



## **Findochty Community Council minutes**

**Date: Monday 26 February 2024**

**Time: 7pm**

**Venue: Findochty Town Hall**

### **Attendees:**

**Community Councillors:** Caroline Ferguson (CF), Jeff Masterson (JM), Lorna Simpson (LS), Cheryl Birtwistle (CB)

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

**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 John Stuart, Morag Campbell and Ron Dawson.

### **2. Community Police Update:**

In January 2024, there were eight calls made to Police Scotland for Findochty & District and following initial only one resulted in a crime being reported and investigated. This related to a road traffic offence with the driver being reported to the Procurator Fiscal. It was noted that a police presence had been seen monitoring speed in the village.

### **3. Primary School:**

Discussion was held regarding a current learning estate review being held for Buckie ASG. They are looking for the local community to have a say on the future of the learning estate, they are looking at the conditions, use and capacity of current buildings and ways to make a more sustainable estate in the future. Current role at Findochty has dropped but there has been a Moray wide decline in birth rates. There is an online survey which can be completed, however during discussion it was noted that the survey was not accessible for all that some of the language may not be clear, and some may not wish to complete a survey. It was encouraged that both emails and letters would also be accepted, and the Community Council would be happy to collate and pass on any views people wished to share. The closing date for responses on this part of the consultation is 14<sup>th</sup> March, after this all responses would be collated and it would move onto a focus/working group where a member from community groups such as Community Council and PSGs would be invited to take part. Community Council urged people to have their say, even if they do

not have children attending the school, as it impacts the wider community not just the school community.  
Community Council were also asked to raise issue of pot holes at school entrance.

#### **4. Approval of previous meeting:**

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate.

#### **5. Treasurer Report**

Monthly Report was circulated to all members.  
Total Balance was £6,832.51 of which

£1,902.07 general funds

£885.04 event funds

£202.48 National Lottery Community Fund

£1,550.46 Moray Council Administration Grant

£2,292.46 Maintenance and Flowers Fund

This was Andrea's last report as treasurer from when she had taken on the role in 2017. It was agreed that Sean Brown would take on the position of Treasurer as an associate member.

CF thanked Andrea for her time as Treasurer and everything she has done for the community council over the years and presented AW with flowers.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. Sean Brown agreed as new treasurer.
2. AW to hand over all required treasurer documents and arrange bank account hand over.

#### **6. Dangerous Driving**

Following the ongoing correspondence with Nicola Moss at Moray Council the speed surveys have now been completed. Following the collation of these results there shows no cause for concern; police have also been visible carrying out speed checks. It was agreed that community council cannot take this any further and this issue would now be closed. Community Council would continue to support the school junior road safety officers and promote road safety within the village. Ongoing discussion regarding the possibility of a safe route to the old railway line beside the school and whether Sustrans could be of help with this.

#### **7. Local Road Conditions**

It was noted that the roads in the local area have had a marked deterioration, with many hazardous potholes. Community Council advised the community to keep reporting these, community council would also report any brought to their attention.

#### **8. Thank You's**

Community Council expressed their gratitude to Gayle Calder and Ashleigh Campbell for the success of the village Christmas parties, which without their

fundraising and fantastic efforts would not have been possible. They also had a Nominate A Neighbour initiative which showed such great community spirit and gave a lift to many in the community over the festive period. It was agreed that if Gayle and Ashleigh chose to do the initiative this year Community Council would donate £100 to the cause.

### **9. Community Council Logo**

The idea of a community council logo was discussed; everyone agreed this was a great idea. A competition would be launched to design the logo.

### **10. Community Feedback**

An issue had been raised to community council regarding street lighting which was not working, it was noted that these had been reported by community members and were now operational.

It was noted that a consultation had been in place regarding removal of the conservation area from part of the village, this consultation is now closed and we are awaiting an update.

The issue of dog fouling in the village had been once again raised. It was agreed that the school would renew the signs previously made and community council would trial an initiative of disposal bags being placed in 3 locations, Seaview Road, Mini Hampden and the Sannie Craig.

RESOLVED:

1. Community Council to purchase biodegradable dog waste bags.

### **11. Fundraising**

CF discussed the need for continued fundraising, and asked for any suggestions to possible future fundraisers. Any ideas and help welcome, please come forward.

### **12. Permissions**

CB had contacted Moray Council regarding permissions for 2 Community Council projects. The first being the boat being restored by men's shed to be sited at top of the village. Moray Council has agreed to this as long as sight lines at the junction are maintained. PS shared his plan for the boat and materials needed. It was agreed and a maximum budget of £300 to purchase materials, if any further costs involved PS to come back to Community Council for further approval. CB to confirm if Moray Council require site visitation before proceeding.

The second project being a decorative anchor on the harbour green. Discussion was held regarding placement of the anchor and if the harbour green was the best place, no agreement was met, and PS to look at possible alternative locations to bring to next meeting.

Further discussion was held regarding the Do Not Park signs, it was agreed that as a community council we do not have the authority to enforce these, so would not be reinstating these signs at present.

RESOLVED:

1. PS to look at other locations for anchor
2. CB to check with Moray Council re boat site

### 13. Community Resilience Plan

CB to contact Anne to see if she is okay and if any updates. School has asked to be linked in with plan, as when there are power outages they have no communication due to phone lines being down.

RESOLVED:

1. CB to contact Anne.

### 14. Reports

- a. **Moray Councillors**- no updates
- b. **Town Hall** - no updates
- c. **Community Council Sub-groups**
  - i. **Harbour Advisory Group** – no updates
  - ii. **Christmas lights** – no updates.
  - iii. **Maintenance/Gardening** – PS has priced the information display boards with the cost of 1 board £369.60. It was felt that this was quite expensive and that further quotes should be obtained with possibly finding someone to do the design work at a lower cost. It was noted that the village notice board was no longer water tight and is in need of replacement. CB to get costings for replacement
  - iv. **Litter pick**- no update.
  - v. **Defibrillator**- new pads required in Sept 24, these to be ordered in sufficient time. Defib all in working order, door had previously been damaged but this has been repaired. Possibility of refresher training still ongoing, CB to contact Wildcat at Buckie Harbour who may offer free training. Discussion on offering an event to train the wider public and offer tea and coffee.
  - vi. **Morven Play Park**- no updates.

RESOLVED:

1. CB to price notice board replacement
2. PS to obtain further quotes for the information boards.

### 15. AOCB

- No other matters raised.

### 16. Date, time and venue of next meeting

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm Findochty Town Hall