

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 6th January 2020 in Edinkillie Hall

FCC members present

Anna Gatward (AG), Hilary Rolton (HR)
Howard Davenport (HD), Brian Higgs (BH), Tony Pinner (TP),

Also present:

Hamish Lochore, Stewart McCracken, George Alexander (GA), Andy Munro (AM), Howard Stoller

1. Apologies:

John Pullen (JP), Anne Garrow (AG), Lorna Creswell (LC), Clare Feaver

2. Notes from previous meeting

Approved.

3. Police update

No report.

4. Matters Arising

- i. Forest Fires – Richard Lochhead was reported to have contacted Ash Denham (Scottish Minister for Community Safety) for a government response to updating forest management guidelines. Concerns were expressed that responses to date had not addressed forest management plans, or the amount of brash left lying after clear felling.

BH will follow up and thank Lochhead for his efforts to date, and ask again about forest management issues. **Action BH**

- ii. Forres Gazette – It was agreed that FCC should subscribe on an online copy. **Action HD to set up.**

- iii. Roadside Salt.

AM reported that salt had been provided at Edinkillie, but the amount and position at the bottom of the hill was inadequate.

Post meeting note:

FCC have received a further email from a Dunphail resident concerning the lack of salt on the U89E Half Davoch loop road.

5. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

b. FINDERNE Development Trust (FDT)

Nothing to report. Next board meeting Thursday 9th January.

c. Speeding in Rafford / Village signs

BH reported still no response from Kevin Price at Moray Council Roads Department, on the subject of road signage. However following an approach from Lorna Creswell to the Roads Dept., we have received a note from Diane Anderson, offering consultation on the positioning of temporary speed signs in the future.

Action: HD to follow up.

d. Loch of Blairs Development

BH reported further progress:

- Stage 1, making the boathouse & bothy weathertight was nearing completion, with work on the inside to be complete by end of January. It would then be available for use by local groups.
- Stage 2- Services: getting quotes for groundworks for electricity. Funding of £9K out of £13K required already promised. Further funding applications to be made.
- Stage 3- Stables: an Elgin Architects firm have offered some pro-bono work to prepare for Planning Application, expected early 2020.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

It was noted that in the minutes of the last Energising Communities Steering Group meeting, the developer, Force 9, has asked that a member of the team give a presentation at the possible Public Enquiry, identifying the benefits to the community of the scheme. It was agreed that this was not acceptable to the FCC, and a response had been sent on behalf of FCC.

It was agreed that pending the minutes of today's Steering Group meeting, we would discuss a wider communication on the issue.

Post meeting notes:

The steering group had voted on this issue, and all except FDT representative had voted in favour of the presentation. As a result an email has been sent to all community councils and other members of the Steering Group to explain FCC position, and to ask that this be included as an agenda item in the next Joint Community Council meeting, to be held on 13th February.

Following contact with the Energy Consents Unit, we have been informed that a meeting discuss the format of Public Inquiry will be held on the morning of 6th February in Aberlour. It is likely that the Public Inquiry itself will be held in the last 2 weeks of May 2020.

f. Core Paths Consultation

It appears that the Moray Council are prepared to go to a Public Inquiry to support their original proposal.

g. Berryburn Extension

It is agreed that FCC will make a representation after the Planning Application is lodged.

AM reported that he and his neighbour are encountering problems with the access roads to the existing Berry Burn wind farm. HD reported he had contacted Statkraft representative who said he would meet with AM to discuss the issue.

h. Moray Local Development Plan

No action required. It was noted that the cap on the charge for developer obligations would be lifted.

i. Community Broadband

FDT is taking the lead on this issue. We expect an update following FDT Board Meeting this Thursday.

6. New Business

a. Participatory Budgeting: no update.

Post Meeting note: HD attended a meeting on PB priority setting on 21st January, and issued notes to FCC members on the meeting.

7. Planning Report

Nothing of significance reported by TP. GA reported that an appeal had been received by Moray Council to their rejection of planning permission for a house in the woodlands just east of Califer viewpoint.

8. Secretary's Report (HD)

Nothing additional to report

9. Treasurers Report

AG reported no change. Current status: Bank Account Total - £1,357, of this £592 is ring-fenced for Loch of Blairs, and £765 available for FCC administration

10. AOCB

- It was noted that the link road between the B9010 and Cathay crossroads was in a very bad condition, despite recent efforts to repair. Moray Council Roads Dept to be contacted to get previous contractors to re-do the work. **Action TP.**

Next meeting

Monday 17th February in Rafford Church Hall at 7:00 pm.