

Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at Edinkillie Community Hall

FCC members present:

Tony Pinner (TP), Howard Davenport (HD), Tom Hardie (TH), Peter Taylor (PT)

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Juli Salt (JS), Rosemary Pannell (RP),
Andy Kemp (AK), Susan Kemp (SK), Peter Mitchell (PM)

Apologies:

Anna Gatward (AG), Kathleen Robertson, Paul McBain

1) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed.

2) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

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

Construction works complete, but some snagging items to be tackled. Elaine Penny, Roads Engineer, still to propose some road markings at crossing points.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

Having investigated options, having received no guidance from JCC or Moray Council, and considered the risks, PT suggested that the FCC should not take out additional insurance for the VAS signs. All members present agreed.

- **Village Entrance Signs**

HD reported that Elaine Penny had marked out the area of the field needed for the sign at the sound end of Upper Rafford. The owners of the field, AK and SK, indicated that they would agree to moving the fence to accommodate the sign. **(Action: HD to follow up)**

- **Road Closures**

Having had a period of limited road closures since the last meeting, it was noted that road closures were unexpectedly introduced on the weekend of 5th October. It was also noted that roads were signed as closed when access was still possible, and the notifications on TMC Roads department were inaccurate. However, the contractors have been helpful in arranging access where possible. It was suggested that low turnout at the Rafford Village Café had been due to road closed signs on the Forres-Rafford road.

It was agreed that FCC should write to TMC roads department asking for improvements in the notification of road closures, and that FCC should be notified directly by Roads Department of any road closures, rather than having to constantly check the on the TMC website. **(Action: HD)**

b) **Broadband**

OpenReach R100

TH reported that although OpenReach fibre installation was underway across Finderne, that the OpenReach website was saying connection would not be available until June 2025.

External Reality

TP reported that based on conversations with External Reality, he gathered that applications for new SBVS £5000 grants are on hold. Existing grants agreed would be honoured. It was suggested that FCC should contact Duncan Nisbet from Scottish Government for further information. **(Action: HD)**

c) **Brockloch Field Development**

TP reported that FDT was still awaiting a decision on the planning application from Moray Council.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

HD reported that Statkraft had submitted an updated planning application, based on changes to the “borrow pits” required to source material for the roads within the windfarm. There had been public meeting at Edinkillie Hall on 24th September, and a further one scheduled for 30th October at Houldsworth Institute in Dallas.

e) **Joint Community Council**

PT reported that there had been no JCC meeting since the last FCC meeting.

Regarding the subject of Community Council Funding, FCC members had agreed to vote for Option 3, which was that JCC should ask TMC to cover directly the cost of venues for community council meetings

f) **Resilience Planning**

PT reported the following:

1. I spoke to Debra Duke and duly received a copy of the Council’s “Template” Plan
2. I have prepared a first draft of a Plan in that format, and circulated it to the FCC, and to members of the nascent Resilience Group
3. I have held discussions with the following to gather background information an to form a Resilience Subgroup: Rhona McNicol of Moray Council, Malcolm Mackintosh, Andy Kemp, Roy Dennis, Mike Crutch, Ian Chorlton and Pete Mitchell
4. I have reviewed the terms of the initial SSE Grant and concluded that there is in law **no** “September deadline”
5. From my various discussions a rather critical flaw in the plan to date has emerged in that Edinkillie Hall’s water supply is apparently dependent on a remote **electrically powered** private water supply pump, so I am investigating alternative Safe Place options in the Edinkillie area.

6. The SSE grant's pricing datum was apparently based on 2 "**tractor-driven**" generators, presumably on the basis that that avoided the issue of fuel choice, periodic maintenance and regular start-up and run protocols; the need for constant replacement and renewal of e.g. petrol over time; diesel performance in extreme low temperatures; etc. So, we need to discuss with the local farming community throughout Finderne the likely availability of "spare" tractors to drive such gennies in times of emergency, and enter into some more formal commitments from their side to provide such drive units.
7. Andy Kemp is trying to ascertain whether there is a local second-hand market for generators
8. I have received from FDT a pack of "Household" Resilience leaflets, as supplied by Moray Council.
 - a. I have left a pack of those with Roy Dennis for distribution to his end of the community at upcoming ECA events,
 - b. I distributed a fair number at the Rafford Coffee morning. I agree it would be a good idea to put a copy on the FCC website. **(Action: HD)**
9. I put forward in outline the concept of "local sub-units" and groupings of households which could form the basis of first and second tier "local resilience units".
 - a. FCC members and Resilience Group to comment. **(Action: all)**
 - b. After receipt and processing comments and corrections I will have these "areas" transcribed onto a large map
 - c. I shall also annotate the spreadsheet of addresses and postcodes in Finderne to tie it up with these listed areas.
10. I have booked a ticket for the upcoming Moray Community Resilience Conference. Unfortunately, I cannot now attend, and so am inviting others to take my place and/or secure further places.

