

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29th October 2020 , (ZOOM MEETING DUE TO
COVID19)

Present: A Skene (Chair), H Grigor (Vice), B James, D Anderson (minutes), S Dominey, M Hannon

Attendance: Cllr Creswell, Cllr Alexander, C Low (TFVCC representative), S Kane (BSO Kinloss Barracks)

Item 1 Agenda:

1.1 Apologies: L Fraser, Cllr McLean, J O'Hagan, C Brenton

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

Item 2 Public Session:

2.1 Police Report – No incidents reported for Community Council (CC) area.

2.2 No public present, due to COVID-19

Item 3 Ratification of Minutes 24th September 2020

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

Item 4 Matters Arising:

4.1 a. (4.2) Cllr Creswell received a response from Moray Council regarding the inconsistency of increasing permissions for solar panels in the Findhorn Conservation Area which stated that the approach has been consistent and was on a case by case basis.

ACTION: Cllr Creswell to forward email from Moray Council to A Skene who will respond

4.2 b.(4.4) B James provided an update on his investigation on the status/legalities of wardens patrolling private land. Whilst powers exists for land owners to charge for parking, enforcement powers for indiscriminate parking are only held by the Police and action is only taken when vehicles are proven to be causing an obstruction. No further action is required.

4.3 c. (9.1) Independent review of accounts has been completed.

4.4 d. (14.1) A Skene is no longer available to lay wreath at Findhorn Remembrance Service. D Anderson to substitute on 8 November.

ACTION: A Skene to pass wreath to D Anderson

4.5 e. (14.2) D Anderson volunteered to attend Community Council Scheme Review consultation sessions and report back to other members, if meetings were in the evening. A Skene to attend if meetings are during the day.

ACTION: D Anderson to attend consultation meetings, as they are taking place in the evening

4.6 f. (14.3) H Grigor confirmed that the previous funding application for handrails in Findhorn was submitted by the CC. It is understood that works may take place at 135 Findhorn which has a boundary onto the pedestrian route. It was agreed to place any application for funding on hold until these works had taken place. The CC would make any application for funding with the proviso that others took on the responsibility for the long term maintenance of the handrails.

4.7 g. (14.4) The gravel laid on the strypley which passes between No's 158 and 160 has been laid to a depth which makes access difficult for some users. The Findhorn Village Conservation Company (TFVCC) have liaised with the party who laid the gravel and offered assistance to remove some of it. TFVCC request that all residents in the older part of the village are reminded that they should consult with TFVCC before undertaking any maintenance of the Stryplies.

4.8 h. (14.5) No update regarding the upkeep of trees in Kinloss as J O Hagan was not present at meeting.

ACTION: J O Hagan to provide update at next meeting

Item 5 Findhorn Village Conservation Company update:

5.1 C Low stated that Frank Allan has now retired from his position of Chairperson of the Tfvcc, having served in the role for three years and on the board for Tfvcc for nine years. Christine Hunt is the new Chairperson.

5.2 C Low confirmed that Tfvcc have been granted planning permission for parking for up to 21 camper vans/motorhomes subject to three planning conditions. The number of camper vans/motorhomes will be controlled through the use of barriers and a new booking system. However, it should be noted that the future limits on numbers which will be in place at the West Beach Car Park may lead to a return of camper vans/motorhomes parking within the village.

5.3 Now that planning permission has been granted, Tfvcc are pursuing the CAT of the two toilet blocks and the area of ground where historically there had been a third toilet block (to the south of the viewpoint). It was agreed that the CC will provide a letter of support for the CAT.

ACTION: A Skene to write letter of support for the CAT on behalf of the CC

5.4 Tfvcc have permission to continue to use the remainder of their COVID-19 funding for providing lunches over the winter. A small donation is now requested from those receiving the lunches. Tfvcc are also investigating providing 'Chatterboxes' at two locations within the village. The 'Chatterboxes' would be small shelters to afford some weather protection for two people to meet outside, whilst maintaining a social distance.

5.5 Volunteers are sought for the West Beach Working Group. Any interested parties should email Tfvcc by 2 November 2020.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report:

6.1 S Kane confirmed that all MOD flying at the barracks has now ceased for the foreseeable future. However, the flying club will still be using the runway. H Grigor asked if there was any decision on the longterm use of the runway.

ACTION: S Kane to seek confirmation if any information was available on the long term use of the runway

6.2 Representatives from the barracks will be attending the Remembrance Services at Kinloss and Findhorn on 8 November although there will be a scaled back presence due to COVID-19.

Item 7 Chairperson's Report:

7.1 A Skene advised that there was no significant items to report but as we move into winter to keep an awareness for members of the community who may be facing difficulties and to practise act of kindness whenever possible.

Item 8 Secretary's Report:

8.1 There was no secretary's report put forward, although all members are checking the gmail correspondence.

Item 9 Treasurer's Report:

9.1 B James provided information regarding the accounts. There is £3,534.14 in the account, made up of £957.00 in the admin account, £1,577.14 in the capital account and £1,000 of SSE grant. B James advised that the CC Zoom account which he arranged and pays for has been well utilised by various community groups and as part of the wider community COVID-19 response. It was agreed that a portion of the costs associated with the account should be claimed as an expense by B James.

