

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30th JANUARY 2020, OSPREY ROOM, JAMES MILNE
INSTITUTE, FINDHORN

Present: A Skene (Chair), H Grigor (Vice), D Anderson (minutes), B James, S Dominey, L Fraser
Attendance: Cllr Feaver, Cllr Creswell, Cllr Alexander, F Allan (FVCC representative), D Lau, G McAlpine (Moray Car Share), Group Captain S Strasdin (RAF Lossiemouth)

Item 1 Agenda:

1.1 Apologies: S Urquhart, J O'Hagan, R Douglas (BSO Kinloss Barracks)

1.2 Declaration of Interest: to be declared if, or when necessary during meeting.

Item 2 Public Session:

2.1 Police Report – One incident was reported in Findhorn during December, a neighbour incident. Police speed checks have been observed in Kinloss.

2.2 Any other competent public business – G McAlpine of Moray Car Share (MCS) spoke about the service and its plans to expand into the wider community offering access to electric cars and EBikes. MCS currently operates in Findhorn, Kinloss and Forres, with plans to introduce electric cars to Elgin and Aberlour. In addition the service is now offering access to electric bikes (EBikes) with plans to install bike stores on the Armstrong Garage site and The Park in Findhorn, Tulloch Park in Forres and in Kinloss. MCS are seeking support from F&KCC with regard to a proposal to site a bike store within the Kinloss Church car park.

The bike stores are 2 metres wide by 2 metres long and 1.5 metres in height, and can house up to 4 EBikes. The stores can be decorated with transfers, photographs showing examples of the stores were passed around, along with details of how to become a member of MCS and their charges for use of vehicles and EBikes. It was agreed that a letter of support for MCS would be provided. G McAlpine left the meeting.

Action: A Skene to make initial contact with Kinloss Church on behalf of MCS and provide letter of support.

Grp Capt Strasdin provided an update on the works at Kinloss Barracks to accommodate the new P8 Poseidon aircraft and one squadron of Typhoon aircraft on a temporary basis until upgrading works at RAF Lossiemouth have been completed. The works at Kinloss Barracks are nearing completion and will be ready for the arrival of the first P8 aircraft on 4 February 2020. On that day there will be an RAF and Police presence at the aircraft viewing area and on the Findhorn to Kinloss Road in the interests of public safety. The gorse around the aircraft viewing area and parking has been cleared, with assistance from the Kinloss Air Explorer Scouts, as it is anticipated that a number of airplane spotters will visit whilst the P8s are present.

Typhoon aircraft will arrive and be operational during the summer for a period of 4 to 6 weeks. It is not anticipated that any night time flying will take place. Grp Capt Strasdin urged any members of the public with questions or complaints about the aircraft to get in touch with RAF Lossiemouth via the contact details on the RAF Lossiemouth website www.raf.mod.uk Grp Capt Strasdin was thanked for his update and left the meeting.

Item 3 Ratification of Minutes of 28 November 2020

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate and were proposed by B James and seconded by H Grigor.

Item 4 Matters Arising:

4.1 a. (4.3c) 81 Findhorn response from Planning Enforcement Officer. AS shared the response. The ridge height of the extension at 81 Findhorn is significantly higher than that approved in the planning permission. The Planning Officer sought revised plans from the developer, which were submitted, and the increased height of the extension has been approved as a non-material variation. Dialogue regarding this decision is on-going with the planning officer through Cllr Alexander.

4.2 b. (15.4) Access code for Kinloss Church. Both AS and HG now have the access code to enable use of the Culbin Room for meetings at the church in the absence of S Urquhart.

4.3 c. (4.4 d) VE75 Planning. A sub-committee led by B James to be set up organise events for VE75 on 8 May 2020, with assistance from H Grigor, L Fraser and D Anderson. A separate meeting of sub-committee to be arranged. Proceeds from the event will go to SSAFA.

