



**Findochty Community Council Minutes**  
**Date: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023**  
**Time: 6pm**  
**Venue: Findochty Town Hall**

**Attendees -**

**Community Councillors:** Caroline Ferguson (CF), Ron Dawson (RD), Morag Campbell (MC), Lorna Simpson (LS),

**Associate members:** Paul Steel (PS), Andrea Woodhead (AW), Cheryl Birtwistle (CB)

**Members of Public:** 9

**Moray Council:** Clr Neil McLennan, Clr John Stuart

**Community Police:** Sgt Kenny MacConnachie

**1. Chairperson Welcome**

CF welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies received from Clr Sonya Warren, Jeff Masterson and John Gardiner

**2. Community Police Update:**

Sgt MacConnachie gave the January update.

In January there were 10 calls made to Police Scotland for Findochty & District, however following initial enquiry only 2 resulted in an actual crime being reported and investigated.

Sgt MacConnachie advised as resources allow, they will be looking at speeding initiatives within the village in the targeted areas, with use of speed guns.

CF advised that parking at school remains an issue also.

**3. Primary School:**

Junior road safety officers will be resuming this month and the school continues to promote safe routes to school. The school is continuing to promote and educate regarding recycling and sustainability.

**4. Approval of previous meeting:**

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate.

## **5. Antisocial Behaviour**

Following correspondence with Nicola Moss at Moray Council the speed indicator device is now operational. She advised with regard to a speed survey there is currently a considerable backlog due to a vacancy within that team, the vacancy is now filled but they are working to prioritise the ones currently outstanding.

Clr McLennan advised he had also been in contact with Nicola Moss regarding the speed indicator device. He advised he has been looking into options of further speed awareness signage as you enter the village, and the possibility of extending the 30 zone further out from the village giving drivers more time to slow down as they enter. Clr McLennan will continue to pursue options that may be available for Findochty.

## **6. Community Feedback**

There is still ongoing correspondence between Seafeld Estates and Moray Council regarding the Netherton Terrace step hand railing. The council are currently seeking further guidance as they believe the land is owned by Seafeld and responsibility lies with them. Men's Shed advised that although there are some rusting areas and sharp edges lower on the railing the railing is currently secure as they attended to some of the loose areas.

The Seaview/Netherton safety railings issue which was raised have been assessed by Moray Council and they have advised although not aesthetically pleasing they are within the tolerance they were designed for. The committee agreed to close this matter as there is no further action to be taken.

Correspondence was received from Moray Council regarding the grass cutting, Grant Speed advised that Morven Park and garages grass area at the Town Hall will be included in the cutting rotas, however The Hythe/Slip Shore is no longer included, this area will be added to the Community Council maintenance list.

The Community Council received correspondence from Moray Council Transportation Department regarding the Scottish Government Pavement Parking Legislation. They are reaching out to communities to identify any streets where vehicles regularly park on the footway rather than carriageway, as it is so narrow that parking on the carriageway would mean a fire engine could not get past. They require a response by 14th March. After a brief discussion, the following streets were identified - Bottom of Station Road, Commercial Street, New Street, Duke Street, Morven Crescent and The Creagan. A full list will be identified at the next meeting for response.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. Seaview Road/Netherton Terrace safety barriers closed no further action.
2. To compile a list of streets for pavement legislation.

## **7. Treasurer Report**

Monthly Report was circulated to all members.

Balance was £5174.24.

Of that £3903.18 was general funds and the remainder was administration grant.

AW advised the remaining funds from the children's party fundraising have been paid to Findochty PSG.

The first half of the Moray Council administration grant has been received £292.96.

A donation has been received following the dissolution of The Gala Committee, £1000 for Community Council and £618.50 for a bench to be purchased for Morven Playpark.

£90 to be paid to the Town Hall for meeting room hire - approved.

£35 for wood and screws for Hythe fence repair - approved.

AW has created recording sheets for future fundraising events, these will be uploaded to google drive for anyone fundraising on behalf of the Community Council to access.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. Meeting room hire £90 approved.
2. Hythe fence repair materials £35 approved.
3. AW to upload fundraiser sheets to google drive.

