

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 12th July by video-conference

FCC members present

Brian Higgs (BH), Howard Davenport (HD)
Tim Slack (TS), Anna Gatward (AG) (part time)

Also present:

Lorna Cresswell (LC), Claire Feaver(CF),
Andy Munro (AM), Ruth Whitfield, Ruaridh Milne (RM)
Jennifer Allan (part time)

Apologies:

Anne Garrow, Shirley Munn, Richard Kirk, Tony Pinner

1) Police update

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

2) Matters Arising

a. Pig Farm in Lower Rafford.

CF reported that she had been approached by some residents, complaining about mud on the road caused by vehicles moving between Cloddach Farm and the new location on the Damhead Road. AM said the farmers responsibility was to clean roads at the end of the day.

(Action: TS to contact Karro regarding mud on the road and to follow up on provision of map.

b. Welcome Pack

Printed and distributed to all households by post.

c. Wildflower planting

HD had distributed a response to our application, which identified that the Church Terrace site has been chosen for wildflower planting starting in 2022. Some sites had been chosen for community lead planting. It was agreed to ask Moray Council if this area could be included for community lead planting. RM agreed to assist managing this project.

Actions: HD to approach Moray Council, RM and RW to canvas for volunteers to assist.

d. Rafford Parish Church

Following the concerns of the Church community that the church could be closed, Suzanne Quinney had drafted a letter in support which was sent, and gratefully received.

3) Current Standing Items

a) A96 dualling proposals

Nothing further to report.

b) Finderne Development Trust (FDT)

Report from BH:

- **New Development Manager**
Jan McPherson is now in place.
- **Community Broadband**
No further update. (Post meeting note: FDT have sent out further information on recommendations to households)
- **Community Housing**
Community consultation process now to start with some drop-in sessions from late July.
- **Energy Efficient Living**
BH encouraged spreading the word on the Energy Efficient Living initiative. Finlay had also identified a charity which could help those experiencing extreme fuel poverty.
- **Dava Way**
FDT have sponsored a new website for the Dava Way Association which is currently being beta tested, prior to launch.
- **Community Hub**
BH noted that co-location of rural schools and community hubs had been very successful in some locations (e.g. Cawdor). Also, Moray Council are about to undertake a review of their school estate assets.

c) Windfarm Developments

i) Clashgour

- HD had written to Energy Consents unit to ask for an update.
- Post meeting note: ECU have replied and estimate that the report will be sent to ministers in Sep/Oct this year. Then ministers consideration will take some time after that.

ii) Berryburn 2 Wind Farm

No further information

iii) Ourack Wind Farm

Helen Skimming from the developers has been looking for a meeting. **(Action HD to arrange.)**

iv) Cairn Duhie Wind Farm

No further information

v) **Lethen Wind Farm**

It was noted that the next Lethen CLG meeting would be held tomorrow evening.

Action: BH to attend.

vi) **FCC Windfarm Strategy**

BH noted that the FCC Strategy on opposing windfarm developments may need to be reviewed. This strategy has been based on feedback from a community consultation from early in 2019. It may be that an alternative strategy of maximising benefits could be adopted. It was proposed that a new community consultation should be launched, to refresh the FCC policy.

d) **Loch of Blairs Development**

BH had reported that construction work on the Classroom development continues to progress slowly due to material supply problems.

e) **Core Paths Consultation**

No date yet set for public inquiry.

f) **Wild Fires**

We are waiting for the Scottish Government report on improvements to current practices.

g) **Traffic in Rafford**

HD reported that SM had drafted a letter (with help from JA), highlighting issues in Rafford and potential solutions, which had been reviewed and subsequently sent to the JCC Roads safety group and Noman Stevenson, Police Chief.

After a number of attendees made the point that other regional councils have been active in introducing traffic calming measures and 20mph speed limits, (Border Council, Edinburgh and Highlands and Islands specifically), it was pointed out that the Moray Council Roads department judge any requests for these type of improvements against their current policy, and as a result are usually rejected. It was brought to our attention that this policy dates from 2009, so a discussion ensued on how the policy could be revised and updated to facilitate better road safety in our villages and towns.

It is the Moray Council Administration, lead by SNP councillor Graeme Leadbitter, who have the authority to instruct the Roads and Transport department to change their policy. So the conclusion is, that to make progress on this issue, we need, (as individual community councils, and the JCC) to persuade councillors, particularly the SNP administration, to make this instruction.

As such we would plan to write to councillors asking for action, and would ask the JCC to do the same. It was also pointed out that we should ensure this issue is in front of candidates before the Moray Council elections next May.

It was agreed that we should summarise this position for the JCC Road Safety subgroup meeting on Thursday 16th July, which would be attended by SM. **(Action HD/SM)**

Post Meeting Note: JCC Road Safety Group meeting was postponed.

It was also suggested that the FCC seek Windfarm Funding and/or support from FDT. However it was agreed that this should be subject to a separate discussion.

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP had reported prior to the meeting, that the only planning application of note was for 2 accommodation lodges at Marcassie for Naturally useful. No action required.

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD reported that:

- A Grampian NHS community consultation was being launched. IT was agreed to make this available to the community through the FCC website and Facebook page **(Action: HD/BH)**
- Community Council Elections would take place to the following timetable, and the JCC was planning publicity:
 - Application for membership – 25th August to 30th September
 - If uncontested, new term to start 4th October.
 - If more applicants than positions an election would be held with poll closing on 28th October, and results declared by 4th November
- Jane Martin is moving on to a new position.
- Cycling UK has appointed a Moray Cycling Development Officer, who was willing to get involved in any active travel issues
- Hilary Rolton has resigned from her position on the Community Council. HD had thanked her for her contributions.

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

Updated balances: £1,405.35

Breakdown:

- £1125.35 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £280 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

FCC would receive an invoice from FDT for a share of Welcome Pack printing and distribution costs.

BH asked if SSEN fund had a deadline for spending the money. **(Action: AG to check)**

7) AOCB

- Include above.

Next meeting

Monday 16th August 2021 at 7:00p.m. location to be agreed.

(Action HD/BH to review if we could meet face to face.)