

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 11th March 2019 in

Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present

Nikki Howard (NH) – Chair

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

Also Attending: Cllr Claire Feaver (Cllr CF)

1. Apologies:

None

2. Notes from previous meeting

Subject to some small amendments the notes were accepted.

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

3. Police update

No report.

4. Matters Arising

- i. Moray Offshore Wind Farm: HD reported no response from the developers since last meeting but he would continue to pursue. **Action: HD to invite to attend FCC meeting.**
- ii. Stones on Road – Upper Rafford: Item carried over **Action: NH to visit Mr Ralph and discuss the issue.**
- iii. Placement of large stones along roadsides: Item carried over **Action: RL to look into guidance on the placement of stones on verges.**

5. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposal

No further action for FCC but committee agreed to place a post on the web site to encourage residents to view the A96 design plans at Sweco Offices, Unit 9, Horizon Scotland, The Enterprise Park, Forres, IV36 2AB. **Action: HD to post A96 details on FCC website.**

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

BH reported that a development manager, Pery Zakeri, had been appointed on 4th March 2019. An office had been established at Logie Steading.

Application to OSCR for charitable status was underway. Strategic plan was reaching final draft stage and a launch event for Trust and plan was likely in April.

c. Vehicle speeding signs for Rafford

BH reported an update quote from Glasdon of around £1000 to produce and install warning signs at each end of Rafford. BH indicated that although the signs were very high quality he felt similar signage could be produce for a low cost. And indicated he would develop this further. Cllr CF indicated that planning permission may be required and to contact Nicola Moss (Moray Council) for clarification. Ownership of land regarding the placement of the signs also needs to be clarified and permission sought.

Action: BH to further development of signs, NH to identify land ownership and planning requirements.

d. Loch of Blairs Project

BH updating on the following activities,

Volunteer works parties restarted on 9th March with path clearance and installation of mink monitoring raft by RL. Further work parties will be organised and all volunteers welcome.

Funding applications: disappointing news from the Berry Burn Windfarm Community Fund – the application for support had again been rejected despite addressing the issues raised in an earlier application. Committee voiced disappointment and dismay at this rejection. On a more positive note a £500 donation had been received. Decisions on other application are still pending.

Car stickers @ £5.00 are available and BH also displayed the waterproof logos for the new boat, the boat will be called “Finderne” to indicate Finderne CC support for the project.

Lease agreement with Altyre Estate had been completed for 10 years tenure.

Progress on an application for a CAR licence to control the aquatic planta had been made and awaiting a decision from SEPA.

An open evening for the Monday 25th March 2019, 19:00 at the Mosset Tavern has been arranged, all are invited to attend to hear plans and express views on the project.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

NH/Chris Piper (FDT) had meet with developers Force 9 in February to discuss community funds. Force 9 are very keen to establishing a group of local interests to manage the community fund, the make-up of this group was still to be decided but likely to include community council representation and there was no issues with Finderne Development Trust being involved. Further information will follow.

Memo of Understand (MoU): To freely represent Finderne residents FCC has not signed the MoU produced by the developers. However, HD suggested that it may be worth revisiting the MoU and reviewing our position. BH also agreed to discuss the MoU with Bob James (Findhorn CC) to determine their position. **Action: HD to locate MoU and re-circulate and FCC to review position.**

6. New Business

- a. **Core Paths Consultation:** Core path plans had been passed through Moray Council planning committee, objections had been considered and if upheld by Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF) then there may need to be an enquiry. **Action: Cllr CF to check on Core Path position.**

- b. **FCC Budget/Funding:** Support Funds from Moray Council for community councils will be removed due to council budget cut backs. All expressed disappointment at this stance and NH agreed to write letter to Moray Council expressing this view. Joint Community Council (JCC) meeting on 4th March had also look at this issue and their minutes should be available shortly. **Action: NH to draft letter to Moray Council on withdrawal of funds.**
It was also likely that relief for rates currently enjoyed by village halls would also be removed. This will lead to an increase in rate payments for local halls which could lead to financial difficulties for hall committees. **Action: Clllr CF to check with Moray Council Policy and Resources to clarify position. FCC to then advise village hall committees.**

- c. **Berry Burn Wind Farm Extension:** Public meetings are forthcoming to view plans for the Berry Burn Wind Farm extension: Edinkillie Village Hall on 21st March, 16:00 to 20:00; Rafford Village Hall on 22nd March 10:00 to 14:00. Finderne residents and FCC are encouraged to attend. A community liaison session is also proposed to collect comments from residents and submitted to the developers Airvolution/Statkraft. **Action: FCC to attend drop in sessions, agree date for residents drop in session.**

- d. **Moray Local Plan:** TP had cross check FCC comments with prior versions of the plan and identified discrepancies in the latest draft.
Rafford Station: Three large houses proposed in latest draft but it didn't include new house at Willows and another recent house build. Comments on road at Dava way viaduct being unsuitable for further traffic and visibility issues, should continue to be supported by FCC.
Brochloch: Amenity space behind existing houses is not included in current draft plan FCC should urge its inclusion.
Templestones: still in draft plan as a cluster development so no change from previous version, however, sewage and drainage issues were raised during consultation with residents and it is not clear whether these issues will be address fully in current plan.
Action: TP to formulate further response to draft Plan highlighting these issues, circulate to FCC for comment and then submit to Gary Templeton at Moray Council Planning.

7. Planning Report

TP reported: Extension to house at Califer – no issues.

Extension to Falconry Centre at Dallas – no issues.

Action: TP to maintain a watch on planning applications.

8. Secretary's Report (HD)

Insurance: Documents from Zurich Insurance had been received and HD would review.

Joint Community Councils: Meeting: next meeting 14th March

Grass Cutting: HD indicated letter regarding grass cutting had been received from Moray Council, Cllr CF informed meeting that path clearance and a 2m swathe would become the standard approach to grass cutting on Council maintained areas.

Longley Wood Forest Plan- Logie Estate: Letter inviting comments Longley wood forest plan had been received. HD/RL provide some further information on the plan and FCC agreed no further need for comment.

9. Treasurers Report

AG indicated that, Bank balance £1627.67, of this £592.00 was restricted to Loch of Blairs with remainder £1035.67, unrestricted (Moray Council admin grant balance).

10. AOCB

INNs Control: RL indicated that he would provide a presentation and update on Invasive Non Native Plant control at the next meeting.

Next meetings

15th April 2019, Edinkillie Hall, 19:00.