

FINDHORN AND KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on 28th March 2019 at JMI Findhorn

Present: A Skene (Chair), J O'Hagan (mins), H Grigor, B James, S Urquhart, S Hermiston, S Dominey.

Attendance:

Constable Kate Barnett, PC Andy Main, Christine Hunt (Vice Chair of FVCC), Ruth Douglas (BSO Kinloss Barracks), Alan Watson Featherstone (Hinterland Trust), Cllr Alexander, Cllr Creswell,

Item 1 Apologies:

1.1 D Anderson; M Hyde, L Fraser, Cllr Feaver.

Item 2 Public Session:

2.1 Mr Alan Watson Featherstone gave a presentation outlining the history of the Hinterland Trust, what the Trust is responsible for and land the Trust owns. There was a helpful map that distinguished land belonging to Duneland and Findhorn Foundation within the site. It was explained that the green burial ground is owned by the Trust and this was agreed, given the length of time that the site needed to be looked after and maintained. Mr Watson Featherstone explained that their management plan takes them to 2023 and has charitable objectives within. He advised of the national importance of the area, given the lichens, and how much of the work of the charity is to take care of Wilkies Wood and the wildlife. Their work is varied and has included developing programmes of training, hosting events, planting trees and putting in major fire breaks to protect housing near gorse. R Douglas was pleased to hear about the lichen and advised that the MOD had a lichen expert looking at the lichen within their boundary near the beach. R Douglas explained that the MOD also considers natural habitats and impacts on the environment. R Douglas suggested linking in with the MOD where there might be opportunities for some personnel and their families to volunteer and get involved. All parties would welcome working with other organisations and were looking forward to being in future contact and to advertising events. The Hinterland Trust website can be accessed for details of events, tours etc. Mr Watson Featherstone was thanked for his input and he thereafter left the meeting.

2.2 Declaration of Interest – S Urquhart declared an interest later in the meeting under 5.1 of these minutes.

2.3 Police input – Insp Keli McPhail had been invited to the meeting, however, in her absence, 2 other Police reps kindly attended. A summary of the Police report was given. 1 environmental complaint was made; this could be in relation to dog fouling, litter, fly tipping or graffiti. There was 1 noise complaint made. On 21st February, a 27 year-old male was kept in custody after brandishing a metal pole in Kinloss and then causing damage to a nearby motor vehicle; the complainer and accused are known to each other. On 10th February, two males aged 22 and 26 years-old were reported for various road traffic offences in Kinloss, including: driving without a licence and without insurance. On 11th February, Officers carried out speed checks in Kinloss and a 56 year-old woman was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for exceeding the 30 mph limit. The Police reps wished to reiterate fraudsters at work; they urged members of the public to be wary of companies pretending to be from big organisation e.g. Microsoft or BT. The fraudsters contact individuals and ask for certain personal information. They try to manipulate individuals and may ask for bank details, or ask a person to click on a certain link, or to phone them back on a specific number etc. Should you need to return a call, always check the validity of the phone number by checking it out on a website or legitimate correspondence and then call from another phone if possible. Whilst the Police reps were present, the issue of problem parking in Findhorn was raised. There was concern that this problem will be exasperated during summer months when vehicles are parked overnight on occasions. The new signs planned will help to direct drivers to more appropriate parking. The Police advised that they have been carrying out direct controls in the area and have issued parking tickets. S Urquhart advised that the signs to slow down for squirrels will be erected very soon. It was confirmed that it is still illegal to park on a pavement if yellow lines have had to be crossed and that parking at the bus stop, even on a Sunday when no buses are running, is illegal. J O'Hagan informed that a visitor to Findhorn who was parked on the sea front, had intentional damage on their vehicle recently, in the form of a deep, long scratch. She asked people to be vigilant. She was unsure whether the local person had reported it to the Police or not.