Item 10 JCCM Report:

10.1 A Skene advised there was a JCC meeting 8th October. This time there were presentations on the Moray Council COVID-19 Recovery Plan and the Council's Climate Change Strategy, which seeks to transform council operations to being carbon neutral by 2030. Due to the length

of the presentations, there was no time available for A Skene to question other community councils with regard to whether they had sought assistance from the Moray Council to make applications to the Rural Tourist Infrastructure Fund (RTIF). The next meeting of the JCC will be on 12 November.

ACTION: A Skene to attend next JCC meeting and seek opportunity to discuss RTIF.

Item 11 Moray Councillors' Report:

11.1 Cllr Creswell advised that the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) is to be expanded and is looking for new members, that meetings of the Fairer Moray Forum have recommenced and that she recently attended a Wellbeing Webinar which sought to capture and capitalise on the activities undertaken since March in response to COVID-19. The Webinar also highlighted the strong links between wellbeing, in particular mental health, and financial security.

11.2 Cllr Alexander reported that funding for 'pop up' shops within town centres has been allocated by the Moray Council, which would include opportunities for 'pop up' shops on Forres High Street. Grants of up to £10,000 are available and any interested parties should approach Moray Council Economic Development Section. A generic email address will be set up for enquiries. He also advised that BT were seeking to remove some more phone boxes in the area. However the phone boxes in Kinloss and Findhorn were not at this time identified as being at risk.

Item 12 Findhorn Park Eco-village Report:

12.1 S Dominey highlighted that she too had attended the Wellbeing webinar and that there is soon to be an offer of free counselling for residents in the area who are facing financial hardship. Details on how to access this counselling will be published shortly, including through articles in the local press.

12.2 In The Park Eco-Village work is progressing on the Silvertrees housing project and infrastructure works are taking place at North Whins. The Holiday Park and campsite remain busy and the Phoenix Café has re-opened with an expanded indoor seating area in the Universal Hall. There are members of the community within the park eco-village who will be facing redundancy as the Findhorn Foundation's furlough scheme draws to a close. Since March, the Findhorn Foundation has been unable to run residential programmes due to COVID-19. This looks set to continue for a while yet. The community within the park eco-village is finding ways to support those members facing redundancy.

Item 13 Planning:

13.1 There have been a number of planning applications which have been submitted and were discussed during the meeting. There were no objections or comments for planning application numbers 20/01087/APP, 20/01274/APP and 20/01227/APP. However there was some discussion about planning application 20/01393/APP 212c Findhorn (conversion of shed to dwelling) with regard to the size of the proposed dwelling and ability of the design to meet accessibility standards. The existing shed is also in very close proximity to the adjacent dwelling.

ACTION: H Grigor to send response on Planning Application 20/01393/APP querying the design and suitability of the proposed conversion.

POST MEETING NOTE: Planning Application 20/01393/APP has been withdrawn. No action required.

Item 14 AOCB

14.1 Notices have been put up for the Road Closure in Findhorn for Remembrance Sunday. H Grigor confirmed that Rev. G Rollo will be the Minister for the service.

14.2 D Anderson attended the first session on the 27th October for the CC Scheme Review. At the session changes to the boundaries of CC areas were discussed along with the possibility of merging or splitting some CC areas. Increasing the number of members and changing or removing the sub-divisions was another topic covered. Finally the session also covered a review of the co-option guidelines. Subsequent sessions will cover the remainder of the scheme.

14.3 Following discussion it was agreed that the response to the initial questions raised at the session would be to retain the size and sub-division of the CC membership (a maximum of 5 members from Kinloss and 5 members from Findhorn) but to suggest a minor change to the boundary of the area to incorporate houses to the south of Kinloss Golf Club (near Milton of Brodie) which are currently part of the Heldon CC area. It was also agreed to request that the limit on the number of co-option members is raised to ensure that CC can have the maximum numbers of members possible.

ACTION: D Anderson to attend further sessions on CC Review and report back to other members, and if necessary raise any further issues/items by email prior to the next CC meeting.

14.4 H Grigor raised the validity of the Resilience Plan for Findhorn Village following the lack of implementation through the COVID-19 response. To date the plan for Findhorn Village is complete however there has been no progress on the plans for The Park or for Kinloss. Kinloss Barracks have provided a statement to be incorporated in the plan. There is a reluctance to undertake any further work on the Plan as it appears to have been superseded by the informal networks facilitated by social media which have formed throughout COVID-19. A Skene was of the view that there is still a place for the plan with respect to responding to emergencies as opposed to long term type of response which has been required for COVID-19. It was agreed to review the purpose of the plan and whether to complete plans for the remaining areas at the future meeting.

ACTION: A Skene to include a review the purpose and requirement for Resilience Planning as an Agenda item for a future meeting in 2021.

14.5 H Grigor read an email which has been passed on by C Low from a resident who lives near The Buntly regarding on street parking restricting the free flow of traffic. However there are a number of properties in this area with no off-street parking and parking restrictions would have an adverse impacts on those residents. It was agreed to take no action on this matter.

14.6 A resident has also raised the issue of traffic speeds on the main road coming into Findhorn with A Skene. This is a perennial issue which common across many communities in the Forres Ward Area. Councillor Alexander suggested contacting other CCs (Finderne, Dyke and Landward, Forres) to see if they wish to make a combined approach to Police Scotland for speed checks in the area.

ACTION: A Skene to contact other Community Council regarding speeding concerns in their area and making a joint approach to Police Scotland for increasing speed checks.

Item 15 Forthcoming Community Events:

15.1 No events were noted.

Item 16 Date of Next Meeting:

16.1 Thursday 26th November 2020 (Zoom meeting) 7pm.