

FINDHORN AND KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd February 2017, Kinloss Church

Present: L Morgan (Chair), J O'Hagan (Minutes), S Finnegan, T Brown, H Morton, P Carroll, F Allan, M Hyde, F Rietberg

Attendance: Cllr Creswell, Cllr Alexander, Cllr Skene, R Douglas (BSO Kinloss Barracks), T McLaren (Forres Gazette), 5 members of public

Item 1 Apologies: E Malone

Item 2 Public Session:

2.1 Community Safety Partnership Report: S Finnegan gave an overview of issue 2 of report. The new style reports on Forres, Findhorn, Kinloss, Finderne and Dyke Landward. Crimes specifically referred to in F & K CC area include: gents mountain bike stolen from The Park in Findhorn between 6/7th January; a break in to shed at Kinloss Primary School (2 bicycles stolen); a house break in 7th January in Lower Hempriggs – jewellery items stolen. Investigations are ongoing. Examples of other crimes committed in wider Landward include: possession of class B drugs, drink driving, driving without paid excise duty, possession of 2 air weapons without appropriate licences and speeding. It was noted that the Community Warden, Dave Haytack, has a big area to cover. P Carroll reported that his home had been broken into very recently; the Police have reported a similar incident in the Kinloss area. Investigations are ongoing. Raising awareness of these issues will hopefully ensure that the community remains vigilant.

2.2 A member of the public expressed disappointment about a Forres Gazette article on Findhorn Foundation (FF) websites which arose from discussion at our last meeting. The member of public stated that she did not share the views and, having spoken with other local businesses, advised she is not alone. The member of public stated that the article was not a good reflection on Findhorn, that the FF contributes greatly to Findhorn, and that the FF is a valuable asset and good for the economy. L Morgan did not support her view that this Council was unsupportive of the FF and stated that comments made at the last meeting were in respect of the websites. The member of public disputed this. The member of public pointed out that as a member of the CC featured in the article, this indicated that the view was shared by the CC. It was clarified that any CC member in the article was acting as an individual and not as a representative of the CC; however at the meeting on which the Gazette article was based, the CCllrs did agree with the point that the FF websites should not be titled solely "Findhorn". The Chairman pointed out that the discussion on the FF websites took place in the public session and the member of the public had the opportunity to raise her opposing point of view. He also suggested the member of public would have gained more publicity for her point of view if she had written to the Forres Gazette. T McLaren advised they would welcome any comments. There were no suggestions that there were errors of fact in the article.

2.3 A member of public requested that the Minutes from the last meeting be changed to include the Chairman's comment on his conversation with the Planning Officer regarding the Elderslie application. H Morton confirmed he had reported on this planning application and outlined the background. He confirmed the CC had not made any objection but there was a representation made concerning traffic and this was minuted. The member of public wanted more detailed minutes and this led to a lengthy discussion. The Chairman stated that the Minutes are not a verbatim account of the meeting and no change was required. The member of the public was not satisfied that the Minutes were not being amended. Another member of the public expressed her view that CCs should not get involved in planning issues unless there are objections from the community and from her own personal experiences believed that this had influenced decisions in the past. Cllr Skene advised that CCs are statutory consultees and the decisions are made around the table at the meeting. She also advised that full conversations are not recorded, but it was important that decisions were minuted; this had been the case. L Morgan recommended that in future an e-mail be sent to the CC so that the issue and the recommended solution can be clearly established, circulated and discussed.

2.4 A member of public is concerned about an area between the caravan park and north shore. He had witnessed a male open his car and allow his dogs to dig holes. This presented a potential risk that someone could fall in the holes. Following discussion, it was agreed the member of public raise this with the community warden and, if possible, pass on the car registration.

2.5 P Carroll wished to highlight that filled dog poo bags are being thrown into bushes. He advised that some of these had been retrieved and put in middle of path, perhaps to remind people to remove them. P Carroll wished it to be minuted that no member of the public, under any circumstances, should leave poo bags in the wild as this is worse than leaving dog poo in its natural form.

2.6 Findhorn Village Conservation Company update: F Allan advised FVCC have been successful in getting money from Scottish Land Fund to continue with negotiations for the garage site in Findhorn. He wished to stress this site is not purchased and negotiations will continue with the owners of this site.

Item 3 Ratification of Minutes of Meeting on 26 Jan 17:

3.1 Amendments to be made to last minute: 6.3 last sentence delete 'not'. 12.3 under 10 Church Place, delete 'and now permitted'. The minutes thereafter were ratified, proposed by H Morton and seconded by T Brown.