Item 5 The Findhorn Village Conservation Company update:

5.1 F Allan advised that the gorse cutting to establish the fire breaks at Broom Walk and Elvin Place has been completed. The planning application for motorhomes to use the car park sites has been submitted to Moray Council. Discussion relating to lighting and the spacing between motorhomes are on-going. The CAT for the public toilet blocks in Findhorn is proceeding with the FVCC submitting a formal application form to Moray Council. The costs of the valuation of the 2 toilet blocks and the site of the third, now demolished toilet block, were shared between Moray Council and the FVCC.

Works have commenced on the David Urquhart Path and are anticipated to take 12 weeks. The path will need to be closed in certain places during certain stages of the project. The FVCC apologise in advance for these closures and request that users of the path take heed and do not walk through the construction site for Health and Safety reasons.

The issue of dog fouling on the FVCC land has been raised again. Contact has been made with Moray Council Community Support Officer who has advised that the three dog fouling 'hot spots' in Moray are Cullen, Lossiemouth and Findhorn. Additional signage has been erected at the North Beach. It was suggested that an additional black bin is provided approximately half way along the Dunes Road (to be emptied at the same time as the existing black bin at the beach). It was agreed to support this action by the FVCC.

The FVCC are continuing to work on the impact on the Stryplies of householders erecting fences and encroaching on what it a right of access, with a vehicle to removing vehicles from the Stryplies where possible. F Allan was thanked for his update and then left the meeting.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report:

6.1 A Skene shared the contents of an email from R Douglas regarding the bids for Leap Year projects. These are currently being assessed and applicants will be contacted during the coming two weeks to make the necessary arrangements. Cllr Cresswell requested that unsuccessful applicants were contacted as soon as possible, and advised of any similar projects also unsuccessful with a view to the community groups working together to share resources and enable their projects.

Item 7 Chairperson's Report:

7.1 A Skene advised that she attended the Energising Communities Working Steering Group meeting on 6 January 2020. The scope of the working group appears to be expanding beyond the original shared ownership focus. It has been minuted that F&KCC are not prepared to sign the Memorandum of Understanding at this time. The next stage of the project will be to submit an application for CARES funding, which will be an agenda item at the next JCC meeting.

Item 8 Secretary's Report:

8.1 There was no secretary's report put forward, although all members are checking the gmail correspondence and noted that emails had been received from F Thompson with respect to dog fouling and D Johnson with respect to drivers leaving engines idling in the village.

Action: A Skene to respond to F Thompson highlighting the F&KCC support for an additional black bin on Dunes Road (see item 5.1) and to D Johnson advising that idling engines is a matter for Police Scotland.

D Anderson raised the email sent by the Moray Council Transportation Manager seeking expressions of interest from communities wishing to purchase Vehicle Activated Signs for locations where there are perceived issues with traffic speeds. It was agreed that at a cost of £3500 per sign, with additional costs associated with the signs installation and maintenance, F&KCC would not be submitting a response. Cllr Alexander advised that there were other opportunities for communities to become involved where there were issues with speeding traffic such as requesting the temporary installation of the Council's Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) or approaching Police Scotland with respect to implementing a Community Speed Watch programme.

Action: D Anderson to obtain observed traffic speeds from Moray Council from SIDS installed in Findhorn during November 2019.

Item 9 Treasurer's Report:

9.1 B James advised the bank balance total stands at £2288.22 following the payment of expenses.

Item 10 JCCM Report:

10.1 The next JCC meeting will be on Thursday 13th February 2020 and is an open meeting where all community council members are invited.

Action: D Anderson to attend on behalf of F&KCC.

Item 11 Moray Councillors' Report:

11.1 Cllr Creswell advised that it was her understanding that the Community Council Admin Grant was frozen for one year only and would need to be reinstated in acknowledgment of the forthcoming role of community councils in Participatory Budgeting. Cllr Creswell attended the Education Action Group Forum which has been set up with a focus on poverty and its effects in education, particularly in the areas where there are high levels of poverty in Moray. She also advised that following the recent by-election for a new councillor for the Keith and Cullen Ward there would be a review of the make up of the Council Committees to reflect the current political make up of the Council.

