

**MEETING NOTES**

Meeting of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1900hrs at Rafford Village Hall

**FCC members present:**

Brian Higgs (BH) - Chair

Chris Piper (CP) - Vice Chair

Anna Gatward (AG) - Treasurer

Mike Crutch (MC) - Secretary

Carlo Miele (CM) - Member

Tony Pinner (AP) - Associate Member

**Apologies** - Bob Laughton (RL), Nikki Howard (NH)

**1. Welcome**

BH welcomed all those present.

**2. Police update**

Carried forward until next meeting.

**3. Notes and actions of 5 September 2016 meeting**

Section 4c - should reflect that RL *will meet* regarding planting of fruit trees along the Dava Way. Notes accepted with this change.

*a. A940/Mundole road visibility issues & road icing hazard near Dallas Dhu distillery*

A response had finally been received from TMC Roads Department (Kevin Price) regarding the above, the content of which was not positive. In respect of the A940/Mundole junction, the reply stated that TMC does not even have the funding to carry out a proper assessment of options as well as what TMC regard as a 'low collision history', even though this latter aspect has already been highlighted by FCC as flawed as it would only show incidents attended by police.

Regarding the icing hazard, the TMC response sees the issue as similar to a large

number of other areas with trees, etc., creating micro climates within which ice would form and linger during winter conditions.

The meeting discussed the response and felt that it lacked any indication of criteria or selection process for either issue to be addressed, even if it was well into the future. MC will respond to TMC requesting a fuller explanation as well as offer to meet with TMC officials to understand their processes. **ACTION FCC(MC)**  
*Secretary's note: e-mail sent 18/10/16*

*b. Appointment of youth representation*

Item carried forward in NH's absence

*c. High speed broadband*

CP recently met, along with Alec Laing of Logie Estate, Felix Spittal - HIE's Community Broadband adviser. It was made clear that one issue, should Community Broadband be adopted as a scheme in Finderne, that asset ownership, maintenance and revenue processes of such would be a considerable undertaking.

CP advised that there is currently a review underway to confirm high speed broadband deployment and capability by the various agencies involved, and on the basis of that any 'gap' areas where such a solution as Community Broadband is identified to make improvements would be reviewed for possible uptake. The matter will remain an agenda item for subsequent updates. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

*d. Blervie estate access*

BH reported that following the letter of complaint sent by FCC to TMC on 19 September, a holding response received today indicated that a response would be forthcoming on 25 October. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

*e. A96 dualling route assessment input*

Several FCC members had attended 'meet the team' events held locally by the route assessment contractors, Mott MacDonald Sweco (MMS).

CM stated that briefing material continues to be vague, as well as picked up on

comments that actual route depictions for the various options could be 'within 500 metres' of where they are shown.

CP reported that during informal discussions at such, MMS representative Fiona Drever stated that she did not believe community councils would be statutory consultees, with TMC taking on the mantle for residents, local businesses, etc.

AP had picked on the possible forming of a 'west' and 'east' sub-grouping of community councils to feed back into TMC, but again nothing formal to this effect had been announced.

BH has invited Stephen Cooper, TMC's Head of Direct Services, to attend the next FCC meeting to discuss the A96 issue and this has been accepted; TMC elected members are also hoped to be in attendance.

BH will write to both Richard Lochhead and Douglas Ross MSPs and invite them to also attend a future meeting, with due focus on the A96 issues.

BH will also write to David Gowans, who acts in a 'communities co-ordinator' role for MMS, and ask him to clarify on the comments made at the public events. *Secretary's note: BH e-mailed Messrs Lochhead, Ross and Gowans post meeting as well as confirmed Stephen Cooper's attendance at the next meeting.* **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

*f. FCC logo*

CP presented two designs which had been professionally adapted by a graphic designer following the input from Logie Primary School pupils. With some minor alterations, BH will take these back to the school for final selection and adoption by FCC. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

*g. Hill of Glaschyle Windfarm community fund scoping*

CP had written to Alex Fowlie of Muirden Energy, copied to Alec Laing of Logie Estate, with regard to suggestions for the establishment of the windfarm's community fund, set to become available late 2017 (i.e. one year after commissioning of the windfarm itself). A response has yet to be forthcoming. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

*h. Signage near Granary Park, Rafford*

The matter has been resolved.

#### **4. Secretary's report**

##### *a. New matters arising*

AP remarked on the move to adopt any remaining red telephone boxes following the BT announcement to withdraw 63 boxes (of all types) from Moray. *Secretary's Note: subsequent to the meeting, one of the old style boxes is located adjacent to Logie primary School so AP will approach the school to make them aware if they wish to acquire it.* **ACTION FCC(AP)**

#### **5. Treasurer's report**

AG reported that she is awaiting deposit of the second grant monies from TMC.

#### **6. Community Issues**

No new matters arising.

#### **7. Upcoming events**

Rafford Village Hall festive coffee morning will be held on 10 December.

#### **8. AOB.**

Discussion was had on the establishment of FCC noticeboards both community halls in Rafford and Edinkillie, as possibly one at Logie Steading. AP will obtain some estimates in the first instance. **ACTION FCC(AP)**

CM raised the issue once again of road traffic speeds between upper and lower Rafford; MC will include the unanswered request for electronic signage on his e-mail to TMC (Kevin Price). **ACTION FCC(MC)**

#### **9. Date, time & venue of next meeting**

Monday 28th November 2016, 1900hrs in the Rafford Village Hall.

prepared by: Mike Crutch, Secretary, FCC