

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held in the James Milne Institute Findhorn on Thursday 31st January 2013

Present:

L.Morgan (Chairman), R.Shand, P.Carroll, H.Morton, A.Miller, D.Morton, J.Willoner, Cllr Skene, Cllr Creswell, Cllr Mclean, Cllr Alexander, T.Negus(Sec)

In Attendance:

PC McLeod & Colleague (Grampian Police), David Haytack (Community Warden), Tanya McLaren (Forres Gazette), S. Williams (39 Eng Regt) and 1 member of the public.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from I.Hampson, G.Verner, Sgt Jones.

Public Session

ITEM 2. GRAMPIAN POLICE REPORT & ANY COMPETENT PUBLIC BUSINESS.

2.1 The Chairman welcomed PC McLeod and her colleague to the meeting. PC McLeod gave a brief report and an update on items raised at the last meeting. Enquiries are ongoing into an intruder incident on 9 Dec and to a theft from a house on 21 Dec. The enquiry into the incident at 156 Findhorn in late November continues. In response to residents' concerns police have monitored vehicle speeds in Kinloss and Findhorn and a number of fixed penalty tickets have been issued. In addition, 2 Drivers have been reported to the Procurator fiscal for speeding at Kinloss. The Police Mobile Office was located on the South Pier on 12 Jan and a number of Bicycles were checked and security marked. Around 20 people visited the office. PC McLeod outlined the senior personnel and other changes associated with the introduction of the unified Police Scotland Force in April 2013. She reassured the meeting that local residents would notice little change at a local level. P.Carroll asked about an incident of a person breaking into the Birdhide and sleeping rough. PC McLeod noted the details. Cllr Skene spoke of residents' concerns about vehicle speeds on the Southside estate. The 15mph signs remain from the MOD period and have no legal status. D.Morton has asked for them to be removed whereupon the roads in the estate would automatically carry a 30mph limit. PC McLeod will ask the traffic section to review vehicle speeds on the estate. The Chairman thanked PC McLeod for her concise report.

2.2 Mr Lamont raised issues relating to persistent dog fouling in the area of the Culbin flats none of whose residents own dogs. He said that he had repeatedly telephoned a number purporting to be the Moray Council antisocial behaviour reporting line, but had got no reply. Mr Haytack confirmed that Mr Lamont had called the correct number and felt that there must be a fault on that line and this will be rectified. He noted the complaints of persistent dog fouling and urged that any witnessed offences be reported straight away. He intends to include the area on his regular patrols and he assured the meeting that Moray Council is aware of the public distress caused by the problem and is keen to resolve it.

2.3 Mr Lamont drew attention to a persistent large puddle close to the Culbin flats apparently resulting from a poorly sited drain. The problem was exacerbated recently during cold weather when a hazardous area of ice formed. H. Morton told the meeting that he had reported this problem to Moray Council in the recent past and he will send a further hastening letter.

Action H Morton

Council Session

ITEM 3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2012 were ratified. Proposed P Carroll, seconded H.Morton.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Planning Constraints relating to RAF Kinloss aircraft noise contours. The Chairman reported that he had been reliably informed that the noise contour plan had been formulated on the planning assumption of an enlarged squadron of 12 Tornado aircraft being permanently based at RAF Kinloss. Following the closure of the RAF base this assumption is clearly no longer correct. The Chairman will write to OC RAF Lossiemouth and the Moray Council suggesting that these constraints be removed on the grounds that

they do not reflect the current status of the airfield. At the same time the Secretary will include a similar recommendation in the response to the Moray Local Plan Consultation. **Action L Morgan, T Negus**

4.2 Possible abandoned vehicle near Church. This vehicle has now been moved.

4.3 Cumming Hall Arrangements. The Chairman, D Morton and A Miller attended a meeting on 22 January with Kinloss Barracks staff and Brigade welfare personnel. A number of issues were covered at this meeting including ownership of the building, the need for revisions to the proposed constitution and arrangements for licensing user groups. Negotiations between interested parties continue with Community Council interests represented by the Chairman, D Morton and A Miller.

4.4 Car Parking at Kinloss Abbey. P Carroll reported that the current landowner has been away from the area for an extended period and he intends to speak with her on her return. **Action P Carroll.**

ITEM 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 Attended Moray Local Plan meeting on 12 Dec.

5.2 Arrangements completed for future meetings of F&KCC to be held in the Cumming Hall wef Feb 13.

5.3 Attended Cumming Hall management meeting 22 Jan.

5.4 e-Mail received from Eva Ward announcing her resignation as Foundation Representative.

Valedictory letter of appreciation sent on behalf of F&KCC. Pete Finch is nominated replacement.

5.5 Letter sent to Northern Scot in response to article reporting critical remarks by a Moray Councillor about community Councils.