11.2 Cllr Feaver advised that parents remain concerned that Forres Academy is offering a limited number of subjects, with a lack of choices for S4 and S5 pupils. There are weekly issues with parking behaviour at Pilmuir and Applegrove Primary Schools in Forres and the police have been in attendance. Kinloss Primary School received a good inspection report which highlighted their joint working with the MOD, making use of the additional funding provided to support service families. Cllr Feaver is receiving reports of difficulties getting appointments with practice nurses at Forres Health Centre and long waits for appointments with the Ear, Nose and Throat and Dermatology departments at Dr Grays Hospital in Elgin.

11.3 Cllr Alexander advised that he has been interviewed for the Best Value Audit which is on-going. He highlighted that he was receiving emails from Council Officers late into the night and at weekends, reflecting the pressures being placed on council staff and their dedication to providing their service. Cllr Alexander advised that there will be an Education Strategy Report setting out the long term approach to education provision and the school estate going to Committee in April. Cllr Alexander also highlighted the work of the Local Review Board which considers appeals against planning decisions made under delegated authority, and confirmed that generally the Board upheld decisions made by officers in line with planning policies.

Item 12 Findhorn Park Eco-village Report:

12.1 S Dominey gave an overview of main work on the Park. There were celebrations in The Park for Dorothy McLean's 100th birthday and the Findhorn Foundation internal conference has recently taken place. Interviews have taken place for the Community Care Co-ordinator with a successful candidate due to start in the post in the coming weeks. The post will cover a wider area than just The Park, extending throughout the Findhorn and Kinloss area. It was suggested that the Community Care Co-ordination is invited to the next meeting to discuss their role.

Action: S Dominey to invite Community Care Co-ordinator to February meeting.

12.2 S Dominey introduced D Lau from The Park who will be assisting with the development of The Park Resilience Plan. D Lau has been appointed as the Community Liaison person for The Park. She will be using the template provided by H Grigor as a starting point, with a view to incorporating some community specific approaches to reflect that some members of the community at the The Park only stay for a short period. H Grigor and D Anderson offered to supply any information required to support The Park Resilience Plan as and when required, e.g. Flood Maps, positions of fire hydrants.

Item 13 Planning:

13.1 There was a review of the recent planning applications. It was agreed that a representation would be submitted for application no. 20/00011/PPP. Planning application 19/1606/APP relating to the introduction of thermal panels on the slate roof and new door and window openings at 71 Findhorn had been noted and H Grigor would follow up with the planning department. No other recent planning applications raised concerns in relation to being contrary to planning policies. It was noted that a static caravan has been sited within the car park of the Chinese Takeaway in Kinloss. It is understood that the Council Planning Enforcement Officer is already investigating this case.

Action: L Fraser to submit representation for planning application 20/00011/PPP.

Action: H Grigor to contact planning department regarding application no 19/01606/APP

Item 15 AOCB

15.1 M Hannon has been in touch with regard to joining the F&KCC but was unable to attend the meeting.

Action: A Skene to contact M Hannon and invite her to the next meeting.

15.2 H Grigor has a series of photographs showing indiscriminate parking within Findhorn. He has tried to send them to the Police Scotland email address previously provided. A Skene advised that he should take copies of the photographs to Forres Police Station.

Action: H Grigor to supply photographs to Forres Police Station

Item 16 Forthcoming Community Events:

16.1 Leancoil Hospital Consultation Event, 5th February 6.30 – 9.30 pm Forres Town Hall

16.2 Findhorn Village Quiz, Friday 28th February 6.30 for 7.00 pm JMI Findhorn

Item 17 Date of Next Meeting:

17.1 Thursday 27th February 2020 at The Culbin Room, Kinloss Church, Kinloss 7.00 pm