



Findochty Community Council minutes

Date: Monday 29th April 2024

Time: 7pm

Venue: Findochty Town Hall

Attendees:

Community Councillors: Caroline Ferguson (CF), Lorna Simpson (LS), Cheryl Birtwistle (CB), Ron Dawson (RD)

Associate members: Sean Brown (SB), Paul Steel (PS)

Members of Public: 9

Moray Council: Cllr Sonya Warren, Cllr Neil McLennan, Debra Duke CCLO

Community Police:

1. Chairperson Welcome

CF welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies received from John Gardiner, Morag Campbell, Jeff Masterson and Cllr John Stuart.

2. Community Police Update:

In March 2024, there were fourteen calls made to Police Scotland for Findochty & District and following initial investigation only one resulted in a crime being reported. This related to a misuse of drugs offence with an individual being reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

3. Primary School:

It was noted that the school was in support of the dog fouling initiative and were supporting this with renewed posters around the village, but were disappointed to find that one of these had been taken down and destroyed shortly after being placed.

Discussion was held regarding a current learning estate review being held for Buckie ASG. The next meeting planned is 9th May this is a focus/working group where a member from community groups such as Community Council and PSGs would be invited to take part. It was noted that a change of date may be put in place due to this coinciding with the JCC meeting. Findochty PSG held a meeting at the school which was well attended and responses were collated and submitted. Community Council to continue to link in with PSG moving forward. Ideas discussed included school building being used as hubs for health access points, outreach banking services, use of solar panels and underground heating. Community Council to create a google survey which will be published online, with paper copies to be taken to Pop Up Café,

with community members Anne and Nancy supporting this. Sean Brown agreed to attend the Focus Group meeting on behalf of Community Council. Congratulations were given to Findochty Primary, Delilah Clark and Elaine Mair for their recent wins at The Banffshire Heroes Awards.

4. Approval of previous meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate.

5. Treasurer Report

Sean advised there had been some banking issues regarding online access which Cheryl was working to resolve, online access would hopefully be restored soon.

Sean advised the current totals to all members and noted that a donation of £260 was received for maintenance from the collection by the Admirals; this was generously topped up to £300 by the Admirals team. Community Council thank everyone for this kind donation.

Total Balance was £6,952.51 of which

£2,02.07 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

6. PSG Request

Findochty PSG has arranged for all the children to have a visit to the pantomime in Inverness, they have requested would Community Council support this by paying for each child to receive an ice cream, with the nursery children also receiving. This was agreed and funds remaining in the Lotto Grant to be used.

7. Community Feedback

Discussion held on the safe access route to the old railway path, school had been in touch with Seafield regarding this. Sustrans advised they could not support this as it is privately owned land. Community Council to contact Seafield Estates to ask if they would assist with clearing the area if Community Council will then maintain. It was noted that better drainage could be looked at during the clearing. Vattenfall also have volunteer days which could be utilised to help with the initial clearing.

It was noted that a request to find out if Sustrans could improve the line between Portknockie and Findochty, CB to contact Sustrans.

CF had received a phone call regarding concerns over the parking at Cliff Street as there is very little access for emergency vehicles. Discussion held and it was advised that any vehicles which are broken down and without tax should be reported using the online system.

8. Dog Fouling

CB has now installed 3 dog foul waste stations around the village, positive feedback had been received so far. Some areas continue to be an issue, residents encouraged to report any instances they witness. It was discussed having 2 more stations added one behind the town hall and one by The Hythe. CB to arrange these.

RESOLVED:

1. CB to arrange 2 further dog waste stations.

9. Fundraising

It was discussed that the funds are looking generally healthy, however a new noticeboard is required which may use a large chunk of the general funds. It was suggested that a once a year event such as a tombola be held to help keep funds readily available for anything required in the community. It was suggested that an application be made to the common good fund for the notice board once a price is agreed. CF urged that any community members who wish to support any form of fundraising get in touch.

