

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 11th May 2020 by tele-conference

FCC members present

Tony Pinner (TP), Anna Gatward (AG), Hilary Rolton (HR)
Howard Davenport (HD), Brian Higgs (BH), Lorna Creswell, Ruth Whitfield

Also present:

Lorna Creswell, Ruth Whitfield

Apologies:

Anne Garrow, George Alexander

1. Police update

No report.

2. Matters Arising

- i. Forest Fires – Richard Lochhead has sent a response saying Mr Ewing has asked Scottish Forestry to include brash management as part of a research project to develop a new Scottish Fire Danger Rating System. We should ask to be sent a copy of the report from the project (**Action BH**)

3. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

FDT initiatives below currently moving slowly as the team continue to focus on community support for the Covid19 pandemic.

- Rural Based Apprenticeships
- Health and Wellbeing Event
- Community Hub at Edinkillie Hall
- Community Broadband (a community communication expected soon)

c. Speeding in Rafford / Village signs

On hold during lockdown. However it was noted that some vehicles are travelling very fast on the Forres-Grantown road, as there is little traffic.

d. Loch of Blairs Development

BH reported:

- No work on site during lockdown
- A bird hide has been constructed off site, ready for installation later.
- Planning application for Stables submitted and being processed. A time extension has been agreed so the result of bat surveys (taking place in the next week) can be incorporated.
- A charge of £120 for neighbour notification has been raised by Moray Council, despite the fact there are no neighbours.
- Positive feedback from SEPA, no issues raised.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

- Inquiry postponed to early September
- The Inquiry Reported seemed inclined to include Community Benefit and Community Ownership into account in their considerations. It had been flagged up that this does not align with Scottish Ministers guidelines. BH sent an email on behalf of FCC expressing concern about the inclusion of these topics.

HD has contacted the Save Wild Moray group, to coordinate approaches. **(Action HD)**

f. Berryburn 2 Wind Farm

Statkraft team have offered a further remote meeting with FCC, but the offer is to be declined.

They are still on schedule to submit the planning application in June this year.

g. Ourack Wind Farm

Planned public meeting has been postponed. FCC to ask to be on the distribution of any further project updates, **(Action HD)**

h. Cairn Duhie Wind Farm

On-line public exhibition to be opened on 12th May. All FCC members should review and provide feedback, so we can make any comments back to RES by 12^h June. **(Action all)**

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

i. Core Paths Consultation

No further movement: it still appears that the Moray Council are prepared to go to a Public Inquiry to support their original proposal.

j. Participatory Budgeting

No update. FCC to contact Jane Martin to ascertain next steps. **(Action HD)**

6. New Business

All items included as standing items.

7. Planning Report (TP)

It was noted that 2 planning applications had been made for new properties in the Templestones area, both outside the proposed rural grouping. FCC agreed to object to these. **(Action TP)**

It was noted that the Moray Council Planning Committee was not longer convening, with all applications being considered solely by Planning Officers. FCC noted concern that this erodes democratic accountability. **(Action BH)**

8. Secretary's Report (HD)

FCC had received an email (via RVH) from a community member in Lower Rafford, including a number of ideas on Broadband improvements. This has been passed to Pery at FDT for inclusion in recommendations to be issued shortly.

9. Treasurers Report

Current status: £1,271 (£999 Moray Council Admin Grant balance and £292 Loch of Blairs balance)

It was noted that Moray Council administration grant had re-commenced.

Annual subscription for website to be paid **(Action AG)**

AOCB

- HD raised the issue of increasing the size of the FCC email contact list, to ensure wider representation of the community. BH noted that FDT were planning a letter drop to all addresses in Finderne, and that maybe something from FCC could be included

(Action HD to contact Pery at FDT)

Next meeting

Monday 22nd June 2020 at 7:00p.m., scheduled for Edinkille Hall but maybe by tele-conference.