

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 30th March 2020 by tele-conference

FCC members present

Tony Pinner (TP), Stewart McCracken (SM)
Howard Davenport (HD), Brian Higgs (BH), Hilary Rolton (HR)

Also present:

None.

Apologies:

Anna Gatward, Anne Garrow, Lorna Cresswell

1. Police update

No report.

2. Matters Arising

- i. Forest Fires – Richard Lochhead was reported to have contacted Ash Denham (Scottish Minister for Community Safety) for a government response to updating forest management guidelines. Concerns were expressed that responses to date had not addressed forest management plans, or the amount of brash left lying after clear felling.

BH has followed has had a response from Richard Lochhead, who has referred this on to Fergus Ewing .

George Alexander had forwarded a copy of a de-briefing report by Scottish Fire and Rescue services, containing some lessons learned.
- ii. Forres Gazette – Online subscription established. Password to be distributed **Action HD**.

3. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

FDT initiatives below currently on hold as the team are focussing on community support for the Covid19 pandemic.

- Community Broadband
- Rural Based Apprenticeships
- Heath and Wellbeing Event
- Community Hub at Edinkillie Hall

c. Speeding in Rafford / Village signs

HD has requested a meeting with Diane Anderson to discuss options. It was agreed this was not currently a priority issue.

d. Loch of Blairs Development

BH reported further progress:

- Stage 1 – Bothy: refurbishment now complete, and available for use by local groups when Covid19 restrictions are lifted
- Stage 2- Services: In ground works complete, waiting for meter installation (on hold)
- Stage 3- Stables: Planning application ready to submit. A further funding of £30K has been committed from Berry Burn windfarm fund.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

- Additional Information pack submitted by Force9, including:
 - 4 turbines relocated
 - Revised peat and habitat management plans
 - Updated Landscape and Visual assessment including Rothes 3 alternative layout

This has given additional parties the opportunity to make representations.

- FCC Inquiry Statement submitted
- Energising Moray Inquiry Statement submitted (including statement dissociating FCC & FDT)
- Inquiry postponed to early September

It was agreed that it would be useful contact the Save Wild Moray group, to compare approaches.
(Action HD)

f. Berryburn 2 Wind Farm

Following our request at the last FCC meeting Statkraft have supplied analysis of the feedback from their public meetings.

- Out of 8 responses from the FINDERNE area there was an even split for and against the development.
- Out of the 8 responses from Forres, all were in favour.

It is agreed that FCC will make a representation after the Planning Application is lodged.

HR volunteered to act as FCC a representative on the Community Liaison Group, when that meets again.

g. Core Paths Consultation

It appears that the Moray Council are prepared to go to a Public Inquiry to support their original proposal.

h. Participatory Budgeting

A Community Information Session has been planned for 14th April, to explain how communities can influence the spending priorities of the Moray Council. All community councils have been asked to send a representative.

It is now expected that this session will be postponed.

6. New Business

a. Ourack Wind Farm

This proposed development by Vattenfall is for 27 turbines 180m high located south of the Clashgour wind farm, just to the south of the FINDERNE boundary. A series of public meeting schedule for last week has been postponed,

b. Cairn Duhie Wind Farm

This proposed development by RES is for 16 turbines, just less than 150m high, located east of the Ferness – Dava road, just to the west of the FINDERNE boundary. This wind farm was approved in 2017 based on 110m turbines. A scoping report for new application has been issued for comment.

Although both these wind farms lie outside the FINDERNE area, it was agreed that FCC follow the progress of these, as our local community would be affected by being encircled by wind farms.

It was suggested that we contact the Grantown and South Nairnshire Community councils, to ascertain their positions on these developments. **(Action SM)**

7. Planning Report

It was noted that the application for a new property east of Pindlers Croft, has been withdrawn. No further application of note.

8. Secretary's Report (HD)

FCC had received information on changes to Bus Services. It was suggested that we send a community email covering this, as well as changes to Refuse Collection services, and a further reminder of the FDT Covid19 support. **(Action HD)**

9. Treasurers Report

Current status: £1,318.67 (£726.67 Moray Council Admin Grant balance and £592 Loch of Blairs balance)

AOCB

- It was noted that recent Meeting Minutes had not been put up on FCC website. (Action HD)

Next meeting

Monday 11th May 2020 at 7:00p.m., scheduled for Rafford Church Hall but maybe by tele-conference.