

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2019 IN THE OSPREY ROOM OF THE
JMI FINDHORN AT 7.00PM

Present: A Skene (Chair); H Grigor (Vice); M Grigor (stand-in Sec); S Urquhart; L Fraser; B James; S Dominey; D Anderson.

Attendance: F Allen (TFVCC), one member of the public

1. **a)Apologies:** J O'Hagan; S Hermiston; R Douglas (BSO Kinloss Barracks); Cllr C Feaver
- b)Declaration of Interest:** to be declared if, or when necessary during meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

2. **a) Police Input:** none presented.

2. **b) AOCB:** member of the public brought up concerns about overnight parking by caravans and motorhomes along the front road between the War Memorial and the Kimberley Inn. This had increased dramatically: also vehicles parking on the pavement (protruding mirrors on these vehicles exacerbated the problem). At least once this year, a caravan owner had been seen emptying a bucket on the beach; on another occasion a caravan had stayed for five days and when the police were called they said it was not against the law as the caravan was attached to a car for the period. Concerned for the safety of pedestrians and access for emergency and public vehicles, who often find it difficult to by-pass these obstructions, could the Community Council lobby for a bye-law to prohibit overnight parking by caravans, campervans and motorhomes along this stretch of road? Sketches and written report were handed over to the Chair. Some members thought that sleeping in a parked vehicle on the public highway was prohibited but it was confirmed that caravans attached to cars were perfectly at will to park there. It was agreed that the CC seek advice on a bye law on health and safety grounds [**ACTION: D Anderson to talk to Legal Dept, Moray Council**], although it was stressed that due to budgetary constraints on Moray Council this may be a non-starter. The question of residents' permits was discussed but it was pointed out that this had been raised in the past and the local residents were not in favour due to the complexity of dwellings in the village. A Skene thanked member of public for this contribution. The member of public left the meeting.

COUNCIL SESSION

3. **Ratification of Minutes:** agreed as accurate, proposed by L Fraser, seconded by D Anderson. A Skene thanked H Grigor for chairing last meeting and his work over last 6 weeks.

4. **Matters Arising:**

a) 2.2: Update on Traffic Speeding: D Anderson reported that she had contacted the Chief Inspector for Moray about speeding and Moray Council will using vehicle-activated signs. They are looking to develop a programme across Moray and will include the B9011 within the 30mph. The last time a check was done along the front road outside the Kimberley Inn the average speed shown was 20mph, but some residents have raised the issue that speeds have increased. The data will be shared with the Police. A Skene thanked D Anderson for all her hard work on this.

b) 4b: Update on beach steps maintenance: D Anderson reported that her colleagues at Moray Council have searched archive records for the Coastal Defences but failed to find the Scheme Accommodation Works files. F Allan reported that C Hunt of TFVCC had also researched this and an investigation on 16.10.02 stated that these were 'maintained by the ranger (Moray Council) and the Findhorn Bay Local Nature Reserve. D Anderson advised that this would be held by the Environmental Protection Manager at Moray Council. [**Action: F Allan to email his report to A Skene for formal letter to Moray Council re maintenance of steps**] A Skene thanked both contributors for this information.

c) 6.1: Update on drone flying: S Urquhart reported that she had seen the 'exclusion map' and had now written to Douglas Ross MP and spoken to the Police, followed up by a visit from them. She is now compiling a spreadsheet of sightings, times etc to send to R Douglas, and will also email the Police direct. S Dominey thought you should be able to find out the identity of the perpetrator

through the Friends of Findhorn website. S Urquhart had been in touch with them and was assured they had permission to fly down the bay. H Grigor pointed out there was no necessity for a licence if not for professional use. He also mentioned that the RAF were intending to increase the exclusion zone.

d)7.1: Discussion on ‘twinning’: H Grigor explained that the CC had received a request on gmail before the last meeting to consider this. A short discussion followed. It was decided that if any member of the public was interested in pursuing this they should let the CC know before the next meeting.

5. The Findhorn Village Conservation Company Update: F Allan reported that TFVCC are liaising with the Dunes’ Trust to get earth banks on Dunes Road to deter off-road vehicles (work to be done sometime this winter). The clearing of gorse in certain areas (ie back of Broom Walk) is about to start. Garage project on-going. A major problem at present is the maintenance of the Stryplies: discussing procedures for access by building contractors, which will include liaising with house-owners beforehand re: obstructions and returning Stryplies to previous condition after work finishes etc. The ‘halting’ park for caravans: discussions are making progress – at 8 October planning meeting, Moray Council recognised rules for formal caravan sites are too rigorous for ‘halting’ sites. A meeting will be held with Moray Council to discuss standards for overnight parking. The David Urquhart Memorial Path: so far secured £170k, need another £15k. Decided to make final push a public launch on Facebook, together with media. D Anderson suggested contacting the Fund for Rural Development (contact: Economic Development Officer at Moray Council) as this is to provide infrastructure to support tourism. A Skene thanked F Allan for his report, he then left the meeting.

