

Findochty Community Council minutes

Date: Monday 8 August 2022

Time: 7pm

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Attendees:

Community Councillors: Caroline Ferguson (CF), Jeff Masterson (JMa), Ron Dawson (RD), John Gardiner (JG), James Murray (JMu)

Associate members: Andrea Woodhead (treasurer)

Moray Council:

Councillor Sonya Warren,

Councillor Neil McLennan

Debra Duke Community Council Liaison Officer (CCLO).

18 Members of the public

1. Administration update:

CF informed the community council that Iain Addison had resigned from the community council. This left a vacancy for a chairperson.

CF said that she would like to be considered to be chairperson. CF asked if anyone else would like to be considered for the position. No other nominations.

Proposed by JG and seconded by JM that CF be elected chairperson.

No objections to this.

RESOLVED: Caroline Ferguson was duly elected Chairperson.

This then left a vacancy for secretary. No nominations for this position. The CCLO offered to take the minutes for tonight's meeting.

As there were a number of members of the public in attendance the opportunity was taken to ask what they wanted from the community council. What expectations were there of the community council? There were vacancies on the community council that could be co-opted to, if anyone wanted to volunteer.

Responses were that there was a lack of communication from the community council. Not everyone used Facebook; other methods of communication were also needed.

The community council needed more help to carry out its work. If a newsletter was to be produced it would need help with this. Members of the community could volunteer to help with certain aspects of community council work, they did not need to be community councillors, for example; taking minutes or working on a communications subcommittee.

RESOLVED: To consider ways to improve communication from and to the community council.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June had been circulated to members and had been published on the Findochty Past and Present Facebook page.

RESOLVED: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

Harbour Road closure- The works were out for tender. Due back end of August. Once there was more information about the timetable the community council would be informed. A concern was raised that the barriers were unsightly. If there were going to be there for a longer time then could they be made to look nicer?

Pontoons- pontoon manufacturer had been to visit the site following movement and breakage of chain

3. Treasurers Report

The report was circulated to all members.

Since the last meeting the administration grant from Moray Council had been received.

Expenditure since 7 June had been approved at that meeting or was within agreed limits.

Balance was £4,033.11

Of that £2869.93 was general funds and the remainder was administration grant.

RESOLVED: Report until July 2022 was approved.

4. Reports

- a. **Moray Councillors**- urged the public to work with and communicate with the community council as it is a statutory body. Moray Council had been quiet for the last month due to summer recess. Next full council meeting would be this week.
- b. **Harbour Advisory Group**- Next meeting would be on 29 August at Buckie High School. The meeting was open to the public. Minutes for previous meetings were online.
- c. **Town Hall**- afternoon teas continued to be well attended.
- d. **Christmas lights**- damaged lights had been disposed of. New ones to be purchased. Switch on would be 27 November 2022. Provisional date for 2023 was 25 November.
- e. **Gala**- 2022 gala was a success. Funds had been distributed to the bowling club. Starting to plan next year's event, which would be 3-8 July. Final figures for this year were not yet available.
- f. **Maintenance/Gardening**- a request was made for more help with the planting. A request was also made for help with watering. If there were planters near your house a request was made to help with watering those. Communicating these requests would be picked up in the general communication issues.
- g. **Litter pick**- to be arranged. Along roadsides is bad. School did a beach litter pick and had found very little rubbish.

- h. **Defibrillator**- new pads had been bought. It requires a new battery. This would cost approximately £500.

RESOLVED: purchase of defibrillator battery was approved.

- i. **Morven Play**- The design of the play park had been voted on. It was anticipated that the start date would be October 2022.

5. Community Feedback/Correspondence

This meeting of the community council had been arranged to agree a response to planning application 22/00971/APP. This application was to alter existing dwelling to form flat and erection of new dwellinghouse at Findochty Caravan Site Jubilee Terrace Findochty Buckie Moray AB56 4QA.

Concerns had been raised about the existing pathway around the application site. An email from the architect had been received. This said that the path and its access would not be affected by the building. Amended drawings had been submitted to make this clear.

The following comments were raised about the application:

- The size and structure of the proposed building was out of keeping with the character of the village.
- The size of the proposed dwelling was three times the size of the existing property.
- Concern about the effect of the building on the Findochty Outstanding conservation area.
- There were also concerns about the affect on privacy and the light into neighbouring properties.
- Concerns were raised about the building works disturbing the rockface.
- The path would have to be closer to the rockface due to the size of the building. It would also have to be closed during building works.
- Objections were made that the applicant owns other properties in the village that could be used as their residence and as a residence for the caravan site manager.
- Concerns that the building will become a holiday let. Could there be a clause/condition that the properties were not allowed to become holiday lets?
- No positive comments about the application were made.

A letter of objection had been submitted by JG, a community councillor. Within his letter he had referred to planning policy. It was proposed that elements of his objection combined with the comments made at this meeting would be submitted to Moray Council in objection to planning application 22/00971/APP.

Vote: Unanimous

RESOLVED: That the community council submit a letter of objection to planning application 22/00971/APP for the reasons stated in the above discussion.

Note: Moray Councillors in attendance did not participate in any discussions relating to minute 5. It was made clear to all in attendance that they were only observing this item.

6. Date, time and venue of next meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It was reiterated that the community council would work to improve communications. Findochty was a wonderful community and with more help on the community council then more work could be done. The school had been looking at making a legacy walk and there were other projects that the community council could be involved in. Three people had expressed an interest in becoming members of the community council during this meeting. However, the normal Tuesday meeting date did not suit them all. A discussion was held and it was decided to change the meeting date to suit all.

RESOLVED: Findochty community council meetings would now be held on the first Monday of every month at 7pm in the Town Hall.

The next meeting would be Monday 5 September.

The meeting ended at 8:20pm.

Signed

Chairperson
Date