

FINDHORN AND KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on 25th October 2018 JMI, Findhorn

Present: A Skene (Chair), J O'Hagan (Mins), S Urquhart, H Grigor, B James, D Anderson, L Fraser, M Hyde, S Dominey (Findhorn Park Eco Village).

Attendance: Cllr Feaver, Cllr Alexander, R Douglas (BSO Kinloss Barracks, 1 member of public).

Item 1 Apologies: None noted.

Item 2 Public Session:

2.1 B James welcomed Susan Hermiston to the meeting. B James advised S Hermiston is a Kinloss resident, who may be interested in becoming a member of the CC; she was at the meeting to observe.

2.2 S Urquhart advised there was a brief reference to Findhorn and Kinloss in the Police report this month. It referred to a road traffic incident, on the road between Burghead and Kinloss. A male was found to be walking away from the scene following the incident and was dealt with accordingly.

2.3 A resident Mr Spencer Julian attended the meeting with regards to wildfowling. Mr Julian brought along bags of physical evidence of wads and cartridges, that have been left around the bay by wildfowling. Mr Julian has been picking up the litter over the last 2.5 shooting seasons, advising that he has so far collected 1100 cartridges and 2200 wads, mainly from the south end part of the bay. Mr Julian advised that he knows where the main sites are that the wildfowling shoot from, so finding their litter of cartridges and wads is relatively easy. He has taken photographs of the areas affected over time. Discussion followed regarding the type of cartridges and wads and how some contain lead pellets. Mr Julian acknowledged that some of the wildfowling try to pick up their litter, however, there is clearly a number who do not. In answer to a question from H Grigor, Mr Julian advised he has nothing against wild fowling 'for the pot' as a food source, it is the litter left behind that he is concerned about and the impact on the environment and sea life. He advised that about 800 geese get shot during the season in Findhorn bay, but 5/6000 cartridges are used. A Skene asked CC members if they were in favour of these figures being taken to the next meeting regarding wild fowling; all agreed. Cllr Feaver enquired about the weight of steel going into the bay; it was thought this could be calculated once there was clarity regarding the number of pellets per shot.

Action: A Skene - figures to be taken to next meeting of wild fowling.

Item 3 Ratification of Minutes:

3.1 Minor corrections required: **1)** 2.2 paragraph 2, should read "DA advised that there were a couple of drivers who speed out of the village at around 5.45 each morning" and not as noted at 6.45. **2)** 2.2 paragraph 3, should read "it's believed that Moray Council do the markings", and not 'Sustrans'. **3)** Title of Ratification of Minutes should read "of September", not 'April'. **4)** 15.d should read "there was an agreement to discuss", not 'there was an agreement to this suggestion'. The minutes of 27th September were thereafter ratified - proposed by D Anderson and seconded by M Hyde.

Item 4 Matters Arising:

a) (4c/8.1) Sea wall steps and beach car park low fences - **SU** liaise with Susan Lewis and FVCC with update. As this is not an F & K CC decision, this will be left with FVCC.

b) (4f) Seagull Services - **Cllr Alexander** to provide information to FKCC. Information provided. B James is following this up and will meet with relevant others to discuss options and the financial impact. J O'Hagan asked if the impact of seagulls on Southside estate could be part of the consultation as a number of residents have raised concerns regarding the growing numbers on the estate; this was agreed. Cllr Feaver advised of the potential impact of pig farming in the vicinity, as the open feeds can attract seagulls. There was reference to a gel substance that is used off shore, however, it was not known whether this product would be environmentally friendly.

Action ongoing – B James and H Grigor

c) (7.3) Defibrillator locations and access codes to Police Scotland – **SU** – actioned.

d) (7.4) Landscapes Across Moray – **DA** – discussed below

e) (9.1) Moray Council Grant – decision not to accept. **BJ** to let MC know – completed.

f) (4.1) Southside private road agreement. – **ongoing JO'H**

Item 5 Declaration of Interest:

5.1 None declared. Should issues arise, declarations will be made.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report:

6.1 R Douglas advised that Remembrance Day will be supported in the usual locations on 11th November. As Regimental numbers are thin on the ground at present, there has been an impact on how much can practically be covered and there have been some cut backs this year. The 39 Eng. Reg. have not yet had a band confirmed for Moray. R Douglas advised that looking forward to 2019, a significant number of personnel will be deployed, and others will be in training for deployment. The current demands on the Reg. will likely have an impact on their ability to deliver externally in the local area. R Douglas kindly offered practical supports to move forward the Southside projects; J O'Hagan gave thanks for this, advising that further consultations have now taken place as requested. R Douglas advised that she was not receiving the minutes as routine from the Chair; this will be resolved asap. Cllr Alexander enquired about the sound system used at the Forres event. He recalled that previously, an excellent system was used, however, more recently it was difficult to hear the Minister unless in close proximity. R Douglas agreed to follow this up. H Grigor requested that R Douglas look over the composition of the Kinloss Barracks in the Resilience Plan; R Douglas agreed to do this.

