



## **Findochty Community Council Minutes**

**Date: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Time: 7pm**

**Venue: Findochty Town Hall**

### **Attendees -**

**Community Councillors:** Caroline Ferguson (CF), Cheryl Birtwistle (CB), Jeffrey Masterson (JF)

**Associate members:** Paul Steel (PS)

**Members of Public:** 10

**Moray Council:** Cllr Sonya Warren

**Community Police:**

### **1. Chairperson Welcome**

CF welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised apologies had been received from Cllr Stuart, Ron Dawson and Sean Brown. Caroline informed us that committee member Morag Campbell had given her resignation. Morag is chair of Buckie Cancer Group and with other commitments needs to manage her time. Caroline expressed our thanks and gratitude to Morag for her time spent on Community Council and all she has done during her role.

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

No police were in attendance; however, it was reported that in July 2024 there were 5 calls made to Police Scotland for Findochty & District and following initial investigation only 2 resulted in a crime being reported. These related to

- A vandalism to Findochty Nursery which has been detected.
- A fraud.

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

CF noted there had been vandalism throughout the school area including damage to trees which were planted, but hopefully with this being reported to police, it would stop any further instances. CF expressed that school are looking for any volunteers to help with things such as strimming at school and with planters which need removal.

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

Minutes were agreed as accurate.

## **5. Treasurer Report**

Treasurer not present to provide Monthly Report. CF advised that Community Council are having some issues with banking at present, with us being unable to access the account online, which we are looking to get resolved as soon as possible. Also due to Morag stepping down we would require another signatory to be added when Morag is removed.

## **6. Safe Access Route**

CF took a call from Janet Macdonald at Moray Council in regard to the proposed safe access route. Unfortunately, due to the land being owned by Seafield Estates, Moray Council cannot offer any help with this project other than advice. Janet did discuss with CF if a safer option from the Stripey path could be facilitated, as this is a dangerous area for crossing the road, possibly extending footpath or installing some type of crossing etc. Community Council have reached out to the Ian Findlay Path Fund to enquire re potential funding, CF to liaise with them regarding this.

## **7. Community Feedback**

CF advised she had received some concerns regarding Mid Street and vehicles not giving way at the school end, some near misses had been witnessed, it was noted that this was happening out with school times also. Community Council to contact police to raise these concerns.

CF noted that the school are also looking at the area and the continued parking issues, and it is being looked at to see if yellow lines could be put down to discourage the parking. It was suggested that Community Council also raise their concerns to Moray Council, to highlight the safety issue and support the need for lines to be installed.

Concerns were raised regarding an empty building in Sterlochty Street which has been vacant for a while now, but is in a very poor state of repair, with brickwork crumbling and could be a potential safety concern. It is believed that Community Council previously reported this particular property, but it has deteriorated a great deal since it was previously looked at. Community Council to escalate these concerns again.

A community member has contacted Community Council with concerns regarding a motorhome parked down by harbour disposing of their waste water onto the street, this was discussed and agreed to pass to the harbour authority to make them aware.

The bridge on the Findochty to Portessie line was highlighted as having been noted to be rotting in parts and needing repair works. Community Council to contact Moray Council for an update on works.

The winner of our logo design was announced. Mr Paul Kerrison entered an amazing design which was voted by the public to be our chosen logo. This will now feature on all our paperwork. Paul graciously declined the competition prize and said for it to be put back into the pot for Community Council funds.

At our previous meeting CF advised a resident had raised concerns over the Stripey path at the back of Burnside Street, concerns had been raised regarding this being used as a right of access and the maintenance of this access path. Community Council contacted Seafield estates who advised the owner of the property at the end of the Stripey has the right of vehicular access and can maintain to a standard suitable for their use. This concern now marked as resolved.

The harbour toilets were previously discussed due to cleanliness and lack of soap/toilet roll. We have been advised by Moray council these have been inspected since our concern was logged and found to be in good condition. It was noted however that there still appeared to be a shortage in soap when visited. Community Council to go back and ask if soap dispensers could be installed rather than bars of soap which may be going missing.

Community Council had requested if a bin could be placed at Mini Hampden. This request has been denied.

Steps at Findochty Harbour had been highlighted on Facebook as requiring repair, this is however in hand by the harbour committee.

**RESOLVED:**

1. CB to contact police regarding concerns at Mid Street.
2. CB to contact Moray council re parking concerns at school.
3. CB to contact Moray Council regarding bridge on the line.
4. CB to contact Harbour Authority regarding motorhome concerns.
5. CB to go back to Council regarding public toilets.

