

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 3rd August 2020 by tele-conference

FCC members present

Anna Gatward (AG), Hilary Rolton (HR)

Howard Davenport (HD), Stewart McCracken (SM), Brian Higgs (BH)

Also present:

George Alexander, Ruth Whitfield, Claire Feaver

Apologies:

Tony Pinner, Anne Garrow

1. Police update

No report.

2. Matters Arising

- Forest Fires

Update provided by CF on Moray Council actions which could improve wildfire resilience: The Moray Council Climate Change Strategy would include a statement on biodiversity. This should be incorporated into Planning Strategy, and a Woodland Strategy which would promote the development of Riparian Woodland.

GA, as a member of the Police, Fire and Safety Committee, said he would be looking for changes in policy on brush management following timber extraction.

3. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

Report from BH:

- Community Broadband

After extensive research on the Universal Service Obligation, the conclusion was that there would be no improvement to existing broadband service in the near future. So FDT would be putting out a survey to canvas interest in a new Wi-Fi broadband solution for the Rafford area. The Dunphail area can potentially be served by Loginet. If these are implemented, then other properties out with these areas may be able to linked in.

- Community Housing

FDT had been successful in applying for funding for a feasibility study for a community housing project in the Rafford area. A communication on this would be issued shortly.

c. Speeding in Rafford / Village signs

SM had written to local police to thank them for their speed check in June and to ask them to repeat this periodically.

CF informed the meeting that the Moray Council transport department would approve in installation of vehicle activated speed signs, but the cost (around £6K initially) would need to be met by the local community.

After extensive discussion, it was decided to put this item on hold and review the situation in 6 months.

d. Loch of Blairs Development

BH had reported that:

- Planning permission for the stables upgrade was still being awaited. All information requested had been provided.
- A further pledge of £30K had been received, leaving just £20K outstanding.
- The work on the Bothy was complete, including lighting, water and electrical supply. It was available for use.

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

- The Inquiry Statement circulated over the weekend was approved, and to be submitted **(Action HD)**

f. Berryburn 2 Wind Farm

The Planning Application for Berry Burn 2 is expected to be issued by the developers shortly.

g. Ourack Wind Farm

No further update.

h. Cairn Duhie Wind Farm

SM had not been able to find contact details for East Nairnshire Community council, to ascertain their positions on these developments. HD thought he could help through a personal contact. **(Action HD)**

i. Core Paths Consultation

No further movement: it still appears that the Moray Council are prepared to go to a Public Inquiry to support their original proposal.

7. Planning Report (TP)

Nothing to report

8. Secretary's Report (HD)

- FCC had received an email from a community member asking why we had declined the offer of a further meeting with Berry Burn developer. HD to respond.
- Email received from Citizens Advice Moray including a survey on fair delivery charges. To be publicised on Facebook (Action BH)
- A further 2 households have asked to be included in the FCC Community contacts list

9. Treasurers Report

No change. Current status: £2,179 (£899 Moray Council Admin Grant balance, £272 Loch of Blairs balance, and £1000 from SSEN for Coronavirus pandemic support)

It was agreed the Loch of Blairs balance of £272, should be forwarded to FoBL treasurer toward Building Warrant costs. Action AG

AOCB

- Footpath in Rafford

HD noted that FCC had received an email from a community member, requesting a footpath in between upper and lower Rafford, to make walking from Church Terrace to Rafford Village Hall much safer, plus a footpath to Forres if possible.

It was noted that although a footpath would be a significant improvement, land would need to be acquired and funding would be problematic. Nevertheless, it was agreed to contact Richard Lochhead on this, and to investigate the Living Streets programme. **(Action HD)**

- FCC Membership.

BH noted that, following the most recent resignation, there are now 2 places available on the Community Council. Members were asked to canvas people who may be interested in contributing to our efforts and joining the FCC. (Action All)

Next meeting

Monday 14th September 2020 at 7:00p.m. Venue to be confirmed.