

## FINDHORN AND KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST AT JMI FINDHORN

**Present:** A Skene (Chair); H Grigor; B James; D Anderson; L Fraser; M Grigor (Temp Mins Sec)

**Attendance:** Cllr Alexander; Cllr Creswell; R Douglas (BSO Kinloss Barracks); Christine Hunt (TFVCC); Alex Hunt (Findhorn Fairway Committee) and one member of the public.

**Item 1: Apologies:** J O'Hagan; S Hermiston; S Urquhart; M Hyde; S Dominey

**Declaration of Interest:** D Anderson reported that she was now also looking after the Moray Council Traffic Team in lieu of the Senior Engineer.

A Skene welcomed everyone.

### **Item 2: PUBLIC SESSION**

**2a) Police Input:** A Skene had viewed the Community Safety Report newsletter on gmail – over July and August there had only been four minor incidents, nothing of note.

**2b)** A Skene reported that an issue had been raised with the Community Council about a **jet-skier in Findhorn Bay** causing a disturbance by speeding, racing and generally making it difficult for people to access the water. She had asked Alex Hunt to come along on behalf of the Fairway Committee to inform us of guidelines and regulations concerning jet skis in the Bay. AH reported that the Fairway Committee managed the moorings in the Bay and are licenced by Crown Estates. The case of jet skis has been raised with them before. The Fairway Committee has no jurisdiction over any users of the Bay, only members of the Fairway Association, who are required to sign a Minute of Agreement when they apply for a mooring to abide by the Fairway's code of conduct. As far as jet-skis are concerned, they launch either at the public slip or the boatyard. If there are any problems they should be reported directly to the Police by individuals at the time. There are signs referring to disturbance to seals. Jet-skis do not require licences and are unregulated. Cllr Alexander asked about their public liability. AH replied they do not require insurance either. He asked to be kept informed of incidents as the Committee do make an effort to politely dissuade jet-ski users from using the Bay, but complaints should go directly to the Police. 'Polite' notices were mooted but it was felt these would not be seen or more likely ignored. A Skene thanked AH for his input and time.

**2c)** A member of the public raised a number of issues. Firstly: **two of the concrete defensive blocks** (which are protected by an Act of Parliament) have been defaced with a (spray-painted) safety warning. She had informed Historic Environment Scotland about this and they were very concerned. They told her that whoever owned the blocks would need permission before any work could be done on them. She had also contacted Moray Council and the spray-painting is regarded by them as damage to an historic monument. It was pointed out that the blocks belonged to the Dunes Trust and they were asked to put warning signs on them because they were unsafe. D Anderson suggested that a specific enquiry to HES about Listed status may not have identified any other protected designation. A Skene thanked the individual for bringing this to our attention. Secondly: **beach steps** that are in disrepair. She had spoken to Moray Council about this and they said it was not their responsibility but the landowner's. The Chair confirmed that there was agreement with Moray Council that they

would remove four sets of steps that are not in use (one completely buried). C Hunt (The Findhorn Village Conservation Company) reported that when the sea defences were put in place, Moray Council put in steps down to the beach and took responsibility for both in perpetuity. D Anderson has sought an update regarding the Steps from Moray Council Land and Parks but has had no response. This may be due to Moray Council no longer leasing the car park. Thirdly: **unofficial caravan site in Findhorn**. She stated she had witnessed exposed pipes, lack of sanitation, open fires and insufficient signage and was unhappy with the health and safety aspect of this site. C Hunt (TFVCC) confirmed that the TFVCC had public liability insurance, an official risk assessment had been carried out, and a fire assessment. She had met yesterday with Moray Council re forward planning for car park. Findhorn is not alone in big influx of motorhomes and TFVCC is working closely with Moray Council to improve facilities at the car park: a CAT transfer of both toilet blocks with plans to install showers, an outside tap and sanitation point was in progress. Volunteers monitor the site every night to make sure rubbish is contained and deal with any excess. As far as Moray Council is concerned they recognise this is a service to tourism and benefit to economy of the village. It is recognised as a 'motorhome stopover' as opposed to a caravan site and as such alleviates the congestion along the front road, where motorhomes have been overnighing. It was also the intention of TFVCC to limit the number and spacing of vans. H Grigor pointed out the law on overnight parking had changed about three years ago to allow a motorhome to park anywhere overnight in Scotland. A Skene thanked everyone for their input on this subject.

