

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 14th September 2020 by tele/video-conference

FCC members present

Hilary Rolton (HR), Tony Pinner (TP)

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

Also present:

George Alexander (GA), Ruth Whitfield, Claire Feaver, Jane Martin (JM), Andy Munro, Tim Slack (TS)

Apologies:

Anna Gatward, Anne Garrow

1. Police update

No report, see link to Community Safety Report on FCC website.

2. Matters Arising

Covered by agenda items

3. Current Standing Items

a. A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

b. Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

Report from BH:

- Community Broadband

Following the most recent government initiatives, the Finderne Development Trust is proposing to establish a Community Fibre Partnership. This will take advantage of the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme, and the Rural Gigaband Voucher Scheme, and should provide a futureproof facility with much greater capacity than WiFi Broadband.

The FDT plan to include this in a community communication within the next week or so.

TS mentioned that the businesses at Marcassie are considering setting up a Business Group at Marcassie.

- Community Housing

FDT has commissioned consultants for the Feasibility Study, and they have issued a Housing Needs Survey. As many community members as possible are encouraged to respond.

- Community Apprenticeship Scheme

BH reported that there was interest noted from local business prior to the Coronavirus lockdown. While it is recognised that circumstances may have changed, any businesses interested should contact FDT.

c. Speeding in Rafford / Village signs

On hold.

d. Loch of Blairs Development

BH had reported that:

- Planning permission for the stables upgrade has been granted.
- 2 further offers of funding had been received, completing the basic funding requirements
- Information from HMRC, has indicated that the project would be VAT exempt, which will generate a contingency allowance
- Otters have been spotted in the loch

e. Clashgour Wind Farm

- BH was warmly thanked for representing FCC and the Public Inquiry, which turned out to be quite a challenging experience for a lay person. Some highlights:
 - When asked about the maximum capacity of the countryside to accommodate wind farms, one of the expert witnesses stated that there was no maximum, but that it depended on political will.
 - The Moray Council QC was disallowed from questioning the Clash Gour expert witness on Socio-economics/Tourism because the Moray Council had not submitted any of their own evidence on the subject.
 - It was emphasised in the Inquiry that Scottish Government Practice Guidelines state that Community benefit should not be included as a consideration in the Planning Process. It remains to be seen whether the Reporters accept this.

f. Berryburn 2 Wind Farm

The Planning Application for Berry Burn 2 has been submitted. FCC agreed to submit a representation based on the community feedback received last year. The deadline for representation is 30th September. **(Actions BH to draft, HR to provide input on Ornithology)**

g. Ourack Wind Farm

No further update.

h. Cairn Duhie Wind Farm

No further update

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.

j. Wild Fires

Police Fire and Safety Committee meets on 19th November. **(Action GA to report back)**

CF reported that this topic had not been included in the final version of the Moray Council Land Management Strategy, but that £250M had been earmarked for peatland restoration.

k. Footpath in Rafford

HD had checked and circulated information on the Living Streets initiative. The example of additional footpath provision in Lossiemouth indicated that extensive studies and community participation would be required to move forward.

HD had written to Richard Lochhead and was awaiting a reply.

7. Planning Report (TP)

TP reported that FCC had had responses from Moray Council on our comments on planning applications, notifying us of planning departments refusal of permission.

8. Secretary's Report (HD)

JM requested that recent resignation and co-option forms be submitted **(Action HD)**

JM suggested that FCC monitor and respond to the various consultations that she has forwarded to FCC.

9. Treasurers Report

Updated balances: £1,899.26

Breakdown:

- £899.26 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £1,000 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people [to be used to cover volunteers' travelling exps, to enable food provision, and to purchase protective equip. - gloves etc] with FDT

AOCB

- Pig Farm in Lower Rafford

TS, who lives near Marcassie, and runs a business from there, reported concern from his neighbours about the pig farm. The pigs may be moved to another field soon, and the local residents are concerned about:

- Noise
- Smell
- Flies
- Early 5:00 start
- Effluent
- Rodents

It was recommended a twin track approach be adopted: that the Marcassie community should make an approach to Karro about their concerns, and that FCC would also make an approach.

TP had made previous representations to Karro regarding Upper Rafford pig farm, and would try to re-establish contact. TS to provide details of the issues. **(Actions TS & TP)**

It was also suggested that Moray Council Environmental Health Department and/or SEPA could be contacted.

- FCC Membership

JM recommended that FCC should have a nominated chairperson. BH agreed to nomination as interim chairperson.

It was noted that there are still 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)**

- Welcome for new residents

HD suggested that FCC develop a flyer to drop through the door of new residents, to welcome them, and inform about FCC, FDT, Village Halls etc. **(Action prepare a draft HD)**

- Zoom Meeting

It was agreed that the Zoom format was a success, allowing member to participate both by video and by telephone. It was agree that FCC should buy a Zoom Pro licence from the Admin Grant (cost around £120). **(Action HD/AG)**

Next meeting

Monday 26th October 2020 at 7:00p.m. by tele/video conference.