Item 4 Matters Arising:

- a. **2.1** Advise Moray Council it is difficult to access Police Report – done, J Martin sending directly to Gmail.
- b. **2.2** Research Findhorn websites – done. S Finnegan commented that Mark had been very co-operative and made the recommended changes. L Morgan had written to FF Trustees re: websites. The reply noted a wish to preserve good relations and be in close contact. They had been using that website address for a number of years and have lots of printed materials, so changing that address is easier said than done. There will be a meeting with the chair of the FF Trustees, L Morgan, F Rietberg (representing the FF) and M Hyde to discuss a solution. T Brown queried whether F & K CC should be getting involved with this issue; L Morgan reminded T Brown this was an issue raised by a member of the public at last meeting.
- c. **2.3** Email Moray Council about boulders blocking steps – done. L Morgan advised there had been a change to the communication. Following an exchange of emails with C Hunt, there was some confusion about the problem and the email to the Moray Council concentrated on concrete blocks falling onto the shore.
- d. **2.4** Request dispensation to move concrete blocks – ongoing.
- e. **2.5** Email Cllr Alexander about silted up groynes – done. Cllr Alexander is awaiting a response.
- f. **4 (a)** Provide more info on Southside projects - J O'Hagan advised there had been a consultation event and views collated. Unfortunately, due to the issue of the sink hole, proposed land would not be suitable at this time. Further ideas will be costed. It was agreed J O'Hagan should write up the projects and email to R Douglas and L Morgan. Ongoing
- g. **13.1** Provide 'Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fishing Trust' with letter of support – done by P Carroll.
- h. **13.2** E-mail Moray Council about retaining residency rule for C Cllrs – done. Our view supported by Democratic Services; residency rule will stay the same.
- i. **13.3** Disseminate info on Findhorn Planning for Real event – done.
- j. **13.5** Email Cllr Alexander info on converting waste to organic fertiliser – done by H Morton. Awaiting further development.
- k. **13.6** Email Cllr Alexander about drain on corner of Fyrish Road, Findhorn flooding during heavy rain – done. There is planned drainage work onsite w/c 6th March 2017.

Item 5 Declarations of Conflict of Interests:

5.1 H Morton declared he would like to excuse himself when our application to Berryburn Trust is discussed.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report:

6.1 R Douglas raised the issue of dog fouling on their areas. She advised they do try to police this as much as they can, but this is a shared concern with the rest of the community. R Douglas read out a statement about her role and clarity over estate matters. "I am at the meeting representing the Regiment and it is beyond my

remit to comment on broader MOD or estate matters. I am able to tell you the following about the Kinloss burn: I can confirm that the section of the burn from the Southside access road, westwards to the Burnside families housing, is wholly situated on MOD ground and is therefore, MOD owned. Ownership of the section of the burn fronting Burnside families accommodation and leading west to the road over the railway crossing is split. MOD own from Burnside to the mid point and the purchasers of Kinloss Park own the other half. The purchaser of Kinloss Park was initially Julian Hodge Bank; this may have been subsequently transferred to other purchasers.” R Douglas agreed to send this to enable us to note this verbatim. R Douglas said she was unable to comment further. In relation to the burn, L Morgan enquired whether 39 Eng Regt would take responsibility to keep their part of the ditch clear. R Douglas advised she had already fed this back to DIO and they are aware of this. Thanks given to R Douglas.

Item 7 Chairman’s Report:

7.1 L Morgan attended a participatory budget meeting in Buckie. There are 58 applications totalling over £170K for a share of £40K. After public vote, about ¾ of applicants will go home empty-handed. Local applications are from Findhorn Bay Arts and Morayvia. L Morgan attended the successful quiz night in Kinloss Church which raised funds towards a defibrillator for Kinloss. T Brown was thanked for running the event and he passed on £500 to Treasurer F Rietberg.

7.2 L Morgan requested H Morton leave the room for item 7.2. Berryburn Trust is considering our application and a rep from the Trust requested answers to 3 questions about the proposed defibrillator: security/vandal-proofing, ongoing maintenance and training required. It is likely that users will dial 999 to receive a code to access the equipment; Councillors agreed to fund the small maintenance charges and T Brown advised that if necessary he would be happy to fund raise through Kinloss Church for maintenance costs; no training was necessary, there are clear instructions on the equipment, however options were put forward should additional training be necessary. 2 Findhorn residents in attendance also offered to discuss this issue and share their experience. They have already purchased a defibrillator situated at their caravan park in Findhorn. They were disappointed they had not been approached during research of this issue. Mrs S McKandie had provided the lowest of 3 cost estimates received. The cost should be £1490.

7.3 It has been brought to the CC’s attention that Stagecoach is stopping no. 36 bus serving Kinloss and Findhorn with effect from 1st May. This was discussed at length as the Chairman wished to reach agreement on the content of an e-mail to Moray Council. It was acknowledged that many of the buses have few passengers but there was strong support for retaining as good a service as possible to cater for those using the bus to get to work and to attend medical appointments and the like. Although the area would be eligible for the ‘Dial M for Moray’ bus, it was felt that this would not be a satisfactory substitute for a regular scheduled service. R Douglas expressed concern that the Regiment already has issues attracting people to Kinloss and the loss of the bus service would have a detrimental effect in attracting families to Kinloss because young mothers and children would have no public transport access to the main town for essential services. Other concerns were the adverse affect on tourism, economic development and support to our most vulnerable citizens. **ACTION: Chairman** to send an e-mail to Moray Council expressing our concern. **Cllr Alexander** will also make enquiries.

