

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 30th April 2018 in

Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present

Brian Higgs (BH) – Chair, Chris Piper (CP) – Vice Chair

Howard Davenport (HD), Carlo Miele (CM), Anna Gatward (AG), Tony Pinner (TP),

Nikki Howard (NH)

Also present:

Councillor Lorna Creswell (LC)

1. Apologies from:

Cllr Claire Feaver, Anne Garrow, Bob Laughton

2. Notes and actions from previous meeting

Notes were accepted.

3. Police update

No Police representative present. Community Safety Partnership Report no17 has been received, and posted on FCC website. This report contains a summary of activities by community wardens and local policing teams over the previous period.

4. Actions arising not covered by standing items

None.

5. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposal

BH had received a letter from a resident at Hillhead Farm, who would lose a large part of her farm if the red route and the proposed size of junction east of Forres were implemented. She was concerned about the ongoing viability of the farm. It was agreed to send a letter to Transport Scotland, noting that we had received this letter.

(Action BH)

A communication had also been received encouraging the relevant Community Councils to support the provision of a cycle path along the new A96 Hardmuir to Fochabers section, as was planned for the Inverness to Nairn section. It was agreed to send a letter to this effect to Transport Scotland, and to ask for a response to previous specific queries raised by FCC. **(Action TP)**

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

CJP updated the meeting and indicated 7 members of the Steering Board were in place, plus one co-opted member. They are:

Brian Higgs, Chris Piper, Carlo Miele, Jim McKay, Peter Taylor, John Cudworth, Karen Astill, and Roy Dennis (co-opted).

Other items:

- It is expected that the FDT will be officially incorporated within the next few days.
Update – FDT was incorporated on Tuesday 1st May
- The first full FDT Board meeting will be held on May 16th.
- The FDT is preparing to seek a suitable consultant / consultant team to manage the forthcoming community engagement and strategic planning process on its behalf.
- A meeting has been held with the Developer on the process for cash disbursement.
- It is intended that the FDT will be a membership organisation, with an AGM held within 18 months of incorporation to which all members will be invited.
Membership would be restricted to residents of the Finderne area.
- Minutes of Board Meetings will be posted on the FDT website.

c. Vehicle speeding in Rafford

The police have again been active in the last couple of weeks, stopping and warning drivers who have been exceeding the speed limit in the village.

A further application is to be made to the Berry Burn Wind Farm Community Fund for the purchase of speed warning signs for Rafford.

Action: CP to make a further application.

d. Loch of Blairs Project

Volunteers have been doing a superb job of clearing rhododendrons and trees around the buildings.

A draft lease has been received from the Altyre Estate's solicitor, which needs some further work to reflect the agreement already established.

A pre-planning advisory request has been submitted to the Moray Council Planning Department. We have been advised that planning permission will be required based on change of use of the existing buildings.

An ITT has been issued to 5 contractors for work on the boathouse, the bothy and the stables. 2 out of the 6 have expressed an interest in tendering. Returns are expected with 2-3 weeks.

There are a number of funding applications ready to be issued once the quotes for the work have been received.

The Loch of Blairs section on the FCC website has been updated to ensure the community are aware of the progress that has been made.

Action: BH to pursue responses to the ITT, and update the FCC on further progress.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

BH reported that an invitation to sign a memorandum of agreement (MoA) to be kept informed of progress on the community ownership of the development had been received. NH agreed to look over the lengthy document and provided this did not obligate the FCC in any way and it was agreed to sign the MoA.

Action: CM and HD to follow up on the MoA

CM and HD attended a community liaison group meeting on Tuesday 27th March. It became clear that 175metre tip height turbines were being considered. Any turbines over 150metre tip height currently require permanent lighting and it was pointed out to the developer that, based on recent experience, this would be an issue for the local community.

Public exhibitions are being held by the developer this week. Depending on the information provided, and the timescale for comments, the FCC may need to undertake further community consultation, in order to provide balanced feedback to the developer.

Action: All, discussion needed after public exhibitions.

6. New Business

a. Data Protection

HD had issued an updated draft Privacy Statement, having received comments from the trainer at the recent GDPR. It was agreed to adopt this statement, and for it to be posted on the FCC website. A training session on GDPR is required for all FCC members. It was agreed that this should be scheduled for the June FCC meeting.

Action: HD to post Privacy Statement on the website, and to arrange the training.

BH and HD met to review and categorise the existing FCC contacts list. Redundant contacts were deleted.

b. Moray Local Development Plan 2020 Consultation

Consultation now closed.

c. Core Paths Consultation

The report on the FCC consultation on the Development Plan and Core Paths was issued to the Moray Council.

Following a meeting with Ian Douglas, the FCC responded to the consultation with a proposal to delete path CCP20, to avoid privacy and parking issues. An alternative route for path CCP21 was proposed to provide a link with the Dava Way further south.

The consultation is now closed.

7. Planning Report

CM checked that provision for the retention of the existing path through Brochloch Farm, is included in the recent planning application.

CM reported that no further planning applications of note had been lodged since the last meeting.

8. Correspondence Report

HD had no further correspondence to report that had not already been covered in previous items

9. Treasurers Report

AG reported FCC current balance was £4,800.

- £4,100 restricted for Loch of Blairs boat purchase
- £300 allocated as a match funding contribution to the provision of VES for Rafford assuming a subsequent application to the Berry Burn fund was successful, now re-allocated back into general funds.
- £400 unrestricted,

It was agreed that the £250 charge for the Planning Application for the Loch of Blairs project would be funded from the unrestricted balance.

10. AOCB

a. Seagulls and Puddles

Ian Cameron from the Moray Council responded to the query from BH, and has been investigating re-instatement of drainage channels.

No further action on seagulls is envisaged at this time.

b. FCC engagement with local businesses and organisations

CP is working up a list of key businesses or organisation to make a short presentation on their activities at future FCC meetings.

Action: CP to initiate invitations

c. Query on FCC boundary around Aitnoch, by Dava.

No response yet from Jane Martin to a query on the FCC boundary map, which appears to include some properties near Aitnoch in Finderne, while they are now in the Highland Region. Apparently the county boundary was moved at some point in time.

Action: CM to follow up with Jane Martin.

d. Communications with TMC Development Services

CP reported a concern raised by an FCC consistent that despite repeated attempt over an extended period to no avail, a request for information regarding the legal status of a number of specific local tracks issue was still awaited from TMC Development Services. CP asked Cllr Cresswell if she could possibly facilitate a response.

Action: CP to provide Cllr Cresswell with the relevant background correspondence.

e. Emergency vehicle access to properties in and around Rafford

CP reported that a recent "blue lights flashing" ambulance visit, thought (but not confirmed) to be attending a suspected stroke and heart attack victim at Woodside Cottages had been seen passing both ways in Upper Rafford. The concern was that time may have been wasted by the emergency service in question choosing an inappropriate route to reach an address that shares the same post code as numerous other residual priorities in the immediate area. Whilst it was agreed that factual information was required, CP suggested that a positive role for FCC might be to help facilitate the provision of better information (eg via some sort of map) to the ambulance (and fire) services to enable them to locate addresses via the most appropriate access route, to prevent potentially vital "attendance" time being wasted.

Action: CP to make initial contact with relevant emergency services to get background information and report back.

11. Date and location of next meeting

Next meeting: Monday 11th June at 7:00 pm, in Edinkillie Hall.