

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 17th December 2018 in

Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present

Nikki Howard (NH) – Chair

Brian Higgs (BH), Chris Piper (CJP), Anna Gatward (AG), Howard Davenport (HD), Tony Pinner (TP), John Pullen (JP), Bob Laughton (BL)

1. Apologies:

Carlo Miele (CM), Cllr Claire Feaver.

NH indicated that CM and CJP would both be standing down from the FCC and she thanked them for all their hard work over the last few years.

2. Notes from previous meeting

Notes were accepted.

3. Police update

No formal report, although Police have been checking speeding within Rafford within the last month and it was noted that two drivers had been caught and reported to the Procurator Fiscal during November.

4. Matters Arising

- i. Timber Traffic – CJP indicated that the preferred route for timber trucks from Newtyle was to turn right from the Newtyle road towards Rafford and then left towards the A96. If any members of the public observed timber trucks turning left at the end of the Newtyle road and heading towards the Dallas Dhu/Grantown Road then they should report the vehicle registration to Forestry Liaison officer Claire Glister or Moray Council.
- ii. 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

Most committee members had attended the recent public presentations within the Forres Town Hall where the norther route around Forres was outlined as the favoured option. This route option would mean little change to the Finderne area but it was agreed to prepare a response for submission to the developers.

Action: BH to prepare response on A96.

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

CJP reported that a second drop in session had taken place on Saturday 17th November in the Long Room Logie Steading, to provide feed-back to the public. Information collected is now

being prepared into a draft development plan which will be launched towards the end of Jan 2019. Recruitment of a development officer will also commence in Jan 2019 and an office will also be established at Logie Steading. CJP also encouraged individuals to take up membership of the Trust. Communications between FDT and FCC was also discussed and initial discussions agreed that

- promotion of Finderne would be a joint aim
- the role of each organisation be clarified
- communications plan developed to include regular updates via newsletters, social media etc. (Support for the Rafford Review was suggested)
- Strategic plan be formulated regarding the development of projects within Finderne
- A regular slot for updates from FDT to be maintained at FCC meetings.

Further discussions on these and other matters will be encouraged, particularly after a development officer has been appointed.

c. Vehicle speeding signs for Rafford

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 that the new boat plus two lifejackets had been purchased from Caley Marina and had been delivered in November. The purchase of the boat had been funded by Money for Moray.

Sinclair Taylor had completed emergency cladding of the boat house to render it wind and water tight. S&J Roofing still to complete roof repairs. Keith Builders had donated £150 of materials and BH thanks all companies for their generous help and donations.

Application to OSCR to constitute "Friends of Blairs Loch" (FoBL) as a charitable organisation had been submitted and a decision on this was expected in Jan 2019.

Risk assessments on the use of Round-up to control the plant growth within the loch had been completed and submitted to SEPA for consideration. BH recorded his thanks to Andy Rosie (ex SEPA) for his help with formulating the assessment.

A draft agreement between FoBL and Altyre Estate, to lease the loch and boathouse had been drawn up and was with Altyre Estates solicitor, Jamie Whittle, for review.

Contact had also been made with Eric Verspoor (UHI) to develop student projects in the future.

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

It has been agreed that in future, with FoBL now being constituted, the project would be managed by FoBL, with support from FCC.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

Community liaison group (CLG) meeting had been held by the developers on 4th Dec 2018, and was attended by HD and CM. The Forres Community Council chairperson was also in attendance.

Concern was expressed that, if representation on the CLG was widened beyond the Communities directly affected by the development, there is a risk that the Community Benefit fund could be utilised by bodies not directly affected by the wind farm development. Committee agreed this was not desirable and that further discussions with developers to agree a more appropriate approach was necessary.

A key point arising from the recent Joint Community Council (JCC) meeting related to Force9 indicating a preference for a single entity, based on the JCC, to be established to manage the Community Ownership opportunity. This group could encompass a range of representatives from neighbouring community councils. Again, it was agreed that further discussions with the developers on this are required.

Clashgour wind farm had submitted a planning application and the committee agreed to seek resident's views on the wind farm a compile a response. This would be done through a public meeting on the 19th Jan 2019 at Edinkillie Hall, from 10:00 to 12:00.

Action: NH/HD/BH promote Clashgour WF meeting and prepare presentations.

6. New Business

a. *Core Paths Consultation*

BH had written to Ian Douglas (Moray Access Manager) indicating FCC objection to proposed routes would remain in place. Letter had been acknowledged.

b. Projectors-Screens for Village Halls

Provision of screens for each of the village halls (3) and a projector which could be used by groups within each hall had not been progressed.

Action: BH agreed to pursue costs further while NH agreed to contact each of the hall committees to see if there was a desire for the equipment.

c. Berry Burn Wind Farm Expansion

A scoping report had been prepared proposing a potential extension to the Berry Burn wind farm of up to 10 turbines by Airvolution Clean Energy on behalf of the developers Statkraft.

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 then go directly to Scottish Ministers for approval and avoid local council consideration. Comments on Scoping Report are required by 11th Jan 2019.

Action: FCC to all look at Berry Burn WF extension Scoping Report and provide comments and where possible gather feedback from Finderne residents on 19th Jan 2019. RL/CJP to prepare response.

d. Minute Secretary Honorarium

Committee discussed payment of an honorarium for the minute secretary which is in line with other Community Councils. BD checked tax implications and indicated the payment would be taxable (email post meeting). RL indicated he would prefer not receive payment and committee agreed not to progress matter further.

7. Planning Report

TP reported apart from the Clashgour planning application (see 5.e) there were no other new applications.

Cathay Housing: decision on this development still pending

Action: TP to maintain a watch on planning applications.

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.**

Refuse Bin Collection Timetable: Committee agreed to post 2019 timetable on FCC website. **Action HD.**

Meeting Minutes: Jane Martin requested copies of all FCC minutes from July 2018 onwards. **Action HD to forward copies to Jane.**

9. Treasurers Report

AG indicated that, Bank balance £1659.00, of this £59.00 was restricted to Loch of Blairs with remainder unrestricted (Moray Council admin grant balance). Money for Moray had been informed of the boat purchase. Committee agreed to fund the purchase of a FCC logo for the boat.

HD indicated he was keen to expand the current contact list and proposed a mail drop to all Finderne households (No = 496). This would require purchase of 2nd class stamps plus some envelopes etc. Committee agreed and HD to progress mail shot after costs for projectors/screens had been established.

Action: BH to cost and purchase FCC logo suitable for the boat. HD to plan mail drop to Finderne residents to improve contact list.

10. AOCB

None

Next meetings

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