### **COUNCIL SESSION**

**Item 3: Ratification of Minutes 27 June 2019**: proposed - B James, seconded - H Grigor.

#### **Item 4: Matters Arising:**

a. (5.1) Beach Steps: **ACTION: D Anderson to talk with Moray Council Consultancy Manager.**

b. (7.1) Cyclists: D Anderson reported that present signage is compliant with regulations, pointing out any more would be counter-productive and a hazard. She reinforced message that anyone witnessing cyclists disobeying the law should report them to the Police.

c. (15.2) Website: A Skene reported that website now updated.

**Item 5: The Findhorn Village Conservation Company Update**: C Hunt reported that after receiving complaints about stones on the Dyke lane being too big, which in turn had restricted access, they had now been removed and the residents were happy. As stated elsewhere TFVCC are working with Moray Council on car park. TFVCC now has new software to check land boundaries and can do searches for a small fee (£15). With regard to the stryplies and the ongoing queries about access, it is important to know there is a right of access, not right of way. After consultation with residents and Moray Council, the cutting of gorse around Fyrish Road and Broom Walk will commence next month.

**Item 6: Kinloss Barracks Report**: R Douglas reported the ongoing issue regarding the footbridge from Southside which is out of action. It is on MOD land and therefore has to go to MOD contractors for solution. However the Quartermaster has looked into it, but they do not have a date when it will be fixed as it will take some time. She also reported that the Commanding Officer is now back from South Sudan and when there's a slot in his diary she will arrange for him to come along to a meeting. The **Aircraft Viewing Area** work is still in progress: the Quartermaster has looked at the area so he could see the scale of the work involved. H Grigor offered to clear the path if given notice of next visit. HG asked her if the same Warrant Officer could be available for Remembrance Sunday. RD replied that they were

starting to allocate people now and it was thought helpful for continuity if same Warrant Officer involved this year. He also thanked 39 Regt. RE at Kinloss Barracks for their statement which will be included Government Finance Secretary and talked about funding for Moray. in the Resilience Plan.

**Item 7: Chairperson's Report:** Nothing to report over the summer. A Skene had meant to attend the Medals Ceremony but did not manage to get back from London in time.

**Item 8: Secretary's Report:** nothing to report.

**Item 9: Treasurer's Report:** B James reported very little movement since last meeting. Paid Sec's expenses and JMI fee, balance £2,527.23. Next month will present examined account for approval to submit to Moray Council. Cllr Alexander suggested it might be wise to confirm next year's budget with Council Leader reminding them the freeze was only for one year.

**Item 10: JCCM Report:** meeting on 8 August (A Skene unable to attend due to sickness): a key item was approval of new handbook on Community Council Unacceptable Behaviour Policy (on Gmail). Awaiting minutes.

**Item 11: Moray Councillors' Report:** not much to report, quiet summer. Cllr Creswell reported that re-painting at Kinloss Primary School had been finished. Also Outfit Moray had been very successful. The Land Commission meeting last month had been well attended. Ongoing consultations re Leanchoil very optimistic. H Grigor asked about the A96 dualling: there seemed to be some confusion over decision. Cllr Alexander confirmed that this was just an 'inference' during a Forres Community Council meeting. Cllr Alexander reported the Moray Council Chief Executive and Leader/Convener had met with the Scottish

**Item 12: Findhorn Park Eco-Village Report:** deferred

**Item 13: Wildfowling Negotiation Update:** Chair reported an encouraging informal meeting between groups, but negotiations at a stalemate presently. It was very disappointing overall and cost a lot of public money for no satisfactory result.

**Item 14: Planning:** no new applications, except for 'change of use' at Park. The Park application for 38 houses and 3 commercial units was adopted this week – gained 'planning in principle' (through on 7 votes to 3). It proved a very confusing. Also approved was the Park application to build 8 houses and a district heating and laundry building on the site of the old access road at the Park entrance. L Fraser reported planning application for No 122 Findhorn was approved with conditions: obscure glass in a window and conservation roof lights.

**Item 15: AOCB:** a) Remembrance Sunday: H Grigor stated that a volunteer was needed to lay a wreath on behalf of the FKCC. b) Resilience Plan: Findhorn Village Plan completed, report deferred.

**Item 16: Forthcoming Community Events:** Open Doors, 21<sup>st</sup> September

**Item 17: Date of Next Meeting:** 26 SEPTEMBER 2019, 7PM Culbin Room, Kinloss Church, Kinloss