

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 12th November 2018 in

Edinkillie Hall

FCC members present

Nikki Howard (NH) – Chair

Brian Higgs (BH), Carlo Miele (CM), Anna Gatward (AG), Howard Davenport (HD), Bob Laughton (BL)

Also present:

Cllr George Alexander, Cllr Claire Feather, Cllr Lorna Cresswell, Andy Munro, Susan Stollar, Howard Stollar.

1. Apologies:

Tony Pinner (TP), Chris Piper (CJP), John Pullen (JP).

2. Notes from previous meeting

Notes were accepted.

3. Police update

No report.

4. Matters Arising

- i. Timber Traffic – carry over to next meeting (CJP)
- ii. Disused Bus Shelter Rafford – BH had informed Mike MacDonald that FCC were happy with its removal.
- iii. Dava Way to Logie Steading Link – Alec Laing had been contacted who indicated that it will be progressed in due course.
- iv. Stones on Road – Upper Rafford: Farmer had been identified as William Ralph.
Action: NH/HD to visit Mr Ralph and discuss the issue.

5. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposal

FCC submission based on responses from residents drop in session was submitted to Transport Scotland. Deadline for any further comments is 30th November 2018. No further information on the preferred route expected until end of 2018.

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

BH reported that the responses and comments received from public drop in session are being collated and will form the basis of strategic plan for the FDT. A second drop in session will take place on Saturday 17th November from 15:00 to 18:00, in the Long Room Logie Steading, to provide feed-back to the public along with some indications of potential actions and themes for a development plan.

c. Vehicle speeding signs for Rafford

Reports filtering through from resident that this an ongoing problem. BH updated the committee regarding traffic warning signs. An initial price per sign from Glasdon of £385 + VAT. Four signs required, two for lower and two for upper Rafford, giving estimated cost of £1540 + VAT.

Action: BH to firm up quote form Glasdon, FCC to canvass local support for funds to purchase sign.

d. Loch of Blairs Project

BH reported grant application to Berry Burn Wind Farm Community Fund for repairs to the boat-house roof had been unsuccessful. Several other grant applications had also been prepared but these had depended on the Berry Burn fund being successful so would be reviewed by FCC after this meeting.

CM had discussed the roof repairs with Scott ***** from S&J Roofing. Scott and team visited the boathouse on Saturday 10th Nov and agreed to completed repairs of the roof free of charge as a donation to the project. BH extended his thanks to CM and S+J Roofing for this very generous offer.

Volunteer days had continued, included work on rhododendron clearance, path construction and securing the buildings.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

FCC had received a request from Steven Park of Force9 Energy, that the chair of the Forress Community Council be invited to attend the Community Liaison Group (CLG). BH outlined that CLG membership was for representatives of communities directly affected by the proposed development. If representation at the CLG was widened beyond the Communities directly affected by the development there is a risk that factors such as the community benefit fund could start to influence discussions. The CLG is about the physical aspects of the development. It does not have community benefit funds, or community ownership MoUs, as part of its remit.

After discussion the committee agreed that this concern should be raised with the developers.

Action: NH/HD/BH to draft an email to Stephen Park (Force 9) identifying this concern.

Community liaison meeting would be held by the developers on 4th Dec 2018,

Action: HD/NH agreed to attend.

6. New Business

a. Core Paths Consultation

BH had received a reply from Ian Douglas (Moray Access Manager), link path from lower Rafford to Dava Way, and extension of CCP22 from lower Rafford towards Templestones had been dropped. However, other routes relating to CCP22 through upper Rafford and linkage from Upper Rafford to Dava Way had been included with no recognition of objections raised

by FCC and local residents. BH indicated he would prepare another letter to Ian Douglas indicating FCC objection to these proposed routes would remain in place.

Action: BH to write to Ian Douglas (Moray Access Manager) indicating FCC objection to these proposed routes would remain in place.

b. Projectors-Screens for Village Halls

CM had looked into the provision of screens for each of the village halls (3) and a projector which could be used by groups within each hall. Purchase could be funded by a proportion of FCC funds and the equipment would remain in FCC ownership but made available for community groups to use. After discussion CM agreed to come back with a quote on equipment costs and liaise with Hall committees to determine if they wanted access to such facilities.

Action: CM to source costs for projector/screen and discuss with village hall committees whether this would be useful.

c. Berry Burn Wind Farm Expansion

BH read recent letter from Airvolution Clean Energy indicating a scoping report had been prepared on behalf of Statkraft, proposing a potential extension to the Berry Burn wind farm of up to 10 turbines. He commented that the developers were trying to combine the generation output of the extension with that of the existing wind farm giving a combined output of well over 50mW. The planning application would then go directly to Scottish Ministers for approval and avoid local council consideration. Comments on Scoping Report are required by 10th Dec 2018.

Action: FCC to all look at Berry Burn WF extension Scoping Report and provide comments and where possible gather feedback from Finderne residents

d. Special Landscape Areas

CLlr Claire Feaver provided a summary of SLAs within Moray and how these have generally retracted in area. There was further discussion on the matter regarding the Knock and other areas and effects on farmers and landowners etc.

7. Planning Report

Cathay Housing: CM reported 87 objections had been lodged. To date no decision on the planning application had been made. **Action: CM/TP to maintain a watch on planning application.**

New house at Brochloch Farm: Re-application for a new house near Brochloch Farm submitted. The site affects local footpath and diversion incorporated but an objection had been lodged by a local resident **Action: CM/TP to maintain watch on application.**

8. Secretaries Report (HD)

Letter received from Moray West Wind Farm developers offering to provide a talk to FCC on the offshore wind farm development. **Action: HD to write back and invite representative to provide a talk to a committee meeting.**

Other correspondence included, information on Moray Council drop in meeting and letter regarding potential closure of Falconer Museum in Forres.

9. Treasurers Report

AG indicated that, Bank balance £3485.00, of this £2692.00 was restricted to Loch of Blairs development leaving £763.00 unrestricted (Moray Council admin grant balance).

10. AOCB

CM circulated press photo of Fred Olsen Ltd submitted by local resident who indicated that the company could be a source of funding. A short discussion indicated that while Fred Olsen Ltd had been involved in wind farm developments these were now owned and operated by other companies. **Action: CM to return photo and thank the resident for raising the matter.**

Next meetings

17th December 2018, Rafford Church Hall, 19:00.

28th January 2019, Edinkillie Hall, 19:00.

Action: HD to prepare and circulate additional 2019 meeting dates.