

MEETING NOTES

Meeting of Monday 20th February, 1900hrs at Edinkillie Community Hall

FCC members present:

Brian Higgs (BH) - Chair

Chris Piper (CP) - Vice Chair

Anna Gatward (AG) - Treasurer

Mike Crutch (MC) - Secretary

Nikki Howard (NH) - Associate Member

Tony Pinner (AP) - Associate Member

Bob Laughton (RL) - Co-opted Member

Also present: Cllr George Alexander, Cllr Lorna Creswell, Moira Dennis, Anne Garrow, Sir Alastair Gordon-Cumming, William Gordon-Cumming, Anne Garrow, Joe Mitchell, Peter Mitchell, Andy Munro, Davie Munro, David Ritchie, Steven Park, Cllr Anne Skene

Apologies Carlo Miele

1. Welcome

BH welcomed all those present.

2. Police update

None available due to operational commitments this evening; BH did point out that regular updates entitled Community Safety Reports for Moray were now posted online on the FCC website at: http://www.findernecc.wordpress.com

3. Clash Gour wind farm project

Steven Park was welcomed to the meeting, representing Force 9 Energy who are proposing the wind farm project named Clash Gour, taking its name from a burn that runs from the Loch Noir/Loch Dallas areas east into the River Lossie.

The project proposes 63 new wind turbines, each 175 metres height to blade tip, in the three distinct parcels of land to the southwest, north and east of the current Berry Burn wind farm.

Force 9 Energy will conducting dedicated public sessions, with information boards and requests for initial feedback on the proposals ahead of the planning application, at locations in Moray during mid-March. Those most applicable to Finderne residents are at the Edinkillie Community Hall on 20 March (5 to 8pm) and Forres Community Centre on 22 March (2-7.30pm), and everyone is encouraged to attend and spread the word to others.

The floor was opened to questions, with issues highlighted being captured by Steven for referral to the project team. Amongst them was a clear need for regular and effective communication with the local community, especially those directly affected through the construction phase. It was also noted that site traffic plans should not just concentrate on the delivery of the turbines but also workers and maintainers following difficulties with the (much smaller) Hill of Glaschyle development.

A community benefit fund is planned to be established, in the region of some £1.5 Million based on the proposed number of turbines and their output. Feedback on how this money could be used and awarded is welcomed as part of the proposal and consultation process.

Other comments included observations that by having public sessions through a wide area, there was a fear that feedback could appear overwhelmingly positive because of the small number of nearby residents who are more likely to have negative views. Use of the colloquial term 'Berry Burn wind farm extension' should also be guarded against due to the fact the development is proposing basically a tripling of the current wind farm.

BH thanked Steven for attending, and all encouraged further dialogue as the proposal matures. The FCC will happily act as conduit for questions, etc., from residents.

A map of the development will accompany these notes.

4. Notes and actions of previous meeting

The notes were accepted.

a. Appointment of youth representation

NH reported that no further progress has been made. BH stated that the item will not be actively pursued further, though encouraged everyone to be conscious of youth issues in our area and promote/engage with others as appropriate. **ITEM CLOSED**

b. High speed broadband

Although no update on the situation was forthcoming at present, CP gave a brief overview for the benefit of constituents who have not been at previous meetings. The supply of fibre optic into the Dunphail telephone exchange was noted, although this was believed to have been for Logie Primary School use only; Cllr Alexander will confirm. **ACTION CLLR ALEXANDER**

c. A96 dualling route assessment input

No updated information has been made available thus far, although BH stated that the Transport Scotland route decision contractor (Mott Macdonald Sweco) will not be providing online public access to consultation materials. As a result, BH stated that we as a community council will endeavour to publish as much as possible that we received as a statutory consultee on the FCC website. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

d. Hill of Glaschyle wind farm community fund scoping

CP provided a report of a meeting held last week with Logie Estate and Duncan farms, co-owner/operators of the wind farm, where options for methods of community funding were discussed. The model used by Berry Burn Wind farm Community Fund is but one method, therefore FCC sought to progress ideas to help prioritise local spends and framework for such.

MC read out a position paper from Finderne constituent Roy Dennis with ideas for the creation of an Edinkillie and Dunphail Community Trust as a vehicle for such funding - this closely reflected thoughts pass recently to FCC by a Rafford resident. The key outlines would be for such 'new money' to be applied to tangible, enduring efforts such as stimulating local growth for the area in terms of business and affordable housing, funds for development both of individuals and areas/buildings, and investment in such things as high speed broadband and renewable energy for homes and local businesses. The notions were generally accepted by all, and add towards further, more detailed discussions with Logie Estate/Duncan Farms. Sir Alastair Gordon-Cumming added that, as a landowner with a wind farm on his estate (Altyre), the cash benefits of such have directly led to base funding for the recent rebuild of Blairs Steading, recently occupied by the Glasgow School of Art. ITEM CARRIED FORWARD

e. FCC noticeboards at Finderne village halls/Logie Steading

AP updated the meeting on his findings and, although he had narrowed costings down to £275 per board, after a brief discussion it was felt that for now any FCC hardcopy notes, etc., could be incorporated on noticeboards already in place at both Rafford Village and Edinkillie Community halls. **ITEM CLOSED**

f. Treasurer's actions from last meeting

AG reported the administrative actions as complete, though re-iterated the expense claiming process for FCC members. **ITEM CLOSED**

5. New Matters Arising

a. Litter A940/Half Davoch road

MC has e-mailed the management of the Hill of Glaschyle wind farm following reports of Enercon contractors littering the above routes, and inside the wind farm area itself. MC has also sought clarification on whether Enercon should be using the track provided for wind farm construction traffic. A response was quickly received and the litter issue will be discussed with Enercon management as well as directly with site personnel. As for traffic, the access through Ardoch/Longley Farm was built specifically for construction traffic therefore 'steady state' site rules placed no restriction on routes in or out of the wind farm. **ITEM CLOSED**

6. Upcoming events

The Clash Gour wind farm public presentations for 20 and 22 March (see item 3, third para) were re-iterated.

7. AOB

Peter Mitchell, representing the Dava Way Association, reported recent misuse by motor vehicles of the Dava Way. He encouraged anyone witnessing such to call the police on 101 with vehicle details.

Cllr Alexander stated that the Waterford/Ben Romach distillery railway level crossing will be closed the weekend of 25/26 February, 18/19 March and 8/9 April.

BH wished to make everyone aware that elections for the next four year term of community councils will be in this coming September, should anyone wish to run as councillor.

8. Date, time & venue of next meeting

Monday 3 April 2017, 1900hrs in the Rafford Village Hall.

Prepared by Mike Crutch, Secretary FCC



