

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 15th April 2019 in

Edinkillie Hall

FCC members present

Nikki Howard (NH) – Chair

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

Also Attending: Hilary Rolton (HR)

Presentation: RL presented an update to the meeting on the work of Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust control on the control of invasive non-native species such as Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Skink Cabbage and American Mink. He outlined the good progress made on the control of Giant Hogweed and Mink within the area so far. Then provided details of the [Scottish Invasive Species Initiative](#) (SISI), which is support by Heritage Lottery Funding and Scottish Natural Heritage and will support further control up to 2021. The initiative relies heavily on volunteer support and anyone wishing to take part should contact RL on 07887 535986 or director@fnlft.org.uk.

1. Apologies:

Tony Pinner (TP), Cllr Claire Feaver (Cllr CF)

2. Notes from previous meeting

Approved.

3. Police update

No report.

4. Matters Arising

- i. Moray Offshore Wind Farm: HD reported no response from the developers since last meeting.
- ii. Stones on Road – Upper Rafford: NH had discussed matter with farmer who had agreed to improve matters.
- iii. Placement of large stones along roadsides: Matter was discussed and difficult to determine a definitive answer. Provided individual owns the verge they can maintain it and placement of stone stones to prevent parking, protect verge is likely to be allowable provided there was no hazard to traffic.
- iv. A96 Development: HD had added links to A96 web-site had been added to Finderne CC web-site.
- v. Vehicle Speeding Signs: no further development, item carried forward.

5. Current Standing Items

a. Finnerne Development Trust (FDT)

BH reported that the Strategic Plan would be finalised and approved on 25th April and rolled out. A launch event for Trust and plan was likely in April/May.

b. Loch of Blairs Project

BH updating on the following activities,

Open evening was held at the Mosset Tavern (25th March) and 21 members of public attended the presentation leading to useful discussions afterwards.

Volunteer works parties continue, with ongoing path maintenance and good progress on the repairs to the boat house underway.

Funding applications: further disappointing news from the Baxter Foundation with the application for support rejected. This means a considerable shortfall in funds and BH indicated a meeting to review funding would be held in the near future.

c. Clashgour Wind Farm

Memo of Understand (MoU): Aim of MoU to bring local interest/stakeholders together to investing the development of the wind farm. To date FCC has not signed the MoU produced by the developers to allow FCC to provide an unbiased representation for Finnerne residents. HD had recirculated the MoU to review our position. After discussions the committee agreed to maintain current position and watch developments. HD to attend Energising Communities Forum in Elgin on 3rd May and report back. Committee noted Moray Council had objected to Clashgour WF development.

Action: HD to attend Energising Communities Forum in Elgin on 3rd May and report back.

6. New Business

- a. **Core Paths Consultation:** No further information awaiting information from Cllr Feaver.
Action: Cllr CF to check on Core Path position.
- b. **FCC Budget/Funding:** Letter sent to Moray Council regarding withdrawal of funds. Relief for rates for village halls: No change in position.
FCC to advise village hall committees.
- c. **Berry Burn Wind Farm Extension:** Members of FCC had attended the public meetings to view plans for the Berry Burn Wind Farm extension at Edinkillie Village Hall on 21st March, 16:00 to 20:00; Rafford Village Hall on 22nd March 10:00 to 14:00. Various points on roads, access, visual impact, lights on turbines etc were raised with the developers Airvolution/Statkraft. A further community group liaison session was also arranged for 16th

April at Forres Community Centre 16:00 – 18:00 an NH agreed to attend. **Action: NH to attend Community Group liaison session.**

- d. Moray Local Plan: TP had submitted comments and corrections regarding the Finnerne area to Gary Templeton at the Moray Council regarding the Local Plan and these had been acknowledged.

7. Planning Report

No new planning applications submitted.

Cathay Housing Development application- rejected

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 regarding volunteers working on behalf of FCC.

JCC Meeting: Feedback from recent meeting indicated there was discussion on budget cuts and these are likely to include major cuts to services such as, libraries, grass cutting, public amenities, school crossings etc. A forum has been established to review these further.

Rafford Village Hall committee had expressed concern regarding grass cutting arrangements, currently they did not expect the grass around the Hall to be cut and were looking into alternative arrangements. Committee agreed to report their concerns to Moray Council through Forum when appropriate.

Planning Meeting: 17th or 23rd April - TP to attend if possible.

9. Treasurers Report

AG indicated that there had been no change in financial position, Bank balance £1627.67, of this £592.00 was restricted to Loch of Blairs with remainder £1035.67, unrestricted (Moray Council admin grant balance).

BH sought support for planning submissions made for Blairs Loch from FCC the costs of an application would be reduced by 50% if FCC were supportive. FCC agreed to support applications.

10. AOCB

WIFI Services: NH/HD had met with WIFI Scotland to discuss provision of improved broadband services within the area. The proposal was outlined which includes establishing additional masts probably at Califer and the Knock depending on landowner and planning permission, to boost WIFI signals in the area. Further discussion on the approach and costs ensued. Improved WIFI at Logie Estate was also discussed and FCC agreed to maintain contact with developers and keep residents informed on developments.

Next meeting

3rd June 2019, Rafford Church Hall, 19:00.