Action: R Douglas to look over resilience plan and confirm composition of Kinloss Barracks

Action: A Skene to ensure R Douglas receives the minutes of meetings

Item 7 Chair's Report:

7.1 A Skene gave thanks to H Grigor for the organisation of Remembrance Day, recognising aspects of this had been complex. There is already a comprehensive file for the Findhorn ceremony but there was no information for the Kinloss ceremony held at Kinloss Abbey. Comprehensive notes for both Kinloss and Findhorn are now in place which should make next year's events easier to arrange. As F&KCC lay wreaths in both villages, it was agreed that M Hyde would represent the CC in Findhorn (for 9.45 a.m.) and A Skene would represent Kinloss (for 9.30 a.m.). R Douglas will speak to the Padre, who can also contribute to the written plans for next year. Thanks were given to R Douglas for coming to the meeting this evening and she thereafter left the meeting.

Action: A Skene to lay wreath in Kinloss on behalf of CC

Action: M Hyde to lay wreath in Findhorn on behalf of CC

Action: H Grigor to arrange notes for next year's services to be on file

7.2 A Skene advised of a letter received from MAKAR, a company responsible for the handling of the development of Northwhins at Findhorn Foundation and who are working with Duneland Ltd. There was discussion regarding the area of land that would be subject to the planning application, noting the many species of Lichen in that area for example. There are 2 further consultation events planned 1) **30th November, Findhorn Village Centre, 4 to 7pm**, hosted by MAKAR, or 2) **12th November, Universal Hall 7.30 to 9.30pm**, hosted by Duneland Ltd. D Anderson who had attended an earlier consultation, advised that it was an informative event, with a presentation of the location of proposed development, where further information could be sought and with proformas for individuals to make their own representation. Following discussion, members of the CC are encouraged to attend one of the above events.

7.3 A Skene asked CC members for their thoughts on advertising other local events via email, in between CC meetings. A Skene had asked for opinions, as a CC member had raised this as an issue and was of the opinion that this was a misuse of role. Following discussion, no other CC member shared this concern, however, A Skene apologised to H Grigor, should she have offended him.

7.4 A Skene asked CC members of their thoughts of moving the venue for the Findhorn CC meetings. A proposal had been made last month, to move the venue from the JMI to Findhorn Church Hall. Following discussion, it was agreed to leave it as the status quo.

7.5 Following the late circulation of the minutes at times, A Skene requested that the CC minutes go out within 10 days of the meeting. This would allow for all members to have a clear record of their actions. J O'Hagan agreed to seek support from S Urquhart to draft the minutes, should this be necessary, to ensure the minutes go out on time.

Action: J O'Hagan to ensure minutes go to A Skene for approval within 10 days of meeting

Item 8 Secretary's Report:

8.1 S Urquhart advised thanks were given to previous visitors at the last meeting. In line with data protection, S Urquhart is ensuring regular deletion of data in the CC's Gmail box. As discussed at a previous meeting, whereby a speeding vehicle nearly ran over local dogs, the company vehicle has now been identified and contact made. S Urquhart alerted the meeting to red squirrels having been seen crossing the road and asked if signs could be put up to ask vehicles to be cautious. D Anderson advised that K Major at Moray Council would be responsible for signage. S Urquhart also raised the issue of members of the public taking a role in monitoring speeding traffic, as was in the media recently. It was suggested that S Urquhart liaise with Chief Inspector Maggie Miller, regarding this issue. Lastly, there was an enquiry regarding the large tree that was partly cut down, in the private garden near the war memorial. It was understood that a tree preservation order was in place and therefore, contact could be made with Beverley Smith at Moray Council.

Action: S Urquhart to liaise with C.I. M Miller re speeding traffic and public involvement

Action: S Urquhart to contact K Major re signage alerting vehicles to red squirrels crossing

Action: S Urquhart to contact B Smith re tree near war memorial

Item 9 Treasurer's Report:

9.1 B James advised there has been no movement on the accounts since last month, therefore, the figures stand at £1195.66 in the admin grant fund and £1577.14 in the Capital account. The accounts were finalised as required. Anyone with expenses asked to put in a claim to B James and this would be paid by bank transfer.

