

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held on 24 November 2022 at Culbin Road, Kinloss Church

Present: A Skene (Chair), C Brenton (Vice-Chair), D Anderson (Minutes), R Hutchinson, S Moat, J Hynam, M La Tourelle

Attendance: Cllr Van Der Horn, A Griffin (Kinloss Barracks), R Somers Cocks

Item 1 Agenda: 1. **a. Apologies:** S Dominey, J O'Hagan, C Shreenan, Cllr Robertson, Cllr Lawrence

b. Declaration of Interest: To be declared if necessary.

Item 2 Public Session:

2.1 The Community Safety Partnership report for November was circulated to all members of FKCC. There were no major or significant issues to report for our area.

2.2 There has been an exchange of letters between S Russell, Chair of the Findhorn Residents Association and Moray Council officers regarding the size, type, design and siting of the new public waste bins in the Findhorn Conservation Area. A site meeting with Moray Council officers will be held to discuss the bins to see if they can be more sensitively sited.

2.3 A letter was received regarding the trees alongside the road between Milton Hill and Milton Brodie where the verge has recently been cut back to improve forward sightlines along the road. The cutting back has been quite harsh causing broken branches and spoiling some 20 young trees. **ACTION: A Skene to write to Moray Council Lands and Parks Section to ask if future maintenance of roadside verges, trees and hedges could be done more sensitively.**

2.4 The Community Council Liaison Officer (CCLO) has advised of the current consultation on the changes to the Parliamentary Boundaries in Moray. Moray would be split into two with Wards 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8 becoming part of the proposed Nairn, Strathspey and Moray West Constituency and the remaining Wards 2, 3 and 4 being part of the proposed Aberdeenshire North and Moray East Constituency. It was agreed that no formal response would be sent to the consultation.

2.5 An email was received from M Crutch, Secretary of the Findhorn Bay Local Nature Reserve (FBLNR) regarding the increasing number of dead wild fowl and sea birds being found on the shores of Findhorn Bay. R Somers Cocks, a local bird expert, was present at the meeting and advised that he had undertaken recent counts of dead birds along the shore of the bay and that the numbers found had been significantly increasing and included seagulls, geese, a swan and a puffin. DEFRA have been advised of the deaths and samples have been taken to identify the cause of death. However, it is suspected that the deaths are due to Avian Flu.

The probability of humans and dogs contracting Avian Flu is very, very low. However, the virus is present in bird excrement and can be transferred to other locations where other wild or domestic birds are present and passing it to those populations.

There is no meaningful guidance at this time from DEFRA in terms of what to do when finding dead birds, other than not to touch the birds and report them to DEFRA. However, the FBLNR are advising that if possible, people do not walk along the bay or undertake water sports in the bay. If you do walk along the bayside then clean your footwear and any sporting equipment thoroughly before going to another location where birds are present. At this time the number of dead birds found at Lossiemouth and Spey Bay has been very low.

FBLNR are seeking the erection of additional signage along the eastern and southern sides of the bay to share the above information at the Captain's Table, The Piers, the bird hide and in the South East corner of the bay, where the majority of the geese roost overnight. **ACTION: ALL Raise awareness of the outbreak through professional and social networks and advise to avoid walking along the bay until further notice, or at the very least clean all footwear and equipment after visiting the bay.**

Item 3 Ratification of Minute of meeting from 27th October 2022:

3.1 The minutes of the October meeting were agreed as accurate proposed by J Hynam and seconded by S Moat.

Item 4 Matters Arising:

4.1 (4.2) Moray Council provided a further response regarding the historic mirror at the junction of the B9089/C6E Station Road and confirmed that an officer had visited the junction to measure the available sightline towards Kinloss Barracks. The sightline meets the standards and therefore no further action will be taken.

4.2 (4.4) Some of the members of the Resilience Subgroup attended the Moray Council Community Resilience: Information Event on Thursday 24 November at Elgin Town Hall. Further information on this event is in Item 7.3.

