

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at Rafford Village Hall

**FCC members present:**

Tony Pinner (TP), Anna Gatward (AG), Howard Davenport (HD), Tom Hardie (TH)

**Also present:**

Andy Munro (AM), Juli Salt, Mike MacDonald (MMacD), Rosemary Pannell (RP), Mark Abbs, Kathleen Robertson (KR), Paul McBain (PMcB)

**Apologies:**

Peter Taylor (PT), Richard Kirk

**1) Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes agreed.

**2) Current Standing Items**

**a) Traffic Safety in Rafford**

- **Provision of a pavement in Upper Rafford**

HD reported that the footpath construction work had been completed, but there were some snagging items to be tackled. These include replacement of some tarmac where the lighting cable crosses the road, so the traffic lights may re-appear.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

PT had reported by email on the topic of insurance for the VAS signs. He had spoken to a man at Zurich who works in the Community Council area who confirmed that £56.00 is their minimum premium charge for “adding a line of business”, and that the coverage would be for “property” insurance, not liability. PT had raised the issue of insurance for CC owned assets at the Joint Community Councils (JCC) meeting in Elgin. This issue was a surprise the other CC’s present. Hopefully Debra Duke (CCLO) can find some answers. **(Action: PT to follow up)**

- **Village Entrance Signs**

HD reported no further progress on the issue of the 14sqm of land required to widen the verge to accommodate the signs at the South end of Upper Rafford. **(Action: HD to follow up)**

b) **Broadband**

**R100**

TH reported that the planned meeting to the status of the OpenReach R100 plan to install fibre broadband in Finderne, had been cancelled due to Richard Lochhead's recent illness. HD had followed this up with a request for a new date for a meeting, and a series of queries to Duncan Nisbet, hoping to get further information on timing and scope of the R100 fibre deployment.

AM reported that OpenReach contractors had installed ducting for fibre between Braemoray and Edinkillie Church in around 1 day. Apparently, there are 40km of ducting to be installed in the Edinkillie area.

HD reported a phone call from community member, asking that impact of planned decommissioning of copper phone lines on those without fibre connections be discussed with Openreach.

**External Reality**

TH reported that the local supplier, External Reality (ER), had now cleared a blockage in the duct near to Old Road, Lower Rafford. Apparently, the installation of cabinets may require planning permission.

HD reported that FCC had received some notes of a meeting between FDT and ER. Amongst other things it had been noted that it is the intention is for Richard to produce a map which identifies which properties he can provide Broadband for in Rafford and how much it will cost to install broadband per property. This is probably 2-3 months away.

c) **Brockloch Field Development**

HD reported that he had seen a number of revised drawings posted onto the Planning website in mid-May, after the closure of comments. TP suggested these were probably minor changes and would check with Ian Chorlton.

TH suggested that FDT notify the community of any changes, even minor, in order demonstrate open communications. **(Action: TP to follow up)**

HD asked if this planning application would be considered by TMC Planning Committee, or just by the assigned officer. PMcB replied that the criteria for consideration by the planning committee was a development of 25 or more houses, a significant number of objections, or an application being outwith Planning Policy.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

HD reported that he had again contacted EDF requesting FCC inclusion in the Clash Gour Community Liaison Group (CLG).

AM and TH had attended public meeting on the SSEN plans for upgrading the high voltage power lines between Beauly and Blackhillock (near Keith). The corridors for the new proposed pylons were being narrowed down but not yet finalised

HD noted in the Secretaries Report that we had received an email from the JCC giving a heads-up on the proposed SSEN Community Benefit Fund.

e) **Joint Community Council**

PT reported by email that he had attended the 9<sup>th</sup> May JCC meeting. 33% of CC's had attended. In addition to the issues on property insurance noted earlier in these minutes, PT reported that some of the bigger and richer CC's could be in a position to help out CC's who were short of funds. This imbalance was due to larger CC's having access to free council meeting rooms, and a greater population based administration grant.

f) **Resilience Planning**

PT had suggested by email, that in addition to any generating equipment we may procure, we need to consider insurance. PT had earlier proposed that we buy some equipment for charging mobile phones and laptops.