**8. Hustings**

CF advised following on from our last meeting the Hustings event, that we agreed to support, but were unable to have anyone attend planning meetings or the actual event, had been held and advised by Cullen as being successful. Findochty Community Council have since had an email, advising that the costs to cover the event were to be shared between the supporting Community Councils. As Findochty had not been aware of costs to be incurred by Community Council, CF asked for some clarification about this. Cullen Community Council felt that Findochty were taking a stance of not being willing to pay the incurred event costs. CF has gone back to advise, that we have not said we are unwilling pay, but we required to have a meeting in order for this to be discussed and agreed by committee, as all financial decisions are minuted and agreed. It was decided that Findochty should go back to Cullen Community Council to encourage the costs to be re invoiced to the election candidates as had been originally discussed, if however, these funds were not recovered from candidates, to let us know and we could arrange payment. It was felt by the committee members present however that in future any costs to be incurred from joint community council events should be clearly informed to all participating community councils.

**RESOLVED:**

1. CF to contact Cullen Community Council

## 9. Community Council Maintenance

Following on from our previous meeting, Community Council have had 2 offers in terms of storage solutions for our gardening and maintenance equipment.

Community member Rachel Waldron had offered storage at her property located just out with the village, but would obviously require trailer for moving the mower. A further option of land has been offered down by the Men's Shed which is a plot of land, but would require a shed of some sort to be purchased. Discussion was held and it was agreed that the land down by Men's Shed would be the most suitable option. It was agreed to look into and apply to the Common Good Fund to get the shed required, and fundraising if required. It was discussed approaching Ronald at Christies to see if they could give any help, and Ashleigh Campbell said she would enquire with Howdens. Looking at having a 12ft by 10ft shed with double doors.

Our insurance requires an extra premium of £85.27 for insurance of our gardening assets, this was agreed.

It was previously agreed to remove the notice board, however it still appeared to be in use by other than Community Council. CF to check with RD if town hall is using it.

PS advised some of our flowers this year had suffered due to the weather, so replacements had to be purchased. He also advised compost and some planters would require renewing next year.

Some community members have been maintaining areas within village, it was agreed that they can keep receipts for fuel for mowers/strimmer's and be reimbursed for this.

RESOLVED:

1. CB and CF to look into Common Good Fund.

## 10. Reports

- a. **Moray Councillors** – Cllr Warren advised that part of the conservation area in the village had now been removed, some areas had not, she is waiting on an update about this. Budgets are currently being looked at, with savings needing to be made. The next part of the Learning Estate review will take place around September to October.
- b. **Town Hall** – No update
- c. **Community Council Sub-groups**

**Harbour Advisory Group** – no new updates.

**Christmas lights** – the street lights which hold the Christmas lights are due to have some checks prior to installation this year and a successful fundraiser has just been held online.

**Maintenance/Gardening** – as discussed earlier in minutes.

**Litter pick**- no update.

**Defibrillator**- all in working order. CF advised she has been in contact with Buckie Wildcats and a free defib training course is hopefully to be held at the start of September.

RESOLVED:

1. CF to confirm defib training.

## **11.AOCB**

Anne gave an update regarding Community Resilience. She has met up with Debra Duke who will link Anne in with the wider Resilience meetings. There are some funds open at present, but none felt suitable at present, Debra advised Anne's previous bid had been very good. Anne to keep in touch with Debra moving forward and continue to work on leaflets for households.

Caroline addressed the meeting and advised with Morag's resignation there was now a vacant seat on the committee if anyone would like to be considered to be co-opted on. Ashleigh Campbell expressed her interest on being co-opted. CF also then went on to say she has an incredibly busy year coming up with her ongoing studies for her Masters, along with other commitments and again asked if anyone would consider taking on the role of Chair to enable her to step down. Ashleigh Campbell advised she would take on the role. It was asked by a community member if CF wanted to continue on as a community councillor, CF advised she would like to resign completely from Community Council, community member Stephen Birtwistle then said he would also like to be considered to be co-opted. It was agreed that CB to contact Debra Duke to confirm the procedures for Caroline's resignation, and the steps to be taken before the next meeting, and prior to voting for co-option of the 2 members interested in joining Community Council and for the role of chair.

## **12. Date, time and venue of next meeting**

30th September 2024 at 7pm Findochty Town Hall

Meeting closed at 8.45pm