

Be at the heart of YOUR community

Findochty Community Council Minutes

Date: Monday 4th Sept 2023

Time: 7pm

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Attendees -

Community Councillors: Caroline Ferguson (CF), Ron Dawson (RD), Cheryl Birtwistle (CB), Jeffrey Masterson (JF), John Gardiner (JG)

Associate members: Paul Steel (PS), Andrea Woodhead (AW)

Members of Public: 4

Moray Council: Cllr Sonya Warren

Community Police:

1. Chairperson Welcome

CF welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies received from Cllr McLennan and Morag Campbell.

2. Community Police Update:

No police were in attendance; however it was reported that in August there were ten calls made to Police Scotland for Findochty & District. Following initial enquiry only three resulted in an actual crime being reported and investigated.

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder:

During the course of the month there has been:

- One incident of vandalism which is subject to ongoing police enquiry.
- One report of a communications offence which is subject to ongoing police investigation.
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Road Safety & Road Crime:

During the course of the month there has been:

- One incident regarding a road traffic offence which is subject to ongoing police investigation.

3. AGM:

Date for AGM set as 6th November at 7pm in Seaview Room at Town Hall. CF advised the committee she would like to step down from her role as Chairperson at the AGM, but continue on as an elected member and continue to support the Community Council with the work it does. Cllr Warren expressed her thanks to CF for the hard work she had put in during her time being Chairperson.

4. Primary School:

There has been a successful and positive return by pupils to school following the Summer Break. However there have unfortunately been some incidents of vandalism which have occurred to the nursery outdoor area. The school are currently investigating these issues.

Parking has again become an issue, with the school JRSO's looking at next steps.

5. Approval of previous minutes:

Change noted for the Lottery Grant figure, minutes otherwise agreed as correct CB to amend minutes.

6. Treasurer Report

Monthly Report was circulated to all members.

Total Balance was £7134.89 of which

£1983.66 general funds

£958.24 event funds

£1120.27 National Lottery Community Fund

£1318.26 Moray Council Administration Grant

£1754.46 Maintenance and Flowers Fund

AW advised that several donations towards maintenance and gardening have been received since June, the committee expressed thanks to all those who have donated.

It was agreed that accounts would be audited by Trevor again this year, prior to AGM.

RESOLVED:

1. AW to have accounts independently audited.

7. Community Feedback

Concerns were raised to community council regarding the number of dead birds on the beach areas within the village. Community council contacted Moray Council who advised birds were not to be touched. Community Council published the recommended action on Facebook. Tim Betts from Environmental Health contacted CB regarding the issue but advised just to follow government guidelines.

The recycle bin which was removed down by harbour has now been replaced but with a standard bin. CB was advised by Moray Council a similar recycle bin would not be issued, as this is no longer available. CB to contact Moray

Council to advise securing bin due to high winds often experienced at harbour. One of the damaged bins across from the green is still damaged and requires repair. CB to email again to report damaged bin.

Feedback was received regarding an overgrown tree in Morven Crescent; this was reported to Moray Council.

A concern was raised from a resident regarding alterations to historic properties within the village, a property on Commercial Street which is undergoing alterations for a two storey extension, which impacts on the views by residents on the higher ground behind Commercial Street. Discussion was also raised regarding the number of holiday homes within the village, who seem able to make alterations with ease where family homes seem unable to get planning permission and the impact this has on bringing families into the community. Members discussed what options were available and what could be done to encourage and protect a family community. It was understood that the area is still a conservation area and as such all alterations require planning permission, and that the best course to take is to encourage residents to raise any objections they have regarding alterations to the planning authority Moray Council, this way concerns can be heard.

The 2 recycling wheelie bins situated at the Town Hall have been reported and the Council are coming to uplift them.

CF and CB attended a community Fund meeting regarding Aultmore Wind Farm. There is a possibility of a community benefit fund, but this is still at consultation stage. Further information will become available as the project progresses.

Daniel Last responded to the concerns regarding the concern with the building at Sterloch Street and advised he would be going past to assess the situation. JG to contact Daniel regarding the outcome for this.

Concerns were also raised regarding damage being done to a building in Old Street, JG to discuss this with Daniel also.

RESOLVED:

1. CB to contact Moray Council to secure bin at Harbour Toilets and to report bin which remains damaged.
2. JG to contact Daniel Last re building concerns.

8. Community Events/Fundraising

General feedback received from the community regarding the recent events held have been positive, however some felt something for the older generation would be a good idea. Discussion held regarding what could be done, with some ideas such as a now and then event or coffee morning. It was decided that a good start would be a community lunch, CB to contact caterers to see if they could help. Little Kitchen or Heilan Coo to be approached. Any money left it was discussed possibly some evening entertainment.

9. Community Resilience

Anne has submitted a bid to the community resilience fund.

10. Reports

- a. **Moray Councillors** – Cllr McLennan had given his apologies but asked for an update if speeding and dog fouling continued to be an issue, which community council agreed it was, CB to confirm to Cllr McLennan this remains an issue.
- b. **Town Hall** – no update
- c. **Community Council Sub-groups**

Harbour Advisory Group –Work is now completed at Harbour. PS has contacted Harbour Master regarding crack in the wall, also large hole along the harbour walk.

Christmas lights – Switch on will be a slimmed down event this year with switch on taking place on 26th November.

Maintenance/Gardening –CB contacted Moray Council regarding weed spraying who provided information on the spraying allocation and advised it takes place twice a year. MC passed on feedback received regarding the flowers in village and how beautiful the village is. The committee expressed their thanks to PS for all his hard work. PS asked if a post of appreciation could be made to thank the community for all their donations of money, flowers and time taken to water tubs and pots. A thank you gesture was also agreed to be given to Andy Slater for his continued support and work carried out. AW to look at Coastal Pizza voucher/pizza for Andy. Men's Shed is currently restoring a boat which has been discussed as a feature for the Portknockie entrance to village at top of Station Road, with possibly School Children naming the boat. CB to find out about permission to site the boat. PS advised he had been in contact with Will Burnish regarding some areas of coastal erosion behind the Compass Rose and also at The Hythe, however there is no update on this at present and he is awaiting hearing back. Concerns were raised regarding the current no parking signs placed at the green at the harbour. After discussion it was agreed the signs would be removed and clarification regarding if these are allowed to be sought from Moray Council, then the issue can be revisited to decide if signs are appropriate.

Litter pick- look at Feb/March to arrange something.

Defibrillator- all in working order. Lucky2BHere advised they could offer online training, but it was decided this was not suitable. CB to look into alternatives. It was agreed that CB to apply for the BHF defibrillator Grant.

Morven Play Park- New goals have been purchased and are just awaiting delivery. It was agreed that Community Council would purchase bench anchors for the benches supplied.

RESOLVED:

1. CB to look again at defib training/further defibrillator in village.
2. CB to look at permissions to site refurbished boat / no parking signs at harbour.

11.AOCB

- Men's Shed has refurbished a children's play pirate ship, which is available for placement in the village if wanted.
- Remembrance wreath agreed to be purchased, CB to order.

12.Date, time and venue of next meeting

AGM to be held Monday 6th November 2023 at 7pm Findochty Town Hall

Meeting closed at 9.21pm