5.6 Due to attend 'Resilience Planning' meeting at Moray Council 4 Feb. Secretary will also attend.

EM 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

6.1 Meetings: Attended presentation on Moray Local Plan in Forres Town Hall 22 Jan.

6.2 Telephone Call from Roads dept requesting assistance with parking arrangements in Findhorn to allow free passage of gritting & snowplough lorry. Actioned by Secretary & H Morton.

6.3 Correspondence. Letter seeking nominations for Moray Local Outdoor Access forum. Letter seeking input into review of Community Council Scheme. (Sec to respond). Letter about blasting at MOD Kinloss (see item 10 below). Letter from Newton of Struthers Residents Group about new local plan for their area.

6.4 e-Correspondence: Feedback on SG consultation about Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill. War memorial refurbishment fund information. Progress report on SG consultation about affordable rented housing. Flyer for Climate Challenge fund grant scheme. Feedback on Moray Council Budget Consultation. Consultation on Scottish Police Plan. E-mail promoting nominations for UK Honours system. Invitation to Fairtrade presentation in Elgin on 27 Feb.

6.5 Newsletters: December Newsletter from Scottish Mink Initiative.

ITEM 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

7.1 Cheque out for £60 in respect of Kinloss Church Hall rental.

ITEM 8. JCCM REPORT

8.1 Next meeting due 14th Feb.

ITEM 9. MORAY COUNCILLORS REPORT

9.1 Cllr Creswell reported that much effort is being focussed on budget priorities and that tough decisions will have to be made. She attended a recent housing seminar which had attracted a good turnout.

9.2 Cllr Alexander has been very involved in budget meetings and he repeated that difficult decisions are required to achieve the necessary savings. The Budget will be announced on 13 Feb. As a member of the flood alleviation committee he is able to report that work on the Forres Pilmuir scheme is progressing well.

9.3 Cllr Mclean also echoed the budget concerns. He drew the meeting's attention to the Chinese New Year celebrations in Forres which will culminate in a spectacular Lion Dance

ITEM 10. 39 ENGINEER REGIMENT REPORT.

10.1 S.Williams briefed the meeting concerning a letter of concern sent to the Community Council about the intermittent detonation of explosives on MOD land at Kinloss barracks. The letter expressed concerns about dangers to the public and their pets and the effects on erosion of the coastline. Mr Williams said that these explosions are nothing to do with 39 Eng Regiment. However, DIO ground surveys have indicated the existence of small arms ordnance left over from WW2 and the authorities are destroying the material in situ using explosives. Mr Williams is trying to contact Mr Sowden, the author of the letter, to get further details of the incidents referred to in order to ensure that suitably rigorous safety precautions are being observed.

10.2 A new Unit Welfare Officer has been appointed. He is Mr Eric Baker.

10.3 Lt Col Mike Hansekowitsch has succeeded Lt Col Ian Pincombe as Quartermaster Colonel.

ITEM 11. FINDHORN FOUNDATION REPORT

No report in absence of FF representative.

ITEM 12. PLANNING

12.1 Input to Local Plan. Deadline for responses to this stage 15 Feb. Secretary to re-emphasise our earlier comments on review of Conservation Area guidelines, review of Aircraft noise contours, provision for touring caravans.

12.2 Actions from last meeting. Response sent regarding extension at Dolphin Cottage urging caution during groundwork due to proximity of previous Bronze Age find.

12.3 Applications since last meeting:

Kinloss: 12/02097/APP multi-use games area near Portal Road – no objections

12/00124/APP Extend permission for developments at Kinloss Country Golf Club – no objections

13/00010/APP Garage at site at Miltonhill – no objections

Findhorn Foundation: 13/00084/ APP House on site between Broombank and 14 the Park. F&KCC have objected to an earlier application for this location. Site visit arranged.

Findhorn Village: Alterations plus single storey extension at 110. F&KCC expressed concerns about safety of vehicle access to site in respect of an earlier application. It would appear that these concerns were ignored. Meeting agreed to register objection to this application along similar lines.

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

13.1 R Shand expressed concern about continuing erosion along the bay shore. This has been reported in the past. Secretary and R Shand to visit and photograph areas of concern with a view to hastening action.

13.2 D.Morton reported that he has requested the removal of a redundant 'Official Secrets Act' sign on the approach road to Southside estate.

13.3 L Morgan complimented Moray Council on their prompt response in repairing a pothole near Kinloss level crossing.

13.4 T Negus reported that the historic bollard revealed by last winter's storms has been successfully relocated thanks to cc members and Mr Bruce Hay.

13.5 T Negus noted that the public amenity seats on the loading bank are looking shabby and one is broken. Sec to ask Mr Reeves to carry out repairs. Sec to arrange for Community Service volunteers to repaint the seats with materials provided by F&KCC. **Action T Negus.**

13.6 The Secretary reported that the access path to the a/c viewing platform has become very overgrown. This is another suitable project for the Community Payback scheme. Agreed. **Action T Negus**

ITEM 14. FORTHCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

15th March 'Hall Tales' at Kinloss Church

ITEM 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28th February at Cumming Hall Kinloss (**n.b. Note new Venue**)