

## Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in

Edinkillie Hall

### FCC members present

Nikki Howard (NH) – Chair

Anna Gatward (AG), Howard Davenport (HD), Tony Pinner (TP), John Pullen (JP), Bob Laughton (BL)

Also Attending: Hilary Rolton

### 1. Apologies:

Brian Higgs (BH), Anne Garrow

### 2. Notes from previous meeting

Subject to some small corrections the notes were accepted.

**Action: HD to make amendments before place notes on web-site etc.**

### 3. Police update

No formal report, although Police had been observed in lower Rafford during December.

### 4. Matters Arising

- i. Moray Offshore Wind Farm: **Action: HD to invite to attend FCC meeting.**
- ii. Stones on Road – Upper Rafford: Farmer had been identified as William Ralph. Although more recently stones were more likely to have come from vehicle damage to the road side.  
**Action: NH to visit Mr Ralph and discuss the issue.**

### 5. Current Standing Items

#### *a. A96 dualling proposal*

BH had submitted response to A96 developers regarding the preferred norther route. NH and BH had attended a meeting with SWECO, Dyke CC and Findhorn CC. A presentation on the reasons behind the choice of the northern route was given by the developers and concerns were voiced by both Dyke CC and Findhorn CC. These were noted by SWECO who also requested that CC's should consider options for improving access routes to the new A96 as well as core paths and cycle routes around the development. Another public drop in session is planned for late 2019. No further action for FCC but all agreed to maintain a watch on the development.

#### *b. FINDERNE Development Trust (FDT)*

The advert for a development officer was noted.

c. Vehicle speeding signs for Rafford

No reports, item carried over.

d. *Loch of Blairs Project*

Committee noted recent email from BH updating on the following activities,

Volunteer works parties will continue in 2019 to tackle a variety of tasks from rhododendron and path clearance to boat house repairs. All volunteers welcome.

A range of funding applications had been submitted

Progress on an application for a CAR licence to control the aquatic planta had been made.

Completing the lease agreement with Altyre Estate was also close to a conclusion.

An open day/event was also being planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019, further details to follow.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

HD reported that the open day on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Edinkillie Hall, to seek residents' views on the Clashgour wind farm development had been well attended. Forty people had attended with 17 responses completed and a further 6 submitted after event by email. The committee felt this was a good response but recognised it may not completely cover all the views within the Finnerne area.

HD had completed an analysis of the initial 17 responses and presented the data to the committee. Initial findings indicated that while most residents were in favour of renewable energy many were still opposed to further wind farm developments. Concerns on the target area for any community funds was also evident along with a range of other issues from the effects on wildlife, transport and roads. HD agreed to incorporate the additional 6 submissions and provide the summary data to NH who would then draft an FCC response to the developers.

The committee also noted two additional responses from Finnerne residents which had been submitted individually.

**Action: NH/HD to complete the analysis of responses and prepare a submission to Clashgour wind farm developers. Deadline for comments is 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

## 6. New Business

a. *Core Paths Consultation* - No further information.

b. Projectors-Screens for Village Halls - Item Carried Forward

c. Berry Burn Wind Farm Expansion - Some feedback from residents gained from the Clashgour meeting. Item carried forward.

## 7. Planning Report

TP reported: New house plan had been submitted for a plot near Sourbank, upper Rafford, and new house plus holiday cottages at The Willows, Rafford.

Cathay Housing: decision on this development still pending, 129 objections had been lodged and the majority of these had been objections to the development.

**Action: TP to maintain a watch on planning applications.**

## 8. Secretary's Report (HD)

*Refuse Bin Collection Timetable:* HD had circulated 2019 timetable to residents.

*Meeting Minutes:* HD had forwarded minutes to Jane Martin (Moray Council) as requested.

*Moray Winter Festival:* proposal to hold a Winter Festival within Moray with an invite for individuals to get involved had been received, HD would circulate details.

*Rafford Café:* Dates and opening times for the café had been received and HD would add these to FCC Facebook/website.

*FCC Website:* HD also reported he had started to tidy and update the FCC website but further work was still necessary. The FCC drobox had also been tidied and passwords etc. would be renewed shortly.

*Mailing List:* HD indicated he would carry forward the action to expand the current contact list.

**Action: HD to continue overhaul of website mailing list etc., TP to investigate the operation of Dropbox further.**

## 9. Treasurers Report

AG indicated that, Bank balance £1627.00, of this £592.00 was restricted to Loch of Blairs with remainder £1035, unrestricted (Moray Council admin grant balance). Committee had previously agreed to fund the purchase of an FCC logo for the Loch of Blairs boat payable out of Moray grant funds.

**Action: BH to cost and purchase FCC logo suitable for the boat.**

## 10. AOCB

*Transport Links:* A local resident had raised the issue of public transport within the Finnerne area. Moray Dial Bus was discussed and while helpful considered quite expensive and difficult to book. Car sharing and offering lifts also considered but not thought to be feasible. It was felt that any possibility of a publicly funded bus service would be highly unlikely due to considerable cuts in Moray Council budget. Unlikely to be much improvement in public transport in the near future.

*Pavements in Rafford:* A local resident had also raised this issue and while all agreed this would improve safety for walkers in the village there was limited width to install a pavement and again unlikely to be any funds available from Moray Council to support their installation.

Placement of Large Stones on Verges to prevent traffic access. Some concerns had been raised about the placement of large stones on verges to prevent vehicles alighting on to areas of grass etc.. These were also a potential hazard to cyclist.

**Action: RL agreed to look into guidance on the placement of stones on verges.**

Moray Development Plan: This has been re-issued as a final draft. HD had noticed some changes in wording which could affect planning for houses within the Finderne area. Plan can be viewed at [www.moray.gov.uk/proposedplan2019](http://www.moray.gov.uk/proposedplan2019)

**Action: HD and TP agreed to check wording within the draft plan was in line with submissions made by FCC reflecting residents' comments on the previous version of the plan.**

#### **Next meetings**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Rafford Church Hall, 19:00.