4.3 (4.6) J O'Hagan has contacted Kieran's Legacy regarding the purchase of a defibrillator for Southside and is still awaiting further details. **ACTION: C Brenton & J O'Hagan to liaise further with Keiran's Legacy and feedback at next meeting.**

4.4 (9.3) C Low asked at the previous FKCC meeting if the remainder of the SSE grant could be used for improvements to the children's Play Park in Findhorn. A Skene advised that a written proposal could be presented for consideration at the next community council meeting. **ACTION: C Low to submit written proposal to A Skene.**

4.5 (13.1) No comments were received on planning application 22/01342/APP Alter and extend dwellinghouse, remove oil tank and install new air source heat pump at 200 Findhorn.

Item 5 The Findhorn Village Conservation Company update:

5.1 No Report.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report:

6.1 A meeting took place regarding the Findhorn Beach Steps and the potential for the Army to undertake the repairs. There is a series of paperwork to be completed before that can happen. This paperwork has been left with TFVCC to complete and it is anticipated that subject to approvals the works will take place in the Spring. A Griffin confirmed that the Regiment will return from their deployment just before Christmas and that the Barracks will be holding a First World War field classroom for a class from one of the local schools.

Item 7 Chairpersons report:

7.1 A Skene attended the multi-agency meeting in Findhorn on 3rd November to discuss surface water management and flooding mitigation. The village drainage is complex and resolution is not straightforward. It was agreed that the road gullies in the Conservation Area will be cleared on an annual basis and that the ownership and responsibility for the pumping station in the middle of the village will be determined with a view to ensuring that it is operational. It is imperative that all cases of external and internal flooding are reported to Scottish Water via <https://swcustomerportal.microsoftcrmportals.com/ReportAProblem/> and Moray Council http://moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_92010.html A Skene also attended the event at Forres Town Hall on Thursday 3rd November where advice on flood mitigation measures for residents was available. General advice on the protection of properties from flooding can be found at <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/-/media/ScottishWater/Document-Hub/Factsheets-and-Leaflets/Leaflets/270718FloodingLeafletWhatToDoWhoCanHelp.pdf>

7.2 A Skene and M La Tourelle attended the online training provided by Moray Council officers on how to review and respond to planning applications. During the training the erection of solar panels in Conservation Areas was raised and B Smith (Moray Council's Development Management and Building Services Manager) confirmed that this was not permitted, even on parts of roofs which were not visible from public areas.

7.3 A Skene, M Tourelle and R Hutchinson attended the Moray Council Community Resilience: Information Event on Thursday 24 November. R Fergusson the Moray Council's Emergency Planning Officer gave a

presentation on Local Resilience Partnerships and highlighted the vital role of community resilience groups who are often the first to respond to local emergencies by providing safe places, assets to assist in addressing the emergency and people with skills and local knowledge. There were also stalls where information could be obtained on matters such as what to do during a power cut. The Ready Scotland website www.Ready.Scot provides further information for households to prepare their own resilience plan including what to have to hand in an emergency, e.g. torch, mobile phone and mobile phone charging cable which can be used in a car etc.

Item 8 Secretary's report/Correspondence:

8.1 No report - see Item 2 Public Session.

Item 9 Treasurer's Report:

9.1 C Shreenan sent a report confirming that the bank balance is £3,190.56 which is made up of:

Balance C/F TMC admin grant	£ 1,668.43
Balance C/F Capital funds	£ 1,022.13
Balance C/F SSE grant	£ 500.00

9.2 C Shreenan also advised that he had to step down due to family commitments. S Moat volunteered to become the new Treasurer and all FKCC members agreed to this. **ACTION: A Skene to write to C Shreenan and share the thanks and best wishes of the FKCC members. S Moat to contact C Shreenan to arrange the handover of Treasurer responsibilities.**

Item 10 JCCM Report:

10.1 A Skene and J Hynam attended the JCC meeting on 10th November 2022 at Elgin Town Hall. There was a presentation by a representative from Health and Social Care Moray on Community Alarm Responders. They are seeking volunteer responders. Further information can be found at: volunteering.CC@moray.gov.uk or by phoning 01343 563515.

10.2 The Community Safety Strategy is now available on the Moray Council website at: <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file88031.pdf> and it is no longer a requirement to wait 24 hours before reporting a missing person. A new police sergeant has been posted to Forres Police Station and the Police are currently using drones to look for anti-social behaviour at events.