(Post meeting note: This is a summary of a fuller report from PM that will be distributed to FCC and RSG members.) **(Action: HD)**

g) Forres Health Services

TH has received answers to some of the question posed to the Forres Area Health Forum, on subjects such as:

- Health professionals access to speak to Forres GP Practice
- Availability of Prescriptions

TH agreed to provide a full list of questions and answers to be included on FCC website **(Action TH)**

It was also noted that vaccinations would be available in Forres to over 75-year-olds only.

3) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. A940 Road Junction at Edinkillie Church

It was confirmed that AM should phone PT when the road is flooded, so pictures can be taken, and forwarded to TMC Roads Dept. **(Actions: AM, PT)**

b. FCC membership

TP had issued an updated recruitment poster.

(Action: All CC member to review)

TP and PT attended Rafford Village Café on 5th October, but reported that most people there were not from Rafford

c. Local Place Plans

HD reported that the community survey had received 74 responses, a 15% response rate. Once hard copy returns had been input, the data would be forwarded to CA and FCC members.

RP noted only limited response so far to Business and other stakeholders survey.

TP noted that an internal progress meeting with CA was scheduled for Thursday 10th October.

TP had not yet heard back from Edinkillie Community Association regarding FCC request to meet with ECA and CA, to discuss ECA representation in the LPP. **(Action: TP to follow up)**

HD reported that Edinkillie and Rafford Village Halls had been booked for Community Drop-in Meetings, on 29th and 30th October respectively, to be run from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Publicity for Drop-in meeting to be started week commencing 14th October **(Action HD)**

d. Lower Rafford Mini-Wetland

TH reported no response yet from TMC on his plans for the mini-wetland.

e. Path to Rafford Church

TH reported that an enjoyable work party had taken place on Saturday 5th October, and had cleared about a third of the path. Cakes and teas had been provided.

A further work party to be organised to complete the work. **(Action: TH)**

PM reported that he and a friend had also cleared the path from Granary Farm to Sourbank.

RP reported that she had mentioned the idea of a Rafford to Forres shared use path to the Forres Area Forum, who seemed interested in the project. The meeting agreed that this group could also bring this up with the Forres LPP group.

f. Road to Rafford Cemetery

HD no further response from TMC legal department on ownership of this section of road.

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP reported that no new planning applications of note for Finderne had been lodged.

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

The meeting agreed to include the following report from HD which was to be circulated immediately after the meeting.

Summary of correspondence received by email to 8th October 2024:

8th Oct – Email from James Mackie of Speymouth Environmental partnership, asking for participation in a petition to Scottish Parliament asking for an independent review of all flood management/alleviation legislation, procedures, guidelines and proposals.

8th Oct email from A Kennedy of JCC circulating TMC Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy, presentation event on 24th October, and comments by 22nd November.

30-Sep – Email from Debra Duke, looking for comments on Developer Obligations by 11th October

25th Sept – email from FACT with survey on Erskine Veterans Activity Centre in Forres, survey closing on 18th October.

13th Sept – email from Debra Duke notifying Moray Community Resilience Event, 2024 being held on 7th November in Inchberry Hall.

12th Sept – email from Neil Morrison of Police Scotland looking for feedback on Police attendance at community council meetings

11th Sept – email from Debra Duke looking for preferred option for CC Admin grant, by 27th September.

9th Sept – email from Alison Hood of Statkraft, with notice of Berryburn Windfarm public meeting at Edinkie Hall on 24th September, and Houldsworth Institute Dallas on 30th October. Changes to borrow pits.

2nd Sept – email from Tessa Brock, publicising a free women's retreat day at Marcassie, on 28th September, funded by the Berry Burn fund.

29th Aug – email from TMC relating to the consultation on the Draft Supplementary Guidance for Developer Obligations for Moray.

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

AG had provided the following update, based on report issued prior to the meeting:

Bank Balance £26,045.36

- £20k SSEN;
- £651.32 Moray Council Admin Grant balance;
- £57.79 Newtyle Access Road Residents balance;
- £240 Stocksigns compensation. (earmarked for sign maintenance)
- £5,096.75 balance of funding from FDT for LPP

AOCB

- **Moray Council Community Council Scheme review**

It was agreed that no administrative changes were required. Some boundary changes around Cathay Nursing Home, and along the Pluscarden Road south of Rafford were discussed. (Action: to be reviewed by FCC Members)

- **Review of Guidance Document for Develop Obligations**

HD reported that this consultation would close on 11th October. The meeting concluded that members should discuss this further and FCC should seek an extension to the deadline. (Action: HD)

- **Vehicle Activated Speed Signs**

TH reported that he had developed a software tweak, that would obviate the need to climb up to the sign for maintenance resets.

- **Drainage of A940**

AM reported that offlets had been cleared, but not in the previously reported problem area beside Blairs Loch.

- **Community Minibus**

PM reported that this service was now running. After initial interest, passenger numbers had dropped off in the 2nd week operation. Some revisions to the timetable may be needed.

- **Police attendance at FCC meeting.**

HD reported a request from Police Scotland for us to consider if a regular Police attendance would be beneficial. The meeting concluded that this is not required, but FCC would contact police if and when attendance would be useful.

7) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 13^h November 2024, at Rafford Village Hall.