

FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 IN MULBUIE HALL

**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 Craig Fraser, 6 residents

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Gordon Adam, PC Mike Howitt, 3 residents

**POLICE MATTERS:** PC Mike Howitt reported on two lunchtime speed checks outside Mulbuie Primary School with three drivers reported for speeding. There were no national Police campaigns to let us know about but one Culbokie resident reported an attempted bank scam asking for personal details on the phone and Police Scotland would like to remind us never to reveal such details over the phone.

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

**Highland Council Community Gateway Meeting:** Becky reported back from another attempt to move this initiative forward. There continue to be differences of opinion of how to implement a 'gateway' for community groups with the conflicting ideas of a single phone number, expansion of what HTSI already does or new digital access.

**Highland Outcome Improvement Plan:** Colin submitted a general endorsement for this aspirational, strategic plan for the area. FCC felt that all the many of the main priorities and themes were consistent with FCC's residents' main concerns including improved public /community transport, better digital connectivity, equality of opportunity and community safety and resilience.

**Port of Cromarty Firth:** Evelyn agreed to represent FCC on its proposed Stakeholder panel.

**Health-related consultations /meetings:** Ros surveyed recent correspondence about mental health issues (no access available to be able to respond), Patients Rights and Responsibilities (best if community councillors respond individually), support for young carers under a new Act (Evelyn will attend a meeting on 16/11/17) and the role of the Scottish Health Council (Ros will review and report back).

**A9/B9163 junction accident statistics:** Becky to pursue.

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

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Margaret reported a healthy situation of over £5K surplus available for local projects with the THC grant still to be paid into the account. Concern was raised about the new insurance arrangements coming into play next financial year (i.e. community councils having to arrange their own) with the probability of higher premiums. THC Financial Director to be contacted for explanation and advice (**Action: Cllr Fraser**).

**CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:**

**Highland Council Quality Awards 2017:** No nominations were put forward; **HIE Strengthening Communities Conference:** No one able to attend this two day event; **Free Bus Travel Consultation:** Evelyn explained that the purpose is to seek views on how best to restrict subsidies in the future and residents can respond individually at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/partnerships-and-concessionary-travel/national-concessionary-travel-scheme>; **Highland Council Review of Debt Advice and Related Services:** Colin reviewed this consultation and advised that individual responses from residents would be

more appropriate and should be sent to [welfare&benefits.policy@highland.gov.uk](mailto:welfare&benefits.policy@highland.gov.uk); **Tesco Bags of Help:** Funding of £1K to £4K is available to local groups (apply to <http://bit.ly/scotbagsofhelp>) with the emphasis on helping the smaller community projects; **New Black Isle Local Foods Website** is now available at <http://blackislelarder.org>; **Service Requests:** Becky has been tracking the very short term objectives agreed with THC (potholes, pavement vegetation) and will explore why not achieved. An additional request has been received to look at uneven levels of ironworks; **Black Isle Community Councils:** Cromarty CC has shown an interest in re-starting these informal meetings and FCC agreed to support.

#### **ACTIVE PROJECTS:**

**Buses:** Evelyn reported on the recent activity by residents /FCC /Councillors /MSP /THC to find a way of providing safe and sustainable commuter services for Culbokie residents. Representatives from THC and Hi Trans together with Cllr Fraser and Kate Forbes MSP made the commuter journey from Duncanston to Inverness to experience at first hand the uncomfortable, unsafe and unreliable current provision. Stagecoach submitted a cost for re-instating the A9 diversion through Culbokie but the cost was considered prohibitive by THC. In the next few weeks THC is completing a community services tender and in parallel, the Black Isle Community Car Scheme is being offered a mini bus and driver training to see whether BICCS can put together an acceptable service. The outcomes of those two approaches will be quickly reviewed by FCC to then agree both a response and further action.

**Broadband:** Edward Mountain MSP organised the agreed meeting between Colin and Becky and two Directors of BT and Open Reach. Colin explained that there is certainly no short term landline provision being planned for the majority of residents of the FCC area. The meeting confirmed, however, that there is an aspirational target by Scottish Government of 100% provision by 2021 but no clarity on the source of funds and contracts to achieve that. Meanwhile, BT /Open Reach are working on three delivery mechanisms namely fibre to cabinet to copper cable (as currently in Culbokie), fibre to premises and wireless to small cabinet and fibre to small clusters of housing. Open Reach made two offers to FCC including help with a community broadband approach (FCC has accepted this) and an offer to attend an FCC meeting (together with Edward Mountain).

**Support Project:** Ros explained that illness and holidays have stalled progress but an October meeting will kick start this activity.

**Crask Junction:** No relevant developments but Cllr Fraser agreed to find out THC's current position on agreeing the overall budgets.

**LEADER:** Iain explained that more applications had come forward requiring the convening of an extra meeting soon.

**Website:** No issues.

**COOLbokie Gathering:** Becky reported how successful the whole day had been despite the poor weather and that over £3K had been raised for the School with individual groups also doing well. A review meeting is taking place this week to provide a full picture.

**Interim Elections:** Colin reported on his deliberations about whether or not FCC should hold its own interim elections in order to strengthen the number of elected members. Balancing the risk of falling below the minimum number of elected members and ceasing to function against the risk of using considerable funds to run a postal ballot, Colin proposed that FCC does not hold its own election and FCC agreed.

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

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

New Applications:

17/04008/PNO: Farm building, Adsam house, Highfield Park: Prior notification

17/03934/FUL: Temporary siting of 4 modular units for business, Tigh na Bar, Greenleonachs: No comment

17/03564/FUL: Replacement mobile home, NE of Latchwell, Rootfield: No comment

**AOCB:** Iain reported loss of TV service with considerable support required to recover the service. The installation of a new mobile service is interfering with the TV signal which is requiring retuning of TV sets but help on 0808 100 0288 may also be required.

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** No further comments.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 16 October, 7pm, Ferintosh 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>