

MEETING NOTES

Meeting of Monday 9th January, 19:00 at Rafford Village Hall

FCC members present:

Brian Higgs (BH) - Chair
Chris Piper (CP) - Vice Chair
Anna Gatward (AG) - Treasurer
Carlo Miele (CM) – Member
Bob Laughton (RL) – Associate Member

Also present: Cllr Anne Skene, Howard Davenport, PI Grant McCutcheon

Apologies - Nikki Howard (NH) Tony Pinner (TP), Mike Crutch (MC),

1. Welcome

BH welcomed all those present.

2. Police update

BH introduced Inspector Grant McCutcheon who reported that there had been one incident in the area recently regarding a missing youth. The Finderne area had a very low rate of incidents and calls to the Police. Nonetheless there had been reports of house break-ins in nearby areas during the last few months so he urged residents to be vigilant and take appropriate precautions to prevent this. New reporting procedures were also discussed and a 2nd version is in preparation.

Several questions were raised regarding speed limits particularly within Rafford and between upper and lower Rafford.

i. Speeding vehicles within the 30 mph limits, particularly Agricultural vehicles
Insp McCutcheon agreed that if resources were available he would position officers with a speed gun in appropriate positions within the next few months.

The installation of warning sign (numerical speed/smiley face, etc) was discussed and whether permission from Moray Council was required. Efficacy of these signs was thought to be good in containing speed. BH indicated that Steve Cooper from Moray Council had agreed to install signs although it was not clear if these were Council funded.

CM agreed to look into the costs of installing signage and liaise with Steve Cooper (TMC) on installation.

ii Speed limit between Upper and Lower Rafford: This was a Moray Council matter and recent discussions indicated the distance was too long a continuous limit of 30mph.

3. Notes and actions of 28th Nov 2016 meeting

Meeting notes accepted and approved.

Matters arising/actions from previous meeting

a. A940/Mundole road visibility issues

MC reported by email that he had met with Dave Malpas (TMC) (Senior Engineer-Traffic Management) on 9/12/16 to discuss the issues.

- There is a definite reticence regarding improving the sightlines as the TMC planning criteria provides that such an improvement would encourage faster speeds into the bend for traffic coming from Forres. Mike disputed this due to the physicalities of the bend, especially as the surveyed speed data TMC hold for anywhere near there is on the straight (past the Limehillock quarry entrance), all of which proves traffic would be slower on the straight than what they worry is a danger for the bend.
- Irrespective of their standpoint, Mike recommended that in the event of the Clash Gour wind farm going ahead, and the likelihood of contractors using the Mundole turn (as a principal contractor for such things is Dingwall-based and saw significant traffic increase during the comparatively small Hill of Glaschyle project works), the matter be kept very much alive in terms of TMC's considerations.
- TMC did agree to look at financing modern and appropriately placed 'Mundole' signs both north and south of the junction in order to minimise late braking incidents (which caused the last-known four vehicle collision in 2016). Finances for such would be sought in FY2017/18, and Mike is currently consulting with Forres CC to ensure their happiness as the turn lies on the CC boundaries - Forres CC will be discussing it at their 19 January meeting."

FCC discussed outcome and agreed to item be closed and passed to Forres Community Council to pursue.

b. Appointment of youth representation

Unlikely to see any further progress on this item. **Closed.**

c. High speed broadband

The committee noted recent works in the area by BT Open Reach and improvements in connectivity had been reported in parts of Rafford. Concern was raised that this appeared to be a piecemeal approach and was not helpful in improving broadband facilities throughout the area.

Action: CP agreed to contact Nick Scrogie (HI Broadband Implementation Officer) for more clarification on broadband strategy in the area.

Cllr Anne Skene agreed to check on progress with Scot Gov community broadband upgrade scheme.

d. A96 Dualling

BH reported that he attended a meeting with the A96 developers and other representatives of Community Councils. No further information on preferred route is available. A range of issues were discussed including the concern at the lack of input from Moray Council to both Community Councils and wider public, particularly on their preferred route options and how this would integrate into local development plans. A minute of this meeting would be available in due course and circulated. Next meeting with A96 developers and Community Councils, was likely to be in July 2017. Committee agreed that attendance at these meetings would be important and BH/TP would continue to represent FCC as appropriate.

Discussions on how best to impart information on A96 dualling development to the Finnerne community, initially providing linkage from Finnerne CC site to the A96 developers site was agreed as a first step and perhaps further developing information through Facebook or similar medium.

Action: Establish links to A96 developers website with Finderne CC website - BH will put relevant links onto the FCC website.

e. Hill of Glaschyle Windfarm community fund scoping

BH and CP stated that they had met with Alex Fowlie (Muirden Energy) and Alistair and Alec Laing (Logie Estate) on 6th Dec 2016 at the Logie Estate Office.

Discussions indicated that some consideration had been given to amalgamating the Glaschyle WF community fund with the existing Berry Burn WF fund and this would be managed through the existing Berry Burn management committee. CP/BH had welcomed the additional funds being made available to the community but suggested that it could be managed in an alternative manner to provide more strategic benefit to the Finderne community. They suggested that part of the funds could support large scale initiatives such as, improving broadband, support for low cost housing, improved energy provision of local residents, for example, to bring wider and a more long-term benefit to the community. A portion could also be retained for supporting smaller scale local project through applications and grants, similar to the Berry Burn fund. The group agreed that BH/CP should explore and develop this further with Finderne Community Council and prepare a paper outlining ideas, then re-convene to discuss further within a few months.

Committee discussed matters further and agreed to develop a paper outlining ideas and also to examine if other organisation such as FACT could be of assistance.

Action: CP to develop strategy paper further. All to contribute further thoughts and ideas.

f. FCC noticeboards

TP was looking into costings but was not present to update on progress.

ACTION: Carried forward

4. New Matters Arising

Moray Council Budget:

Cllr Anne Skene informed the meeting that Moray Council were undergoing their budget planning for the coming financial year. Further saving on expenditure of around £10M was targeted and it was likely that cuts in public services would become more noticeable.

Glasgow School of Arts Centre, Altyre

Cllr Anne Skene informed the meeting that the opening of the Art Centre at Altyre would held on the 20th Jan 2017 at 11:30 to 13:00. She would encourage the organisers to extend an invitation to FCC members.

Meeting with Richard Lochhead MSP

BH informed the meeting that Richard Lochhead MSP would be available to meet with the FCC at 14:30 on 20th January 2017 at the Rafford Church Hall.

Following this the FCC would meet to discuss ideas for the Glaschyle WF fund.

5. Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's report

AG indicated there was no new funds and the current balance = £660.

AG indicated that funds particularly from TMC needed to be used and reminded members to claim for expenses travelling to meetings, postage, printing, stationary, etc. Claim form templates should be available to process claims back to TMC..

The funds from Berry Burn WF Community Fund would cover costs for hire of halls/heating etc.

Actions:

AG to check templates from TMC and make available through dropbox,

AG to check period of availability of current fund from TMC,

Members to retain receipts/mileage etc when attending meetings on behalf of FCC and liaise with AG to complete appropriate form,

AG to purchase small stock of stationery.

7. Upcoming events

Quiz Night on 14th Jan 2017 to raise funds for Kinloss Abbey Trust at the Kinloss Church from 19:00.

8. AOB

None

9. Date, time & venue of next meeting

20th February 2017, 19:00 at Edinkillie Hall.

Meeting will hopefully include presentation by Clashgour Wind Farm developers.

Prepared by: Bob Laughton