Item 3 Ratification of Minutes 31st January 2019:

3.1 The minutes were agreed as accurate and thereafter proposed by S Urquhart and seconded by B James.

Item 4 Matters Arising:

- a. (4c) Follow up on Red Squirrel Signage. -**SU** – Signs are now ordered. Invoice will come to F&KCC. S Urquhart liaising with Luke re where to place them. **Action: SU**
- b. (4f) Follow up Rainbow Bridge subscription for FKCC – **BJ** All complete and have had 2 copies. Complete.
- c. (8.1) Follow up on responsibility for cost cover of new signage - **SU** – SU advised she had emailed Moray Council. It was agreed to keep on the agenda at this time. **Action: SU**
- d. (10.2) Check CC insurance cover, liability and risk with Jane Martin – **AS** - There was an extra JCC meeting called. Jane Martin from Moray Council advised that insurance is adequate. A Skene enquired about risk assessments for the CC. J Martin advised that if we decided to display anything where the public would be around, to send J Martin an email and keep her posted. There had been some confusion with regards to an invoice for insurance, however, this has now been reimbursed. Complete.
- e. (10.3) Send apologies for no representation at extra JCC meeting on 4 March - **AS** – apologies were sent. Complete.
- f. (10.4) Attendance at Energising Communities conference on 3rd May – **AS SU** – SU advised she can no longer attend; therefore, it was opened up to others. No-one came forward at the meeting, but should this position change, A Skene advised it would be helpful to keep the CC informed, in regard to whether we wanted to sign up for the memorandum of understanding in the future.
- g. (14.1) Meeting to go over planning paperwork - **MH LF** – not yet completed. Ongoing.

5. Findhorn Village Conservation Company update:

5.1 C Hunt advised that in relation to the beach car parks in Findhorn, the lease with Moray Council would not be renewed. Some fencing has already been mended in this area; and the FVCC are continuing to liaise with Moray Council in relation to the boardwalks and sea defenses. All but 3 of the boardwalks will be dismantled. There is an expression of interest for a CAT to be put forward, regarding both toilet blocks in the car park areas. C Hunt gave an update on the Armstrong garages; they are hoping to submit a planning application for change of use from garage to workshop. There are ideas for a pottery, a carpentry workshop and stores; all the garages are now spoken for. They are endeavoring to put in 2 electric car charging points. C Hunt advised that they are also working with Findhorn Coastal Rowers and Moray Gig in relation to finding land for them. B James enquired about the land being surveyed and what the next steps would be. C Hunt advised that they hoped to resolve issues amicably. The next step will be to put up some fencing. There will be some disruption to lodges and caravans during this time, but it is important to mark out the boundary. S Urquhart at this point declared an interest regarding this matter and Novar. There was an enquiry regarding residents who currently park in the garage area. C Hunt advised that temporary parking is not a problem, however, if talking about long-term parking on a more permanent basis, there could be discussion regarding an agreement or charge. C Hunt was thanked for her input and thereafter left the meeting.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report:

6.1 R Douglas advised there is an open invitation for the employment and leisure fair planned for 15th May 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Cumming Hall, Kinloss. Whilst this event is aimed at Forces families and young people 16 +, civilians are very welcome to attend and could make a small donation for cake and coffee at the door. R Douglas advised that should anyone wish to run a stall at that event, to get in touch. R Douglas gave her apologies in advance of the April CC meeting. Gp. Capt. Strasdin might not be able to attend the April meeting either, however, he does have someone lined up to represent him, if that is the case. There was a question raised for R Douglas in relation to the aircraft public viewing area that was created by CC and grants in years gone by. H Grigor advised that this area is overgrown with gorse and asked if the Army would be able to assist with clearing it. R Douglas will liaise with H Grigor regarding this and hoped this would be possible. H Grigor will email photographs of the area to R Douglas.

ruth.douglas109@mod.gov.uk

Action: H Grigor to email photographs of viewing area to R Douglas

Item 7 Chairperson's Report:

7.1 A Skene advised that the quiz team representing F & K CC did well at the village quiz night. It was a good evening and the winners (Findhorn Residents Association) will plan the 2020 event. All other business is covered in the agenda.