Having reviewed some extensive documents generated by other CC's, PT had requested some guidance from the other FCC members on our expectations with respect to Resilience Planning. HD suggested a separate meeting of member to discuss this. **(Action: HD/PT to set up meeting)**

g) **Forres Health Services**

TH reported on the NHS Forres Locality Planning Group meeting that had been held in May. In order to addresses any queries to the correct entity, it has been agreed that queries should be channelled to the Locality Manager.

Following on from the process suggested in the last meeting, TH proposed the following general question, upon which the meeting agreed.

- In the light of delays to the availability of prescriptions, how is the performance of the repeat prescription process being monitored, and can feedback be sent to individual patients when the 5-day target is exceeded.
- It has been noted that an E-Consult dialogue can be closed by the practice without the patient being informed. Can this be modified?

In discussion on the repeat prescription process, KR advised the meeting that there was a £19M overspend on the repeat prescription budget in Moray. Some of this was due to lack of review of repeat prescriptions leading to oversupply of drugs etc that were no longer required.

**3) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

a. **A940 Road Junction at Edinkillie Church**

AM reported problems with drainage at the new road layout, with increasing run-off onto the road. vehicles. **(Actions: AM to forward details, PT to forward to Roads Dept)**

b. **FCC membership**

TP had previously suggested we advertise again for a minute secretary with TSI Moray, noting that an honorarium could be made available. **(Action: HD to contact TSI Moray)**

AG informed the meeting of her intention to stand down as Treasurer. This was not imminent, but she hoped that advanced notice would give a new Treasurer time sufficient time for a good handover. The meeting thanked AG for her excellent work as treasurer, and appreciated the need for a good handover.

**c. Local Place Plans**

No FCC members had been available for the JCC LPP meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April. HD had earlier forwarded some background material on the purpose of and process for generating an LPP for Finderne.

HD re-iterated that the purpose of an LPP was to record a community's aspirations for land use, housing, roads, and public buildings in the area. Once an LPP has been registered, the Moray Council has a legal obligation to take it into account when developing the next Local Development Plan.

There is a requirement that some form of community consultation take place in developing an LPP.

The timeline for producing a draft LPP is September 2024.

TP suggested using the 2018 FCC community survey as a basis.

It was agreed that a separate meeting of FCC members was convened to discuss and agree the process for developing a Finderne LPP. **(Action: HD to arrange meeting)**

Post Meeting note: RP suggested some ideas for communication and survey using Spotlight and Survey Monkey. She agreed to discuss with FDT if she could assist in some way.

**d. Lower Rafford Mini-Wetland**

TH reported work in progress.

**4) Planning Report (TP)**

TP reported that no new planning applications of note for Finderne had been lodged. The following previous applications were discussed.

- 4 houses at Templestones, Rafford, application withdrawn
- New house at Old Road Rafford – TH commented that determination deadline of 24 April was well past but it had not yet been decided. **(Action: TP to follow up)**

**5) Secretary's Report (HD)**

HD gave a summary of correspondence received by email to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024:

- 24-Apr – Email received from community member commenting that FCC had objected to recent planning applications at Templestones and Old Road, and asking if we would be objecting to Brochloch housing development. (discussed at previous meeting)
- 24-Apr – Community notice sent by FCC asking for volunteers for Wild Flower Planting
- 24-Apr – email rec'd from community member thanking us for wild flower planting at Church Terrace
- 25-Apr – email from community member offering to assist in Resilience Planning
- 28-Apr – email from community member suggesting Wireless Broadband as per "Strathspey Now" model rather than fibre. **(to be answered: TH)**
- 29-Apr – email from Debra Duke (CCLO) reminding us of LPP meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April and Elgin Long Term Plan engagement events
- 30-Apr – email from CCLO forwarding Insurance renewal documents from Zurich Insurance.