Action: Expenses to be submitted to B James – All (that are relevant)

Item 10 JCCM Report:

10.1 The next meeting is on 8th November. A Skene and D Anderson agreed to attend this meeting, which will be held in Elgin Town Hall in the Supper Hall.

Action: A Skene and D Anderson to attend next JCCM

Item 11 Moray Councillor's Report:

11.1 Cllr Alexander advised that things have been quite quiet over the October break. He has however, been attending all the budget consultations. Cllr Alexander advised that some interesting issues have been raised and good arguments put forward, however, when asking the public what alternatives should be made to deal with the budget issues, there are very few answers forthcoming. Cllr Alexander commented that there are some people who are really understanding of the issues. Cllr Alexander explained the capital that is raised through Council Tax, with most capital coming from the government grant. Cllr Alexander advised that he had visited the Bowling Club at Cooper Park and spoke about what great potential this had to become more of a social club. A meeting regarding Falconer Museum in Forres will be taking place soon. It was interesting to hear Cllr Alexander speak about a presentation from Mr David Gregory, who is in Moray at present, given Moray's education is under enhanced monitoring. Mr Gregory has been speaking to local Cllrs about having a leadership role and their direction for education in Moray. Cllr Alexander spoke about the challenges regarding decision making in Council, when certain parties will not criticise the Scottish Government. S Dominey thanked Cllr Alexander for all the time and effort he was making in attending these consultations and acknowledged the difficult job.

11.2 Cllr Feaver also highlighted the budget consultation meetings and commented that in her opinion, the agendas are light for people to be able to discuss wider issues. She recalled 8 items that people could discuss which would only have a miniscule effect on the amount of savings required. There was discussion regarding the board set up that is supposed to be about transforming learning and how local schools could be moved from poor and adequate to good and higher. So far, Cllr Feaver expressed that the board has been a bit disappointing, with more concentration about buildings and so on. It was noted that lots of the papers going to committees are light and more coming through are confidential; it was acknowledged this meant they were not open to public. There was some discussion regarding services that the Council took on when money was more plentiful, however, there will have to be changes, as the Council simply do not have the funds at the current time. Waste collection was raised and the fact that weekly collections have changed. Following on from this point, A Skene advised it would be helpful to have a reminder of what waste can be recycled

in each coloured bin and locally. It was pointed out that all this information can be obtained on the Moray Council website.

Item 12 Findhorn Park Eco-village Report:

12.1 S Dominey highlighted the availability of the Good Gig Guide. Whilst there was not much to discuss this evening, S Dominey highlighted the care taken whilst extending the Phoenix shop on the Park. Lots of care had been taken to go around the roots of the tree within the boundary. The extension is for refrigeration and fresh produce. S Dominey also advised that the food outlet 'La Boheme' as you enter the Park, has recently changed hands; it is now branching out and the menu is more varied. The Universal Hall will be holding film nights during the winter which are open to all. S Dominey referred to lots of business events and conferences on the site and lots going on behind the scenes. S Dominey was thanked for her contribution.

Item 13 Findhorn Village Conservation Company update:

13.1 M Hyde reported that FVCC are looking into a fire break at the back of the village. Some local residents who had contacted FVCC with concerns about fire risk, had expressed that they are willing to financially contribute to a fire break. Advice had been sought from fire services with regards to distance from actual buildings and it would appear that some people's properties would not meet this criteria. There will be more consultation with residents who may be affected and then further discussions with the village. M Hyde advised there had been discussion with Moray Council regarding the back-shore steps (x8). Moray Council has agreed to take away 4 lots of steps and will repair 4 sets. Overnight parking in the car park was raised and M Hyde advised that people are still allowed to park there. A question was asked regarding what overnight campers did with their waste products, including toilet waste. M Hyde advised, having spoken to some motorhome/campers owners, that they have their own methods in their own vans. There was discussion whether it was suitable for cassettes to be emptied down toilets; this seemed to be more complicated than simply flushing away the waste down normal toilet facilities. D Anderson had heard of waste cassettes being emptied over the edge of cliffs further along the coast. It was felt that if FVCC are encouraging people to park overnight, then they should be providing facilities. It was acknowledged that there has been an issue of toilet facilities in the beach car park and the Council will be reopening the current closed set, by next spring. D Anderson had noted the rubbish bins in that area are sometimes overflowing and there is other rubbish, not normally associated with general waste in that area, e.g. open bean tins. There was some discussion whether FVCC were running this as a business and in which case, if they were, then waste management needed to be a consideration. The number of nights each vehicle was staying was enquired about. M Hyde advised that a survey had been carried out this summer, however, finding the numbers had been difficult, as some vehicles move around the car park. It was suggested that if car registrations were noted, then this would be easier to record and monitor. It was highlighted there is a maximum number of motorhomes/campervans allowed to park overnight and questions were asked how this would be enforced. It was suggested that if there was a sign advising of a limit, this may help manage overload to some extent, however, there is not currently a sign. There was some dispute whether FVCC are running this site as a business, given that they only ask for donations. Cllr Feaver advised that she would be happy to talk with Moray Council regarding bigger bins for that area, although there might be a cost for FVCC. S Dominey voiced that offering recycling in this area, would give a real sense of caring for the environment and hopefully then people would support this. It was agreed that M Hyde would take the issues raised at this meeting, to FVCC for discussion.

