would be happy to help Findon Hall with any fund-raising effort. Findon Hall is urgently seeking volunteers to help with fund raising for their major project of roof repair. Defibrillator notices for the village are being investigated; **WEA Highland:** looking for representatives to identify areas to improve equality for women and seeking volunteers to help. FCC will post on the Facebook page; **P&J Enquiry:** FCC provided a positive view for resident /FCC engagement in the planning process for a P&J article; **Community Markets' Dates:** publicise on facebook; **THC Budget Consultations:** various ways in which residents can interact with the consultation have been circulated with the main event on Monday 3 December, 7pm to 8pm at Dingwall Academy; **Illegal Parking on the Cairn Housing site:** Cairn Housing has addressed the issue by contacting the offending owner; **Winter Roads Maintenance:** Residents were concerned about lack of priority on all the school routes and Cllr Craig Fraser is investigating; **Planning Contact in FCC:** Secretary is now the sole contact with THC; **BI Tourism Strategy:** Invitation to its event on 27 November and Bruce will attend; **Education Scotland:** Held a focus group of community councils which Becky and Bruce attended as part of its inspection of

the condition in the area of community learning. Feedback from the audit has been received and will be circulated.

Planning Bill - A new Planning bill is going through the Holyrood Parliament with one issue of interest to residents /FCC. The issue is the imbalance of the right to appeal a Council planning decision. Currently, only the developer and not the community has the right of appeal. Colin has written to all our local MSPs encouraging them to support equal right of appeal (ERA). SNP has firmly stated its objection to that position preferring to strengthen residents /community's rights to have their views taken account of early in the planning process (known as front loading). Labour MSPs seem to be in favour whilst Conservatives are non-committal. Further lobbying with Edward Mountain, a Conservative MSP, has taken place and a reply awaited.

Noticeboard: Eilidh Richmond was thanked for volunteering to edit Noticeboard and for doing a good job. Becky explained the opportunity to expand content and encouraged more input from the more rural areas of the FCC area.

Service Requests: Glascairn Road: not identified or signposted so approach THC; Becky to follow up the poor response by THC over the months by requesting that Iain Moncrieff carry out another tour; Speed sign: the pole has now been straightened to receive the sign but the sign itself has yet to be repaired.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

Community Council Steering Group: This group is reviewing the feedback from the ongoing consultation and Bruce attended the most recent meeting. Notes were circulated to FCC members. Colin raised the idea of a parish precept whereby a modest contribution by all householders could be used for local project funding. Colin also raised the concern that 4 years is a big commitment for volunteers. Becky and Bruce will take these issues up at future meetings.

40mph Zone at Mulbuie: Agreed as a main issue for discussion at the Mulbuie Hall meeting in February with local residents, Parents Council and Ward 8 Members to be invited.

Buses /Community Transport: Following a meeting with the Culbokie Action Group (CAG), a car share scheme was promoted in Noticeboard but no volunteers have come forward. CAG also reported the welcome improvements in the connection times with the A9 buses.

Stagecoach has announced changes to bus services as from 7 January 2019 as they take on many routes previously run by D&E Coaches. Consultation with residents has taken place and an FCC response to the changes has been submitted. The most important and welcome change is the re-introduction of the daily commuter service between Culbokie and Inverness. FCC has requested from Stagecoach a long term commitment to the service and has also agreed with Stagecoach to quarterly reviews in order to monitor the service and undertake joint promotion activities to seek long term viability of the service. Stagecoach has confirmed its intent to maintain the commuter service for three years but is not in a position to provide guarantees for longer than the first year.

Cllr Adam to find out about progress on the firm path to the bus stop.

Broadband: No update.

Crask Junction: A project timeline plan has been received from Ian MacGillivray (THC) with the intention now to complete the junction by end of April 2019. The plan is to have the trees felled before the end of the year and then construction in early 2019.

LEADER: Meeting in January to finalise all grants, under a new Chair, with over £300K still to be allocated.

Port of Cromarty Authority: Becky attended the latest meeting on 31st October. The main points from the annual economic report included the following: big increase in cruise ship numbers this year to 96 with 110 already booked for 2019; the increases are causing some transport difficulties. Meetings have taken place with Stagecoach and THC to increase the numbers of buses, improve the routing and the signage for passengers and the number of linguists to support the passengers; no current activity on ship-to-ship oil transfer proposals; renewables enabling increased opportunities and with the oil sector looking more buoyant, rig earnings are also looking positive.

Email List Development: Increase of one this month to 422.

Black Isle Cares, Meals on Wheels: Anecdotally we've heard of some expansion in the number of meals supplied once per week in the area.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (only new information included):

Update on Objections lodged:

New house SW of Feoran, Culbokie (17/03599/PIP: now granted but Crask junction must first be completed).

Three Logie Farm PIP Applications:

18/04082/PIP: Logie Farm Plot 1, Phase 1, Muir of Allangrange, Drynie Park: One house

18/04084/PIP: Logie Farm Plot 2, Phase 1, Muir of Allangrange, Drynie Park: One house

18/04085/PIP: Logie Farm Plot 3, Phase 1, Muir of Allangrange, Drynie Park: One house

FCC has reinforced its objection with another submission last week.

New Applications:

18/04823/FUL: House extension, 1 Dingwall Place, Culbokie: No comment

18/04997/FUL: New chalet, 21 Newmore, 100m S of Stable Hollow, Muir of Ord: Application has been removed from the website so to be followed up and circulated.

18/04409/SER: 33 Houses, 130m N of The Cairns, Culbokie; Notice has been served that a major application is coming.

Previous Applications being monitored:

16/00595 /FUL: New House, East of Dunbreck, Culbokie: Reply still awaited from THC following FCC's letter about possible breach of a planning condition. Completion of the house is necessary before judgement.

16/00248 /ENF: Builders yard, Braefindon: Iain to press the case to clear the site and to keep residents informed. THC has informed FCC that an application is forthcoming.

Builders rubble at Mount Eagle Court phase 2 site: Developer has sought pre-application discussions with THC.

Letter has been submitted by Becky on behalf of FCC to the planners to better understand how the necessary safety measures are to be implemented for the Eight Acres development. Still no response so extra pressure now on THC to provide a judgement.

AOCB: Becky now to attend the next CP meeting instead of Bruce; Bruce provided apology for absence at the January meeting so Colin will take the Minutes.

INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS: A resident enquired as to how FCC comes to its views on any issues. Becky explained the range of consultation tools available (e.g. email list, Noticeboard, Facebook and Website) in order to seek residents' views before FCC agrees a view. The agreed view is recorded in the Minutes and also circulated to interested residents by email.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 21 January, 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>;
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