

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 1st March 2021 by tele/video-conference

FCC members present

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

Also present:

George Alexander(GA), Andy Munro (AM),
Ruth Whitfield, Lorna Cresswell, Claire Feaver

Apologies:

Anna Gatward (AG), Tim Slack

1) New Members

It was agreed to invite Shirley Munn, Tim Slack and Richard Kirk to become Associate Members of Finderne Community Council.

2) Police update

No report, see link to Community Safety Report on FCC website.

3) Matters Arising

a. Pig Farm in Lower Rafford.

TP reported he had fed back issues raised at the last meeting to Karro, who had been helpful, but had not agreed to specific actions. TP proposed to hand over this issue to Tim Slack, as he had much more knowledge of the situation on the ground. **Action: Handover between TS and TP.**

GA had provided information that movement on stock (including pigs) on the public roads was legal.

b. Welcome Pack

Draft still to be completed (**Action HD**)

c. Gritting

FCC had been copied into a further email from a community member to CF, in mid February, complaining about lack of gritting on the U89E Half Davoch road. CF had contacted the Moray Council roads department, who had explained that:

- Although grit mounds had not initially been replenished, this had now been done
- The light traffic due to lockdown, lead to the grit not being packed down into the road, so not as effective.
- The roads department were reviewing their grit/salt mix for minor roads.

CF recommended that grit mounds/Gritboxes should be requested to roads department if required.

4) Current Standing Items

a) A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

b) FINDERNE Development Trust (FDT)

Report from BH:

- Community Broadband

BH reported that Richard Lochhead had forwarded a communication from Paul Wheelhouse, (Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands), but this contained no new information,

BT attended the last JCC meeting to inform other CC's of the issues we were having with broadband provision, and subsequently issue a briefing paper on the subject to the JCC.

FDT are planning a publicity campaign to make other Development Trusts aware of the situation.

- Community Housing

BH reported that FDT were awaiting a response from Moray Council to the pre-planning application.

- Community Apprenticeship Scheme

News of the 1st appointment of apprentices would be issued shortly.

- Energy Efficient Living

BH reported that FDT had received 26 applications under the Scotgrad scheme, for a graduate to provide support and advice to community members on energy efficiency in homes. Findlay McCulloch has been appointed for a period of 12 months.

- Dava Way

FDT has agreed to pick up 50% of the costs for a new website and re-branding of the Dava Way.

- Community Hub

FDT is considering the possibility of co-locating a community hub in the Dunphail area with the Logie primary school. A community survey relating to this will be launched.

- Scottish Community Landfill Trust

FDT have agreed to provide the 10% 3rd party funding required by this scheme if required for suitable proposals.

c) **Loch of Blairs Development**

BH had reported that:

- Construction work on the Classroom development has commenced.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

i) **Clashgour**

- Reporters are still considering representation from Public Enquiry participants
- BH to make representation to Force 9, to point out that they should not be making decision on administering community benefit, until the planning issues have been settled. **Action: BH to write to Force 9.**

ii) **Berryburn 2 Wind Farm**

- No update since our representation to the Section 36 Planning Application
- AM reported that problems with the roads in the area continue. After the frosts AM had to repair the road owned by Altyre estate after damage caused by wind farm vehicles. It is unclear who has responsibility for maintain the roads leading into the wind farm. **Action GA to investigate.**

iii) **Ourack Wind Farm**

HD reported that he had to submitted a representation against the proposal in line with that submitted for Berry Burn 2.

iv) **Cairn Duhie Wind Farm**

Section 36 planning application expected to be submitted later this year. We will keep an eye on it.

v) **Lethen Wind Farm**

HD reported that FCC had received a letter from Fred Olsen Energy, asking if we would like further information on a proposed windfarm on Dava Moor, just the west of the B9007 Ferness-Carrbridge road.

BH asked if Moray Council was aware, and whether they liaised with Highland Council on these issues.

Actions: HD to send copy of the letters to GA and CF, and to contact Fred Olsen representative. CF and GA to check this out.

e) **Core Paths Consultation**

We are waiting to hear from the reporter who has been appointed for the public enquiry which would be based on written submissions.

HD reported that he had responded to a community member who had asked about the background to the Core Paths item on these minutes.

f) **Wild Fires**

We are waiting for the Scottish Government report on improvements to current practices.

g) **Traffic in Rafford**

HD reported that Anne Skene of Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council had asked if other CC's were interested in a joint community council approach to the issues around speeding and traffic calming in local communities. It was agreed we should participate.

Action: HD to send this info to SM to follow up.

5) **New Business**

Nothing raised

6) **Planning Report (TP)**

a) Proposed Distillery Project at Wester Greens, Dunphail

FCC had received emails from community members concerned about the potential impact of this development on traffic, water supplies, and drainage. It had been agreed that FCC should make a comment to the planning department which has been actioned by BH.

It was noted the developer would be visiting the site this week.

CF also raised concerns over light pollution, due to 24hrs/day lighting.

GA agreed to contact the case officer to establish the current status of the application

7) **Secretary's Report (HD)**

HD reported that:

- Covid 19 drop-in testing centre being set up in Forres 12th – 21st March.
- Email received from Elgin Car club notifying proposed road closures for 2022 Speyside Stages Rally. **Action: SMcC to review.**
- Forres Gazette subscription renewed
- Report received via GA on damage to road sign at the Church in Dunphail.
- Email received from a community member on damage to unadopted Newtyle road by trucks transporting heavy loads of material from Springfield site in Forres. GA reported that Springfield had taken action to repair the road.

8) Treasurers Report

Updated balances: £1,217

Breakdown:

- £937 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £280 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

AOCB

- AM reported that the wall by the church at Dunphail had been damaged by a vehicle, and the warning sign had been damaged.
- BH re-iterated that if any member of the community had issues that the FCC may be able to address, to please let us know.

Next meeting

Monday 12th April 2021 at 7:00p.m. by tele/video conference.