

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 18th January 2021 by tele/video-conference

FCC members present

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

Also present:

George Alexander(GA), Andy Munro (AM), Shirley Munn (SM), Tim Slack, Suzanne Quinney,
Loretta Oliphant, Richard Kirk, Ruth Whitfield

Apologies:

Anne Garrow, Peter Taylor, Pery Zakeri, Lorna Cresswell

1. Police update

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

2. Matters Arising

a. Pig Farm in Lower Rafford.

TP reported he had spoken to Cameron Fordyce, who is now the point of contact with Karro. Fordyce had been helpful, and was trying to minimise disturbance, but had stated that a buffer zone would be impractical. SQ was of the opinion that a buffer zone close to the houses at Marcassie would have minimal impact, and noted a lot of disturbance when the pigs were moved to a new location.

RW stated that the B9010 road in Upper Rafford had been closed when the pigs had been moved, (herded) from Cloddach to their new site on the Damhead road. SM noted that the Damhead road had been covered in slurry as a result and that the road surface was cracking with the increased usage from pig farm traffic.

TP would contact Karro again, asking them to respect the views of local residents, and to take care of the infrastructure.

TP and GA suggested that complaints from members of the community would help to reinforce the point and SMcC recommended that folk should take videos as this would provide evidence.

HD to include this subject on the next community update email.

Actions: TP and HD

b. Welcome Pack

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

c. New members

BH and HR reported they had made contact with some potential new members, and were still working on this. BH stressed the importance of getting additional representation from the south part of Finderne.

Post meeting note: Shirley Munn, Tim Slack and Richard Kirk have volunteered to join the Community Council.

d. Gritting

HD mentioned that Moray Council had sent out a letter asking if local residents would like additional grit to be made available for use by residents. It was agreed that we should make an application, but this should be based on feedback from the community on where it was needed.

Action HD to include this in next community communication.

3. Current Standing Items

e. A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

f. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

Report from BH:

- Community Broadband

BT reported that FDT had had written again to Richard Lochhead, asking for Scottish Government position on issuing interim vouchers without jeopardising entitlement to other schemes, such as R100.

BT suggested that it would be very helpful if as many people as possible could make representation on this to Richard Lochhead.

Action: HD to include this on next community update.

- Community Housing

BH reported that a pre-planning application has been made to Moray Council. The plans would be updated with the feedback from this (expected early February) and then taken to public consultation.

The FDT has made the Housing Needs Survey report available on their website. The report demonstrates an appetite for additional housing in the Finderne area. HD recommended that some of the concerns expressed by residents be addressed in future consultations.

- Community Apprenticeship Scheme

2 local companies have made applications, but processing these has been held up due to Covid restrictions.

- Energy Efficient Living

BH reported that FDT had been successful in an application to Scottish Government to sponsor a graduate for 12 months under the ScotGrad scheme. Their project would be to provide information to residents to help improve home energy efficiency. Recruitment of candidates for this post is under way.

g. Loch of Blairs Development

BH had reported that:

- The site for the Classroom development has been cleared, but volunteer work is on hold due to current Covid lockdown.
- Some further vandalism has taken place, and reported to the police. A CCTV camera was already on order.
- Lots of positive feedback from the public has been received on the work done so far.

h. Clashgour Wind Farm

- HD reported that additional evidence had been submitted just prior to the Christmas period, and was being considered by the reporters. It was agreed that BH would write to the reporters making the point that we do not have the resources to continually react to further information. **Action: BH.**
- HD reported that Energising Moray was in the process of establishing a Benefits Company, to manage not only the shared ownership potential on Clashgour, but also the Community Benefits from Clashgour, and other wind farms. They are looking for potential directors for the Benefits Company. **Action: HD to include this on next community update.**
- BH recommended that FCC 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.**

i. 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. It is unclear who has responsibility for maintain the roads leading into the wind farm. **Action GA to investigate.**

j. Ourack Wind Farm

An online Public consultation/exhibition is online with a deadline for comments of 29th January 2020. It was agreed to submit a representation against the proposal in line with that submitted for Berry Burn 2. **Action HD**

k. Cairn Duhie Wind Farm

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

l. 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.

m. Wild Fires

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

n. Footpath in Rafford

HD had circulated the response from Norman Stevenson, on the subject of community concerns about traffic and speed signs. His suggestions were: that planning should be looking at traffic impact of new housing, that funding maybe available for a footpath, and that speed signs would be an option for the community.

HD had also forwarded a paper on Vehicle Activated signs from Moray Council. The cost would be around £4000 per sign plus £75 annual maintenance/inspection. BH and TP reported that this has been looked at previously and that an unsuccessful funding application had been made to the Berryburn.

BH suggested that funding for a VAS was more achievable than for a footpath.

Action: SM volunteered to look into this further. HD to forward material to SM.

7. New Business

Nothing raised

8. Planning Report (TP)

TP reported the following:

- A retrospective a planning application had been submitted for a new fence at the junction of the B9010 and the Damhead road
- Planning permission in principle application had been submitted for a new house on the Damhead road.
- Planning application had been submitted for a new single story house at Cantsford.

It was agree no objection to these need to be raised.

TP also noted an advance notice of a planning application for new business premises at the Enterprise Park

9. Secretary's Report (HD)

HD reported that:

- Phase 2 of Moray Council Community Council Review had commenced. Nothing of concern had been raised.
- Health and Social Care newsletter had been received, which included an invitation to members of the public to contribute to a consultation. HD to ensure FCC are on the regular distribution, and to mention the consultation in the next community communication.
Action: HD
- HD would like to ensure all members have access to FCC emails. ReBoot in Forres could assist. **Actions: BH to liaise with AG, HD with HR.**
- HD apologised for a slip up in the last community communication. TP emphasised the need for care in ensuring "Blind Copy" was used to avoid email addresses being made public.

10. Treasurers Report

Updated balances: £1,257

Breakdown:

- £977 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 1st March 2021 at 7:00p.m. by tele/video conference.