## **8. Community Events/Fundraising**

The next event being planned for a Community Council event is The King's Coronation. A team of volunteers is in place to help organise the weekend of activities. Ideas include a fun day on Saturday 6th CF has received a quote for 2 inflatables for the day costing £170 this was approved by committee.

Other ideas for this day include a junior bake-off competition and reviving the Finechty Fluff Challenge. Ideas for Sunday are a Community Picnic with family sports/races. These would be held at either the school park or mini Hampden. Some suggestions for the Monday were around volunteering, possible litter pick in the village. It is hoped to get other community groups involved in the weekend, to bring the community together.

CF discussed ideas of having a summer program of events where all ages could be covered with the different community groups getting involved, things like a pirate day with treasure hunt, sandcastle competition and summer BBQ.

It was suggested a mail drop with a program of events would be a good idea. Some various ideas of funding sources have been suggested. It was agreed that the £1000 donation from the gala would be used for community events.

There is funding available from the National Lottery Community Fund for the Coronation, it was agreed to apply for this funding. Other avenues such as Tesco, Coop and Spar could possibly be used for the Heritage trail/boards.

The £618.50 will be used to supply a maintenance free bench for the Morven Park. PS will source prices.

RESOLVED:

1. Fundraising/events team to meet to start plans for Coronation.
2. CB to apply for National Lottery Funding.
3. PS to source prices for the bench.

## 9. Harbour Green

Following concerns raised at previous meeting correspondence received from Lands and Parks and Harbour Master confirms they have been in touch with the owner and the matter will be resolved in due course. Further concerns were raised due to the loose and falling harling of the building at Harbour Green. It was agreed to contact the council to assure that the building remains safe. It was raised that the old chip shop on Station Road remains barriered off with no work commencing. This is also to be raised with the council following up with previous emails which have been sent.

RESOLVED:

1. Harbour Green grass area issue closed.
2. CB to contact council re loose harling and old chip shop.

## 10. Community Resilience Plan

The generator and changeover switch purchased by Town Hall is still awaiting installation. The Community Council is still keen to work together with Town Hall on a Resilience Plan, but it requires a group and lead person to form a plan and take this forward. Anyone within the community who would like to get involved please reach out.

The £500 funding that is available from the FAB group; suggested use of this is grab and go bags including possible flasks, candles, wind up torches. Discussed looking into the next opening of SSE resilience funding.

## 11. Reports

- a. **Moray Councillors-** Cllr McLennan advised he had met with Inspector Worton and he was still continuing to support our issues with speeding in the village. He raised the issue of dog fouling as this had been noted in some other areas in the Buckie locality. The warden has however placed further signage in Findochty, and this issue is closed at present for Community Council. It was suggested that dog poop bags could be made available within the beach cleaning huts within the village.  
Cllr McLennan advised that an information meeting for FAB recruitment had been set for Findochty residents.  
Discussion was held regarding Buckie Access Point closure, and he will continue to keep us up to date.  
Regarding high schools, Forres is still prioritised for replacement. Local councillors are continuing to fight for Buckie High especially due to recent closure due to damage sustained during the bad weather. Buckie is currently at the top of list for closures due to school repair issues. Cllrs are building an evidence base to support the need for Buckie High prioritisation.

b. **Town Hall** - no updates

c. **Community Council Sub-groups**

- i. **Harbour Advisory Group** - No date yet for repairs to start. This is still awaiting relevant permits. Local councillors to chase this up and the safety barriers which continue to be poorly secured.
- ii. **Christmas lights** - AGM is set for Thursday 9th February at 7pm in the Town Hall.
- iii. **Maintenance/Gardening** - 2 volunteers are required to help with painting of the new fence at The Hythe. The Coos Roadie steps have now been replaced and made more secure.
- iv. **Litter pick**- no update.
- v. **Defibrillator**- all in working order.
- vi. **Morven Play Park**- work has now started at the park, the goals are still to be installed. The next plan is for fundraising to enable phase 2 which would be a toddler play area.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Coos Roadie steps repaired.

**12.AOCB**

- No other matters raised.

**13.Date, time and venue of next meeting**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm Findochty Town Hall

**Meeting closed at 7.25pm**