Action: M Hyde to raise the above issues with FVCC- waste management as a whole, regulating numbers staying overnight, clarity regarding site being run as a business and signage

Item 14 Wildfowling Negotiation

14.1 B James has passed information on to A Skene. S Dominey will also be going to the negotiation meetings. Dates have not been finalised. A Skene was not aware of the dates discussed so far, therefore, S Dominey will forward this on to her. A Skene offered to take photographs at the end of the meeting, of the rubbish sacks that were presented at the meeting tonight with wads and cartridges. In regard to the CC discussing the wild fowling issues, a question was asked whether the CC needed to have a closed meeting. A final decision was not reached at this meeting, however,

general discussion appeared to suggest this would be helpful. A Skene will circulate the statement from the last wild fowling meeting to CC members.

Action: A Skene to circulate last statement

**Action: Final decision to be made regarding need for a closed meeting to discuss wild fowling
- ALL**

Item 15 Planning:

15.1 66 Findhorn was highlighted as being the only application relevant for this meeting. M Hyde advised that she had found the maps difficult to look at. It seems where the residents wish to extend, will not affect the village. This application is for a new porch and is an alteration, not an extension as such. No objections noted.

15.2 As a follow up from last month regarding 54 Findhorn, M Hyde has checked the fence height and everything is ok with that.

15.3 The Special Landscape Areas (SLA) was discussed. D Anderson and A Skene had noted that Kinloss Abbey had not been mentioned, however, D Anderson advised this was to do with the issue of boundaries. D Anderson mentioned the importance of Cluny Hill. Whilst this is out with our CC boundary, it is important given the sight lines. Cllr Alexander commented how positive it is that different groups in Forres are speaking to each other about these issues. The CC can put in a response for 2nd November, so anyone wishing to comment should do so to A Skene by Wednesday 31st October. A Skene agreed to send out the link to the presentation, which is worth a look at. Cllr Feaver noted that the area is so diminished, that a lot of Moray does not have the designation that it once had.

Action: A Skene to send link to CC members

15.4 H Grigor will be attending the resilience conference and will look at how many other CCs have a resilience plan in place. The current plan needs lots of streamlining. H Grigor noted that work on the resilience plan is time intensive and he voiced that he was not sure it warranted it. S Dominey was in favour of planning for eventualities and she expressed that she was happy to join the sub group. This was agreed.

Action: H Grigor to attend resilience conference

Action: S Dominey to join sub group

Item 16 AOCB:

16.1 H Grigor noted that the flu clinic in Forres this year was very busy. There is a mop up clinic in Forres Town Hall on **21st November from 9 am. to 4.30 pm.**

Item 17 Forthcoming Community Events:

17.1 Film afternoons in Findhorn Village Centre 2nd and 16th November 2 pm to 4pm. Donations welcome for tea and coffee. Any offer of help gratefully received.

17.2 1st December – seasonal singalong and bell ringing in JMI, 2 pm to 5 pm.

17.3 Christmas lights switch on – Forres High Street 1st December 2 pm.

17.4 Bonfire in Grant Park on 3rd November from 6 pm.

17.5 Christmas Bazaar 8th December 2 pm. Findhorn Village Centre sports ground.

17.6 11th November 12.30 pm. Event all over – ringing of all bells.

Item 18: Date of Next Meeting: 29th November, 7.00 p.m. Kinloss Church Kinloss