Item 8 Secretary’s Report:

8.1 J O’Hagan noted the following from Gmail. 1)Letter from M Patrick at Moray Council advertising an information session on 4th March, in relation to Council elections and prospective candidates. Please book a place by 28th Feb if interested. 2)Tsi have their new training calendar out; lots of helpful training available e.g. child protection, supervising volunteers, to roles and responsibilities of a Trustee. 3) There is an amended ‘Keep Moray Beautiful’ constitution available. 4) Cromartyising.com now provides an opportunity to sign the petition for ship to ship oil transfers. 5) Leith Links CC, Edinburgh, had contested CC election; it is worth a look at. 6) 2nd round of CC consultation, closing 6th March. 7) The Forres CC Petition about a safe crossing of the A96 is now live with hard copies in stores. 8) The Moray Community Awards closing date is 24th March 17, should anyone to put forward a nomination.

Item 9 Treasurer's Report:

9.1 F Rietberg advised of the following: An expense claim has been put in for 2 X bus rides to attend training total £22. £500 received tonight for defibrillator. Moray Council grant £1147.92, other grants £2717.96 bringing the total to £3865.88. A reminder claims should be put in as agreed. The Chairman thanked F Rietberg for completing Berryburn application.

Item 10 JCCM Report:

10.1 L Morgan attended meeting on 9th February; the Minutes will be on our gmail when issued. The next meeting on 11th May will see a presentation from a Kinloss resident on 'Men's Sheds'.

Item 11 Moray Councillors' Report:

11.1 Cllr Skene advised there had been a budget meeting; Council tax is going up 3%, in addition to Government increase on some bands. Cllr Skene and Cllr Alexander met with Deputy First Minister John Swinney last week. They highlighted 3 key issues: shortage of teachers in Moray, difficulty recruiting Head Teachers and the dire state of the school estate. Cllr Skene advised of launch of 'Corporate Parenting Champions Board' last week. Key personnel had attended and worked in partnership with care experienced young people preparing lunch together before having their meeting. She commented that some firm commitments were made in relation to how care will be continued for 'our children who are in care'. The Project Board for the Leisure Review will be reporting to full Council in March and will be hoping to make some decisions. The Transitions Board continues with good discussions re: preparation of the next Council and induction programme for new Councillors. Cllr Skene advised there is a 3rd round of re-advertisement of HT post for Kinloss Primary.

11.2 Cllr Alexander has also been busy with budgets. Cllr Alexander answered questions re: budgets.

11.3 Cllr Creswell advised the IJB met today. There was a presentation on a successful piece of work 'Shared Lives'. The Auchernack Trust has allocated money to FACT to allow a person to be employed. Part of role will be to set up befriending scheme.

Item 12 Findhorn Foundation Report:

12.1 The Findhorn Bay Care Farm has a website: findhornbaycarefarm.org as well as FB page: www.facebook.com/FindhornBayCareFarm. F Rietberg handed out a leaflet highlighting a play about Italian immigrants in Scotland; there is also some physical theatre (see website). F Rietberg noted FF had purchased land called 'hinterland' some years ago; it is managed by 'Findhorn Hinterland Trust'. There is a burial site on this land that needs managing and it is felt best to transfer this piece of land to 'FHT' to ensure establishing how best to manage this area; to transfer ownership to the FHT to make clear who owns it especially in light of new legislation. Due to discussions re: domains recently, F Rietberg suggested this section of agenda is changed to 'Findhorn Park Eco Village' Report as it better reflects the report. F Rietberg has done some research re: the domain. She highlighted that changing the Findhorn.org domain name would be a serious risk to FF.

Item 12 Planning:

12.1 H Morton reported the following: Sylvan Heath Plot 2 – withdrawn; Mains of Struther Plot 8 – permitted; 5 Seaforth Place, Findhorn - permitted; boatyard 2 x static caravans - permitted (time restrictions); 10 Church Road, Findhorn - Local Review Board supported the appeal; modified design can now go ahead. 2 Planning applications outstanding: Elderslie and CCTV mast at 133 Findhorn. No new applications noted.

Item 13 AOCB:

13.1 M Hyde advised that Planning for Real had a meeting last night. They now have their offices to enable building up of maps. Comments are open to all.

13.2 L Morgan highlighted an email re: lower speed communities (20 mph zones). Given areas already have these zones, no further action necessary.

Item 14 Forthcoming Community Events:

14.1 15th March Tolbooth, Forres, a talk from Andrew Wright about local hero Joseph Mitchell. T McLaren selling tickets.

29th March 'Witches' at Tolbooth T McLaren selling tickets.

4th March and 1st April - Scottish Teas, Trash or Treasure at Findhorn Village Centre, including Turkish baker – 1pm – 5pm.

8th March - MIRO film night in Findhorn 7pm.

9th March – Wildthings have an open evening at JMI – 7pm – 9pm. Day trips for seniors monthly until October. See website, or attend on 9th for more info.

5th March – Sea Shanty singing workshop at JMI 4pm – 5pm.

Item 15 Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 30th March 2017 – JMI Findhorn 7pm