

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 13th December 2021 by Zoom

FCC members present

Howard Davenport (HD), Tony Pinner (TP), Stewart McCracken (SMcC), Anna Gatward (AG), John Finch (JF), Shirley Munn (SM)

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Pat Hern, Ruth Whitfield (RW), Mark Abbs (MA), Lorna Cresswell (LC)

Apologies:

Anne Garrow

1) Minutes of previous meeting

agreed

2) Matters Arising

a. Unadopted road at Lyneside

AG summarised the current situation:

- No-one is taking responsibility for repairs to the road
- The agreement to repair the road damage resulting from the transport of materials from the new housing scheme is a private agreement between Springfield and Grant Nicholson.
- Grant Nicholson has suggested all pay into a road repair fund.
- The main heavy users are Grant Nicholson, Blackhills Farm, and the Forestry Commission.

LC volunteered to follow up with Clare Feaver on the response from the letter from Douglas Ross, in which Springfield were to re-instate the road.

3) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

- Provision of a pavement in Upper Rafford

SM reported that Moray Council Roads Engineer, Elaine Penny (EP), has sent out letters to 7 properties on the west side of the B9010 in Upper Rafford, proposing a pavement, and asking for their agreement. So far 3 positive replies had been received. EP would follow up with remaining residents in the new year.

- Village Entrance Signage

EP would provide some possible designs for FCC to consider, again in January

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

FCC need to forward a proposal for procuring VAS to FDT. EP would forward a request for costs and specs for VAS to the councils procurement department. In the meantime HD would circulate the information we already have on VAS to members. **(Action HD)**

- **Traffic Calming Measures/Twenty's Plenty**

Further action on these items is on hold.

HD reported that we had received a response to our letter to Graham Leadbitter, Leader of Moray Council, but it did not address policy issues. **(Action - HD to send follow up)**

- **Police Speed Checks**

We would need to contact the Police for more regular speed checks in the village.

HD reported that an email had been received from a community member from Lower Rafford asking if a pavement could be considered in this area also, and in the future a path all the way to Forres. HD had responded to the effect that the Upper Rafford pavement was considered just a first phase of improving safety.

HD also reported that he had made up some graphs from the historical speed data received from Elaine Penny. HD to circulate these graphs and JF/TP to include on FCC website. **(Action HD. JF/TP)**

b) Community Broadband

JF reported that Findlay McCulloch of FDT was doing some analysis on the OpenReach data they had received on which households would get connected through the R100 scheme , and when. This would enable an assessment of steps needed to cover those missed by R100. FMcC would forward the results of his analysis to FCC. **(Action JF to follow up)**

c) Brochloch Field Development

No further developments. FDT are awaiting outcome of their application to Scottish Land Fund for funding to purchase the field. Post meeting note: FDT announced on 21st December that this application had been successful.

d) Windfarm Developments

Cairn Duhie

HD reported that some additional information had been submitted by the developer, RES. The additional information relates to the setting of a scheduled monument and a change to abstraction of a private water supply. Comments due by 11th Jan 2022.

Clashgour/Rothes 3

The reporter has asked for comments on the impact of various Scottish and UK government proposals to tackle climate change. HD had circulated a response, and subsequently forwarded this to the reporters.

Berry Burn 2

Post meeting note: FCC received notice on 8-Dec-2021 that the Berry Burn extension had been approved.

Community Energy Moray

HD noted that Energising Moray had change its name to the above. It was agreed that FCC should ask for regular updates of their activities. (**Action SMcK**)

e) **Pending Items**

i) **A96 Dualling**

SMcC reported he had received responses to his emails to D.Ross and R.Lochhead asking for an update. Although some political points were made, the summary from Lochhead was that the A96 dualling project would proceed and would not be held back by the Green Party/SNP alliance.

ii) **Core Paths Consultation**

No update on public inquiry.

Post meeting note. The inquiry report has been accepted and approved.

iii) **Wild Fires**

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

iv) **Loch of Blairs**

No further update

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP had reported that no further applications of concern had been raised.

TP had reviewed the information forwarded by GA on the appeal against a rejection of planning approval for an additional property on the Damhead road. TP's recommendation that no further action was required by FCC was agreed.

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD reported that he had reached out to FDT directors to join FCC mailing list, in order to increase communication between the 2 bodies.

HD noted that the FCC constitution was to be signed by 2 members, and forwarded to Debra Duke, CCLO. (**Action HD & SMcK**).

A couple on new households had been added to the FCC contact list. HD reminded member that we had spare copies of the Welcome to Finderne leaflet, to be distributed to new residents.

6) Treasurers Report (AG) – to be updated

Updated balances: £1053.35

Breakdown:

- £773.35 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £280 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

AG pointed out that there was £220 for the Yellow Rattle seeds that would reduce the Admin Grant balance. **(Action HD to submit expense claim.)**

7) AOCB

- **Osprey Bus**

LC reported the Osprey buss was looking for new trustees. There was a need to raise money to keep the service going. (Booking are made through FACT)

- **Rafford Village Hall Christmas Craft Fair/ Edinkillie Cake and Cuppa**

FCC members attended both events and met members of the community.

- **Resilience Plans**

SM asked if FCC had contingency plans for storms, power cuts etc. It was noted that some community councils had Resilience Plans in place. Copies could be made available for an FCC Resilience plan. **(Action SM)**

- **Finderne Calendar**

RW reported that the Finderne Calendar was looking for commercial sponsors. She suggested inviting Nick Gibbons to our next meeting elaborate on the project. **(Action HD)**

- **Half Davoch road junction**

AM reported that the whins had not been cut back at the junction between the Half Davoch road and the main Grantown road, obscuring the view at the junction. **(Action LC to follow up with Road Dept)**

- **Community Consultation**

It was agreed that we should engage in a community consultation, so that we can represent the communities views on current topics, such as Road Safety, WindFarms, Housing and Commercial Planning Applications, Brochloch Housing Development, and any other community concerns. It was agreed that a sub-group consisting of SMcK, JF, and HD would make an initial proposal for members consideration. MA suggested that his wife had considerable experience in designing this type of consultation and may be able to help. **(Action HD/SMcK,JF)**

8) Next meeting

Next meeting Monday 24th January, by Zoom. (t.b.c)