10. Notice Board Replacement

CF discussed the various prices obtained by CB for notice board replacements. The general feeling was that all options found were very expensive. PS and Andy Slater advised it would be cheaper to source own posts to hold the board rather than from a company. CB and PS to look further at more options.

RESOLVED:

2. CB and PS to look at more notice boards.

11. Community Resilience

Anne advised that our recent bid had unfortunately been unsuccessful. Anne to look into funding options to progress a resilience emergency pamphlet. Debra Duke to link in with Anne progressing this.

RESOLVED:

1. Anne will progress funding options.

12. Reports

- a. **Moray Councillors-** Cllr McLennan offered congratulations to the Primary School for their recent award. He advised ongoing engagement with the Learning Estate and anti-social behaviour issues. Issues regarding flooding at the cemetery had been raised which are being looked at. Discussion held over the Bank of Scotland closure, Cllr McLennan encouraged those in the community more vulnerable to reach out to bank staff who will show how the bank services can be accessed via the post office. Discussion held over possibility of a 1 day a week community

banker but this would need to be well utilised in order to continue. Cllr McLennan advised he has continued to monitor the noted overflowing bins reported in the area, and had been regularly reporting any potholes.

Cllr Warren advised she was continuing to monitor the Learning Estate issue and discussion was held regarding health and wellbeing hubs and being responsible for your own health. Also could a day service facility be utilised within the village/school. Cllr Warren also advised that funding is available for dropped kerbs if there are any areas in the village that could benefit from this.

- b. **Town Hall** – the Town Hall continues to be busy, the wall recently damaged has now been repaired and was covered by the party responsible insurance. The hall has seen solar panels installed which are working well. The Pop Up Café has now restarted and has been very well attended.
- c. **Community Council Sub-groups**
 - i. **Harbour Advisory Group** – no recent meeting, however this has been requested and the pontoon has required repair, hoping for an update at the next meeting.
 - ii. **Christmas lights** – 9 new lights and brackets were purchased in February for £2000, these were sourced on an offer of buy one get one free. In the summer the team will look at replacing broken brackets and making any repairs to switches. The lights are now stored at the old Cruickshank's Factory in Buckie.
 - iii. **Maintenance/Gardening** – PS advised he has been busy mending and painting planters ready for this year's flowers. He has also been working on an area at the Harbour Green for the planter there to sit on. He has received a price from Bauds for this year's flowers. He was able to obtain some discount and the cost would be £325 for flowers and £59 for compost. This was approved by the committee. Discussion was held over the anchor and if it could be placed on grass area at the school, but no agreement was reached. This led to discussion over parking concerns at the school on the grass area and it was discussed could planters be placed to create a deterrent for unsafe parking, and also brighten up that area of the village. It was agreed to purchase some planters at £15 each; Andy Slater would collect these for us.
 - iv. Damage was noted at bus shelter by Town Hall, CB to report this.
 - v. **Litter pick**- no date set.
 - vi. **Defibrillator**- all in working order. Buckie Wildcats have agreed to offer some free training. The equipment is currently out in use, but they will be in touch when it returns. It was agreed that when a resilience plan is created to have a list of those trained in defib use to be included.
 - vii. **Morven Play Park**- it was agreed to close this sub group as park is now complete.

RESOLVED:

1. CB to report bus shelter.

13.AOCB

- It was noted that a motorhome appears to be parked at the harbour green area, discussion held regarding if this would be legally allowed.
- The public toilets are in need of replacement supplies, CB to contact Moray Council.
- Discussion held over the Community Council request for a logo, it was noted that some members had discussed their being a Burgh Seal for Findochty. After discussion those in attendance agreed that a logo solely for the use by community council was still a good idea and this was to be pursued. It will be noticed and publicised this is not to replace any existing Findochty mottos or logos; this is purely for use on things such as the community council paperwork and Facebook page.

14.Date, time and venue of next meeting

Monday 17th June 2024 at 7pm Findochty Town Hall

Meeting closed at 8.53pm