Item 8 Secretary's Report:

8.1 S Urquhart advised that there has been correspondence from several residents. Gary McCallum was very pleased with the outcome of the parking investigation and thanks were given to Cllr Alexander for his input on this. Campbell Ross reported that his wind screen had been cracked 3 times following the resurfacing of the main Findhorn road. Following checks on the quality of the work, it was reported that the surface had been laid correctly

and excess chipping had been removed. Dave Shivers had been in touch requesting a memorial bench being located in Findhorn village. It was decided to pass to FVCC for action/advice. S Urquhart advised that she had tidied up the emails and there are a number in trash; they will remain for 4 weeks before being permanently deleted. S Urquhart advised that there is consultation out regarding Animal Welfare legislation. Following discussion, it was agreed that S Urquhart would put in a submission on behalf of the CC. There is also a consultation out regarding Fireworks, and an information event has been planned on 17th April 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., or 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Elgin Town Hall. Free tickets are online should anyone wish to attend this consultation.

Action: S Urquhart to put in comments on Animal Welfare legislation

Item 9 Treasurer's Report:

9.1 B James advised there had been little movement on the account. £62 was paid out for the Rainbow Bridge, leaving a balance of £2538.06. A Skene raised the issue of the CC grant from Moray Council. Whilst the CC had declined the grant given the budget pressures, it was later decided in the Moray Council budget to withhold the grant for the coming year to all CCs. Given this might mean F & K CC would be without a grant for 2 years, and, in discussion with J Martin (Liaison Officer MC), A Skene had agreed to accept this year's grant. A Skene hoped this was satisfactory with the CC; all agreed this was acceptable.

Item 10 JCCM Report:

10.1 A Skene attended the JCC meeting in March. Rhona Gunn (Corporate Director (EDP&I)), gave a presentation on the Moray Growth Deal and A Skene went over some of the key points. The Key objectives of Moray Growth Deal include: boosting the economy, helping retain 16 – 29 year olds in Moray and to address the issue of gender inequality in the workplace/pay gap. A Skene gave a flavour of big projects in the public domain including: a 4 or 5 star hotel, a multi-theatre in Elgin Town Hall and enhanced public space in Cooper Park, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) being rolled out to Early Years, a manufacturing and innovation centre, creation of Moray College Hubs. Moray Growth Deal is gathering momentum and has exciting potential for Moray. For more information, go to 'My Moray' on the web.

10.2 A Skene advised that Lossiemouth CC are actively looking at Moray wide services, particular to their area e.g. grass cutting, public toilets, school crossing patrols etc. Locally, other groups are tackling some of these issues; this CC is affected less.

10.3 A Skene advised that the JCC has arranged Planning training on 17th April and 23rd April 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., at Elgin High School. It is recommended that both dates are attended to get the full benefits. Following discussion it was agreed that H Grigor would book places for S Urquhart, S Dominey, himself and possibly L Fraser (who needs to be asked if she would like to/can attend).

Action: H Grigor to book places

10.4 A Skene advised of an event on 3rd May 'Energising Communities'. There will be speakers from different energy companies and an opportunity to ask questions in relation to community ownership of windfarms. B James advised he would like to attend and will check his availability.

Action: B James to attend if he is able

Item 11 Moray Councillors Reports:

11.1 Cllr Creswell advised that she had followed up on the conversation at last month's meeting in relation to preferential treatment of affordable housing in The Park. Cllr Creswell reported that she was satisfied with the response. A Skene advised planning documents were sent to F & K CC email today and the last pages highlighted concerns about the development, including access to affordable housing. Cllr Creswell attended Joining the Dots; she informed that the speaker Kosha Joubert – Director Global Village Network – gave an inspiring talk about various eco villages including the Park. Cllr Creswell advised of school reviews taking place in the coming weeks. Some schools have few pupils and are in a poor state. She spoke about the Corporate Parenting Group taking on a broader range of issues e.g. transition of young carers to older carers and evictions being on the community agenda. Cllr Creswell advised that she still attends the Parent Council in Kinloss; she advised of the new Head Teacher at Kinloss Primary and her interest in STEM in primary schools. Cllr Creswell advised of an event in Cumming Hall on 2nd April, where groups and volunteers are coming together. There is a proposal for the Osprey bus to become a SCIO, as the Army do not have capacity to support this as much as the RAF were able to. Whilst the Army could undertake some maintenance, the whole governance, booking system, volunteers etc., needs to be managed.