6. Kinloss Barracks Report: apology R Douglas. A Skene stated that if there were any questions, please email R Douglas. H Grigor checked if everyone had seen email re clearing of aircraft viewing area – this is going ahead.

7. Chair’s Report: A Skene apologised for her absence over the last several weeks. She had dropped in on the A96 Dualling event and reported that significant changes had been made to the embankments and junctions – reducing the height of the former, which is good news. Next update on this will not be until 2020, when environmental impact assessment is due (feedback forms are attached to the information sheet). D Anderson commented that there will be a welcome 40 kilometres of cycling paths across the scheme.

8. Secretary’s Report: nothing to report. There had been some gmails, eg a letter from Jane Martin querying our expenses. B Jones (and H Grigor) had not seen this, but would look for it. S Urquhart said she is happy to take up gmails again now: A Skene suggested she wait till January as no meeting in December. A Skene brought up email from a local resident who was having difficulty with TFVCC over land boundaries, suggesting we might offer support. [Declaration of Interest: B Jones and H Grigor as members of TFVCC.] A Skene had spoken to J Martin at Moray Council about this and had studied Community Council procedures which state we should not get involved as a Community Council with private disputes including land boundaries. It was agreed that this was not part of our role and responsibility. It was agreed that A Skene should respond directly to this email.

14. Planning: this item was brought forward as L Fraser had another meeting to attend. L Fraser reported that there was a small amendment to **No 5 Caledon Place, Findhorn** planning: sheds and walk-over skylight. **No 63 Findhorn** (01200): 6 solar thermal panels. **No 71 Findhorn** (01101): external wall cladding and thermal panels – withdrawn. **No 81 Findhorn:** H Grigor brought up question of roof height. **[Action: L Fraser - Contact: Planning Enforcement Officer for Moray Council]**

9. Treasurer’s Report: B James had nothing new to report. The examined accounts had been submitted. £2436.63 balance at bank - £859 for administration, rest capital funds. Not received bill for Culbin Room at Kinloss: S Urquhart suggested he contact Margaret Atherton. H Grigor reported that the Moray Council no longer post out road closure signs (for Remembrance Day), so instead of a second-class stamp, a member of the Council has to go to Elgin to collect these (which could legitimately incur travel expenses!). He had pointed this out to the office when he collected the signs.

10. JCCM: next meeting 14 Nov at 7.00pm. A Skene will attend, D Anderson or H Grigor will try to also. H Grigor had attended the Clash Gour Windfarm meeting on 9 Oct. He circulated minutes. With reference to signing the Memorandum of Understanding, he pointed out his concern that by doing this the CC would be seen as supporting it, despite the statement in the minutes to the contrary. After a brief discussion a vote was taken and it was decided by a majority to withhold from signing the MOU for the time being, until more information was available. We could still attend JCCM meetings on this anyway. [Proposer B Jones/Seconder H Grigor]

11. Moray Councillors' Report: no report.

12. Findhorn Park Report: S Dominey stated not much to report. One of their oldest members had died recently; Arizona building project had been reduced (minuted previously); North Whins project dragging on with some opposition; she was involved in care in the community circle which has secured £15k funding towards a dementia coordinator to cover The Park, Findhorn and Kinloss and even Forres (hoping to match-fund this amount); she concluded by welcoming members to her new home for a cuppa anytime. A Skene thanked her for her report.

13. Wildfowling Negotiation update: S Dominey mentioned that first few weeks of season were very quiet, then it became crazy: it seemed that visitors from outside the area did not appear to care about good practice and local sensibilities and there have been more cases of high shooting and injured birds. Cllr C Feaver was down this morning. This still an ongoing 'hot topic'.

14. see earlier reported

15. AOCB

a): Remembrance Sunday: A Skene thanked H Grigor for all his work on this. He reported that J O'Hagen will lay CC wreath at Kinloss, S Urquhart at Findhorn.

b): VE75 (8-10 May 2020): B Jones asked the members if the Community Council want to participate in this event. So far he had tentative plans for a Piper to play 'The Battle's O'er' and the newly commissioned VE75 piece at War Memorial and a Blitz themed party in the JMI. The members were enthusiastic but volunteers would need to be co-opted for this. It was agreed that B Jones will put together a possible programme and register with the official website. [**Action: B Jones/also send info to S Urquhart for church**]

c): Resilience Plan: H Grigor confirmed that he would send copy to S Dominey for inclusion of the Park [**Action: H Grigor/S Dominey**]. Would also need somebody at Kinloss: [**Action: D Anderson to pass info to new Moray Council Community Resilience and Brexit Officer**].

d): S Urquhart confirmed new 'squirrel crossing' signs were now up in both directions.

16. Forthcoming Community Events:

Bonfire and Fireworks, Forres – Saturday 2nd November

Remembrance Sunday, 10th November

Flu Clinics, Town Hall Forres: Culbin 6 Nov, Varis 7 Nov, Mop-up 27 November

Solstice Spiral at The Park – 21-22 December.

Disco in JMI on 31st December – organised by Findhorn Coastal Rowers Club

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 28th November 2019, 7pm in the Culbin Room at Kinloss Parish Church.