- 1-May – email from G McCartney asking for proof reading of Gazette article on TMC £2000 award to RVH. (actioned)
- 2-May – email from Cullen and Deskford CC, asking for feedback on broadband bandwidth at local schools. **(to be followed up: TH)**
- 6-May – email from I Charlton at FDT including summary of their update meeting with External Regality on their fibre installation.
- 7-May – email from CLO with agenda from 9<sup>th</sup> May JCC meeting
- 14-May – email from CLO asking for input on Community Learning & Development Strategic Plan
- 14-May – email from G McCartney looking for feedback on letter sent to Gazette about the width of the new pavement in Upper Rafford (meeting agreed no action on this)
- 23-May – email from CLO forwarding information on Moray Digital Infrastructure Project **(to be followed up: TH)**
- 23-May – draft minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> May JCC meeting received
- 27-May – email for CLO with heads-up on SSEN Community Benefit Fund
- 27-May – further email forwarded by CLO looking for potential locations for pop-up libraries **(to be followed up: HD)**
- 28-May – email from G McCartney looking for photos of RVH Wall repairs, new pavement and VAS signs (meeting agreed not to pursue this)
- 29-May – email from CLO informing free AED training for CRG members available on 12<sup>th</sup> June
- 30-May – email from FCC sent to Duncan Nisbett and Laura Mitchell asking for further info on R100 process and timeline
- 30-May – update from Elaine Penny on Pavements etc
- 4-June - email from TMC Economic Growth and Development team with a further “Call for Site” for the 2027 Local Development Plan.
- 4-June – phone call from community member, asking that impact of planned decommissioning of copper phone lines on those without fibre connections be discussed with Openreach.

#### **6) Treasurers Report (AG) to be updated**

*AG provided the following update prior to the meeting:*

- *Bank Balance £20,919.11*
  - *£20,000 SSEN Resilient Fund;*
  - *£7621.32 Moray Council Admin Grant balance;*
  - *£57.79 Residents of Newtyle Access Road;*
  - *£240 Stocksigns compensation*

TP suggested that the Stocksigns compensation money be ringfenced for insurance and/or maintenance of the signs.

AG informed the meeting of her intention to stand down. (see earlier minute)

## 7) AOCB

- **Matters arising from Secretaries Report**

- **Elgin Long Term Plan**

KR urged members to review and respond to Elgin Long Term Plan, as it was TMC intention that Elgin should be considered as the “County Town” for the area, providing services for the wider community.

- **MDP 2027 Call for Sites**

TP advised that FDT had aspirations to facilitate some affordable self-build plots in the area, so he would forward this call for sites to FDT. HD suggested that community consultation should take place prior to any further proposals for house developments by FDT. TP confirmed that this would happen.

- **Wildflower Planting**

HD reported feedback from Ruaraidh Milne that a wild flower planting work party had taken place on 27<sup>th</sup> April on the bank below Church Terrace in Rafford.

- **Mobile Library**

HD reported an approach from Moray Library Services to provide a mobile library bus, at Rafford and in the Edinkillie/Logie area.

HD had notified Rafford Village Hall, Logie Primary School, and Edinkillie Community Hall, suggesting they contact Library Services directly to take this forward.

- **Path to Rafford Church**

MMacD reported that the old road from Lower Rafford to the Church was becoming overgrown and would become impassable unless action was taken. It was suggested that a work party of volunteers could be organised to tackle this. **(Action: HD/MMacD)**

- **Fish Ladder at Lower Rafford Bridge**

MMacD also reported that the fish ladder at the bridge in Lower Rafford was chocked. TH volunteered to deal with this. **(Action: TH)**

- **Road to Rafford Church Cemetery**

AM reported that the road from Kirkside to Rafford Church was in bad condition with many potholes, making it difficult for visitors to the cemetery. It was suggested that TMC Parks and Lond department may be able to repair this, as they had done with the access to Edinkillie Cemetery. **(Action: HD to follow up)**

MA advised that ownership and responsibility for this section of road used for access to the cemetery, the church, and to Granary Farm be clarified. Also, the need for provision of parking for the cemetery should be addressed. **(Action: ???)**

- **Drainage on A940 at Altyre**

AM reported that drainage channels on the A940 at the low point in the Blairs Loch area were blocked, leading to dangerous flooding. AM agreed to forward some pictures to send to Roads Dept. **(Action: AM/HD)**

## 8) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, at Edinkillie Community Hall.