

# FINDERNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MEETING NOTES

Meeting of Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1930hrs at Rafford Village Hall

### **FCC members present:**

Brian Higgs (BH) - Chair

Mike Crutch (MC) - Acting Secretary

Nicola Howard (NH) - Co-opted Member

Tony Pinner (AP) - Associate Member

Anna Gatward (AG) - installed as an Associate Member

### **Also present:**

Cllr George Alexander - The Moray Council (TMC)

Cllr Anne Skene - - The Moray Council

PC Paul Smith - Police Scotland Forres

Laurie Piper - Moray Speyside Tourism

Ruth Whitfield - Rafford Village Hall

plus Finderne residents Sheila Biggs, Anthony Campbell, Roy Dennis, Anne Garrow, Tim Hurst, Alan Senior, Peter Taylor

**Apologies** - Carlo Miele, Jerry Akehurst, Chris Piper, Bob Laughton (all FCC)

### **1. Welcome**

BH welcomed all to the first full open meeting of the FCC. Over the coming months the intention is to hold such meetings between Rafford Village Hall and Edinkillie Community Hall as the two such venues available in the Finderne catchment.

### **2. Police update**

PC Paul Smith introduced himself and said that the normal police update would see a report on incidents various through the Finderne area, few as they may be, however the police engagement with the community through this forum is extremely important and PC Smith welcomed issues from the floor.

A number of Rafford residents raised the ongoing issue of speeding through the village. Cllr

Alexander cited the recent move to place electronic signs on the sharp bend through Edinkillie, and others echoed that such signs could improve the speeding situation. Cllr Skene commented on speed limit zoning in Moray, and stated that communities should be aware that certain criteria for speed limits (e.g. number of private dwellings immediately adjacent to the roadside) could see a change *upwards* for any areas currently considered as suffering from speeding. PC Smith said that Forres police remain fully aware of the issue and will continue to monitor the situation, providing spot checks when resources allow, and that continued feedback from the community should be brought to the FCC.

Peter Taylor raised the issue of littering along Dallas Dhu road, with various items (bottles, etc.) being thrown regularly from cars. PC Smith said that although police would take action if they witnessed such an act, normal process would be for the person discarding the item/s to have the opportunity to retrieve the litter however this would of course be difficult in the case of vehicle occupants.

Roy Dennis, echoed by others, highlighted the issue of road safety (specifically visibility) on the junction of the A940 and the Mundole road. Recent road traffic collisions had occurred there, with at least two aspects (sightline towards Forres when exiting the Mundole road, turning right) and entry speed into the turn from both directions in need of raising with TMC. **ACTION FCC (MC) to raise initially with TMC Roads Dept**

### 3. Minutes of 25 April 2016 meeting

Only action outstanding was the timber lorry issue in/near Rafford - see under section 8.

### 4. Matters arising

Nil - see Community Issues.

### 5. Secretary's report

- a. Progress on appointment of minute secretary

Still no volunteers had been forthcoming.

- b. Correspondence

See under Community Issues

### 6. Treasurer's report

BH proposed the new associate member Anna Gatward as treasurer, seconded by MC - duly appointed. BH reported that the FCC's bank account with Royal Bank of Scotland was nearing completion.

MC reported that an application for £132 had been submitted in May to the Berry Burn Wind Farm Community Fund to cover venue hire (based on discounted rates offered by both Edinkillie Community Hall and Rafford Village Hall) for FCC public meetings through to the end of the current community council elected period, ending October 2017.

## 7. Youth representation

NH reported that she had canvassed and have two potential members, both of which will be engaged with after the exam period is over. Various comments were made by those present on the real need to involve the young community, including one suggestion that we approach the local Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament. **ACTION FCC (NH)**

## 8. Community Issues

### a. *Burgie Mains Road*

Following confirmation that the road is not adopted by TMC, the estate itself is now making moves to address the issue. **ITEM CLOSED**

### b. *Timber lorry traffic and Rafford – Mannachie road maintenance*

The issue of the increased movement of such traffic along the B9010 as well as subsequent erosion of road edges along the Malt Whisky Trail is still outstanding, with FCC members Chris Piper and Carlo Miele keeping an overview. Anne Garrow raised that the number of HGVs using facilities at Munro's also add to the factor. A TMC Roads Dept officer is expected to attend the next FCC meeting. **ONGOING ACTION: FCC (Chris Piper/Carlo Miele)**

### c. *B9010 icing issue*

Peter Taylor raised the winter issue of an icing hazard on the B9010 at the northern periphery of the Altyre estate where the road crosses the Mosset Burn. A suggestion that suitable signage should be erected appropriate to the bends in the road there. **ACTION FCC (MC) to raise with TMC Roads Dept**

### d. *Street lighting in lower Rafford*

Alan Senior asked if streetlights were to be re-instated in the area; Cllr Alexander believed that new street lighting was to be rolled out and therefore should be assessed and included in that activity; he will check and advise FCC of any known scheduled activity. **ACTION Cllr Alexander**

### e. *High speed broadband*

Peter Taylor, with others, highlighted the ongoing poor service to the general area and encouraged FCC to take a lead on the issue. Roy Dennis added that wind farm funding, especially with the second wind farm (Hill of Glaschyle) being established in the Finderne area could and should be a source of funding for proper community needs, with high speed

broadband being but one and encouraged FCC to take a lead on seeking such betterment from the wind farm operators. Cllr Skene stated that she received a recent update on roll-out of high speed services and will forward to the FCC for wider communication. **ACTION Cllr Skene, FCC to act as necessary following that**

f. **Blervie Estate access**

Tim Hurst requested that the FCC become engaged with the ongoing issue of responsible access to areas of the Blervie Estate; BH stated that FCC are aware of the matter and are indeed in the process of getting up to speed with the actions/inactions thus far, and engagement with other bodies such as TMC, Moray Access Forum, etc.. During the discussion, that involved many of those present, questions were raised as to what official complaint (if any) has been made to the proper authority for access, as well as an observation as to whether the barbed wire fence that has been erected complies with due care aspects of road safety. As stated, BH said that FCC would look become involved as effectively as possible in the shortest possible time. **ACTION FCC (BH)**

g. **A96 dualling**

Peter Taylor asked how the FCC will play its role in this major community issue. BH said that FCC was awaiting notification of dates to meet with the newly-appointed route assessment company (Mott MacDonald-Sweco), as well as will look to TMC to ensure that their policies are guided by feedback from the community councils in the affected areas. Cllr Alexander suggested that Rhona Gunn and Steven Cooper be approached for such. **ACTION: FCC (BH)**

## 9. **Upcoming events**

BH and Bob Laughton will attend the next Heldon Community Council meeting

## 10. **AOB**

Cllr Skene asked as to whether FCC had already put in place a focal point for planning oversight; BH replied in the affirmative (Carlo Miele is the FCC member responsible) and FCC already receives the weekly wards list with such applications.

On the subject of planning, MC stated that a Logie Estate drop-in session for housing development and improvements (unspecified) to Logie School had been brought to the FCC's attention and will take place at Logie School between 1800-2000hrs on 15 June. Cllr Skene will attend, and the FCC hope to send a representative also. **ACTION FCC (BH)**

## 11. **Date, time & venue of next meeting**

25 July at 1900hrs in Rafford *church* hall (note not the village hall). Cllr Skene said that no councillors will be present due to summer recess and tendered apologies.

prepared by:  
Mike Crutch, Acting Secretary, FCC