10.3 There was also a presentation from Police Scotland by Inspector A Meikleham on Road Safety which confirmed that speed enforcement of 20mph, 30mph and 40mph speed limits was on-going. Police Scotland were considering whether the Community Speedwatch programme was appropriate for Moray, it was often the case that when communities requested speed surveys there was found to be little evidence of excessive traffic speeds. The education of Learner Drivers has returned to senior schools and there is currently a fitness to drive campaign for senior drivers over 75. The 'Good Egg Car Safety' checks on child seats have been taking place in supermarket car parks and there is currently a National Cycle Campaign on educating drivers not to pass too close to cyclists. Finally, there was a reminder that despite their numbers increasing, the use of E-Scooters was not permitted on a public road (including footways and cycleways) in the United Kingdom unless they were part of a Government Trial.

10.4 The Green Canopy scheme has been extended until 2023 and there are still trees available to be planted in public areas <https://queensgreencanopy.org> The CCLO confirmed that Community Council training for Treasurers had taken place and that there will be forthcoming training for Secretaries and Chairpersons.

10.5 The Clash Gour Wind Farm has been granted planning permission by Scottish Government. The community benefits from this wind farm will be Moray wide and will be discussed further at the next JCC meeting and at a specific meeting of the Community Energy Moray meeting on 1 December at 11.00 am at Elgin Town Hall. The group is looking for additional Trustees and members.

10.6 The Moray Transport Forum has also been reformed following a pause during 2020/2021 due to Covid-19. The next meeting of the JCC will be on 9 February 2023.

Item 11 Moray Councillors' Report:

11.1 Cllr Van Der Horn reported that he was on the Moray Council's Cost of Living working group and that there would be funding available for communities to keep community spaces open and heated for activities along with a fund for members of the public in need of support. Cllr Van Der Horn also attended the recent meeting of the FBLNR and is currently looking to see if there is capacity with Moray Council to employ a Biodiversity Officer.

11.2 There is a new active travel group in Forres who recently met with Moray Council officers to discuss future proposals in and around Forres for improvements to active travel and the locations where the group had identified a lack of dropped kerbs to assist pedestrians. Finally, Cllr Van Der Horn highlighted that there is work underway on a new Community Engagement Strategy.

Item 12 Park Ecovillage Findhorn report:

12.1 M La Tourelle reported that the new sign at the entrance to The Park has been erected and has received positive feedback. The name now showing is Park Ecovillage Findhorn. It was the 60th Birthday Party of the Findhorn Foundation (charity) and a number of former members of the community returned for the weeklong celebrations.

Item 13 Planning:

13.1 Two planning applications have been submitted for the FKCC area and were discussed during the meeting.

22/01674/APP Replacement Meditation Sanctuary Building at The Park, Findhorn - no objections.

22/01605/APP Erect Porch and change window to French door at 84 Findhorn **ACTION: FKCC members to review and email A Skene with any comments.**

Item 14 Any Other Competent Business:

14.1 The Remembrance Sunday services were well attended and ran smoothly thanks to the effort of J O'Hagan in making all the necessary arrangements.

14.2 A Griffin advised that Armed Forces Covenant Fund which supports the families of members of the armed forces is open for applications up until 12 December 2022 see www.covenantfund.org.uk

14.3 Cllr Van Der Horn advised that the Auchernack Trust still had funds available for older people in the IV36 postcode area.

14.4 C Brenton advised that there was now a Facebook group for supporting people with the cost of living at Christmas: Morays Christmas Community Support.

14.5 S Moat advised that the Osprey Trust has received a grant to replace their bus with a new electric bus. The bus has 13 seats and wheelchair access and will be available for hire by groups providing support/events for children, registered disabled and older persons within the Forres Academy school catchment area.

Item 15 Forthcoming Community Events:

15.1 The following forthcoming events were shared:

- Universal Hall promotions can be seen on website universallhall.co.uk
- Saturday 3rd December switching on event for Forres Christmas Lights.
- Weekend of 10th/11th December Christmas Market at The Park Ecovillage, Findhorn (stall holders can contact park.market@findhorn.org for further details).
- 31st December New Year's Eve Party at the James Milne Institute, Findhorn organised by the Findhorn Rowing Club.

Item 16 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 26th January 2023, 7pm in the James Milne Institute, Findhorn.