11.2 Cllr Alexander advised that he had spoken out against reducing funds to the CCs, as he felt that the CCs will be needed in coming years to take more responsibility with regards to community capacity building. Cllr Alexander

briefly gave his views on the poor state of the Moray Council. With regard to community ownership of wind turbines, Cllr Alexander advised that there are lots of community benefits that he would like access to. He spoke about lobbying in the area regarding wind turbines and the pressure to remain impartial. Cllr Alexander undertook a site visit and advised that great efforts are made to keep the turbines off the sky line, however, developers do not always take full note of planner's advice and can have different interpretations. S Dominey enquired about the wind turbines discussion being heard in Committee; Cllr Alexander advised that the webcast on Moray Council website could be accessed so that the Committee meeting and discussion could be watched.

Item 12 Findhorn Park Eco-village report:

12.1 S Dominey advised she was personally pleased that everyone now has access to Rainbow Bridge. This newsletter provides so much detailed information about what is on. S Dominey advised that the New Findhorn Association (NFA) community council elections are taking place. S Dominey will be happy to put notes of interest in Rainbow Bridge and also find an appropriate place to advertise the F & K CC minutes within the Eco-village. S Dominey advised of a climate change conference coming up in April that she was looking forward to. She had also attended Joining the Dots which she found quite inspirational. S Dominey reiterated the importance of being a good neighbour and having good communication to help us all.

Item 13 Wildfowling Negotiation update:

13.1 A Skene advised that there was a sub group meeting on 18th March to discuss the terms and conditions of community engagement. The only way forward is to work out options for a permit scheme that backs a by-law. On 1st April, the whole group will be meeting again to settle on what the sub group had discussed, and they will finalise options to present to communities. It is envisaged the launch of community consultation will be in May. Sylvia Jamieson from Moray Council hopes to attend The FKCC meeting in June and the consultation is planned to close on 28th June. Following this consultation, statistical analysis will take place in July and a report produced in August.

Item 14 Planning:

14.1 A Skene advised of the following applications that have come in:

19/00320 – planning in principle North Whins for 38 houses to north, 3 commercial units and 1 community facility. The planning document is quite lengthy and comprehensive for this application but contains some important points to be considered. M Hyde has some concerns that she has raised with A Skene. It was decided to allow members to read over the application in more detail and to contact A Skene with any comments by 5th April. A question was raised regarding tree preservation. Cllr Alexander advised to go on the Moray Council website under reports and agendas and the meeting on 29th January; there will be a number of appendices, one of which is for tree preservation.

19/00263 – agricultural build application – Old Smiddy, Kinloss.

19/00260 – 23 plots at Damhead, Kinloss. The intention is to sell each plot individually and then the individuals build upon the land.

Action: All – any comments regarding planning applications above, to be with A Skene/M Hyde by 5th April

Item 15 AOCB:

15.1 Resilience planning – H Grigor advised it is moving forward slowly. Communication with Donna McLean from Moray Council is ongoing; printing of the resilience plan will be an issue given Moray Council being unable to print copies on our behalf.

15.2 H Grigor advised that he had attended the licensing event at Moray Council. A number of speakers were heard across a range of topics. A question was asked about what mechanism is in place for the CC to hear about the renewal of licences. Further research will need to be made to answer this question.

Item 16 Forthcoming Community Events:

16.1 Pied Piper puppet theatre – Universal Hall on 30th March at 2 p.m.

16.2 Impromptu evening in Findhorn Church of fiddlers, 4th April - 7 p.m. by donation.

16.3 Open day in Findhorn Church 26th April, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. cheese and wine – to share the plans for the church with the community.

16.4 Nelson Tower reopens for season – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Item 17:

17.1 Date of Next Meeting: 25th April 2019, 7 p.m. Kinloss Church Culbin Rm, Kinloss

