

## Minutes of Meeting

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, 19:00hrs – Rafford Church Hall**

**FCC members present:**

Stewart McCracken (SMcC), Howard Davenport (HD), Tom Hardie (TH), Tony Pinner (TP)

**Also present:**

Andy Munro (AM), Anne Garrow (AG), Pat Hern (PH), Margaret Birnie (MB), Juli Salt (JS), Mark Abbs (MA), Alison Mellis (AM), Liz Greig (LG), Jude Pinner (JP – minute taker)

**1) Apologies**

Kathleen Robertson TMC (The Moray Council) (KR), Scott Lawrence TMC (SL), Anna Gatward (AG), Shirley Munn (SM),

**2) Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Agreed

**3) Matters Arising**

**a) Edinkillie Cemetery**

Work appears to have been completed. This item can be taken off the agenda.

**b) Passing places on Rafford – Dallas Dhu road**

TMC are now enforcing a requirement for passing places to be installed on recent nearby planning approvals. SMcC will monitor to ensure this is done. **(Action SMcC)**

**c) Forres Academy**

Funding is now approved for Forres. The academy will be re-built, site to be agreed, possibly by 2025.

**d) CC Policy Templates**

HD was concerned about the minute of the last meeting causing unnecessary work if everything had to be agreed before publishing on the newsletter/website/ facebook. It was agreed this requirement is only for “policy” items to be agreed with FCC. If in doubt it is recommended that advice is taken.

**e) Visibility at Half Davoch Junction**

No action to date. AM asked FCC to write to TMC again to remind them of this important work. SMcC asked AM to let HD have all the information about the problem and his proposed solution to cut back gorse etc. and emphasise the danger of the junction. **(Action HD,AM)**

**f) Wildflower and Daffodil Planting (HD)**

HD reported that 100kg of daffodil bulbs had been planted around all the speed limit signs in upper and lower Rafford. 25kg had been delivered to Logie School. It is hoped this will emphasise that motorists are entering a residential area and aid traffic calming measures. Wild flower seed will be sown on the banking at the entrance of Lower Rafford in March/April. **(Action HD)**

**g) Grit on U88**

AM reported that grit had been delivered.

**4) Current Standing Items**

**a) Traffic in Rafford**

HD reported that work is now under way for the agreed footpath to the east of the B9010 in the village. Following concern from members of the public HD explained the reasoning behind the siting due to land acquisition issues. He also re-assured those present that signage and road marking would be put in place where the public were likely to cross the road between paths. The construction programme is not known but the expectation is the surfacing of the footpath will follow on from the current clearing stage. Further footpath sections will be discussed with TMC Roads. SMcC informed the meeting that the Roads Dept. have evidence that footpaths are the best safety measure in minimising the danger from traffic.

HD went on to explain three initiatives to improve traffic safety in the village:-

- Footpaths – ongoing
- VAS (vehicle activated signs) – now purchased and a contract agreed to install the posts. The purchase of the VAS was funded entirely by the FDT (Finderne Development Trust). MA was assured that they would be placed on council owned verges and no cables had to be connected to them as they were solar powered. Site plans were distributed to the public and following some concern about the logic of the siting SMcC explained the rationale behind the siting and explained the purpose and difference between speed limit notification signs and speed monitoring signs.
- Enhanced village signs – bigger bolder village entrance signs will be placed at the entrance and exit of both Raffords. The design has been agreed with TMC. It was also explained that the speed limit could not be extended between Upper and Lower Rafford because the road was not in a designated built up area.

Mark Abbs thanked the FCC for all the work that had gone into improving the traffic safety in the village.

**b) Broadband**

TH reported that the list of properties eligible for R100 grant is still changing and with no apparent way to know when eligibility may change. Those who are currently eligible for the £5,000 grant should act a.s.a.p.

TH and HD will amend the Finderne CC's broadband guide to include Elon Musk's Starlink system ([www.starlink.com](http://www.starlink.com)), as it has proven to be a viable if somewhat expensive route.

HD was concerned that further housing development may weaken existing broadband access, TH noted that future planning regulations may make broadband access a requirement.

**c) Brochloch Development**

SMcC reported that Finderne Development Trust (FDT) have appointed Oberlanders Architects LLP to take Brockloch to planning.

**d) Windfarm Developments**

HD has received Mike Crutch's comments and concerns about the fire risk at the proposed Ourack windfarm and FCC has passed these on to the Scot.Gov's Energy Consents Unit. Carn Duhie wind farm, just to the West of Finderne, near Ferness, has submitted a Section 36 Planning Application for 16 wind turbines up to 150 metre tip height. Berry Burn windfarm has applied for a met. mast to be erected. SMcC has had no response from Energising Moray and will check to see what the current situation is regarding community benefit from windfarms. **(Action SMcC)**

**e) JCC meeting Feedback**

SM will not be able to attend the next meeting SMcC offered to attend and HD will forward details to him. **(Action HD, SMcC)**

**f) Resilience Planning**

SMcC outlined the situation with the resilience plan to date. He explained, at a recent seminar attended by SMcC, SM and TP, SSE advised against buying generators and suggested more affordable and useful solutions such as Solar PV and battery storage. SMcC explained that FCC need to decide what the risks are in the Finderne area and set up a small resilience group/committee to make a plan for using the 20K and administering and maintaining a resilience plan. TH volunteered to be a member of the group. **(Action SM)**

**g) Forres Health Services**

Councillor Scott Lawrence put TH in touch with Iain Macdonald who is the NHS's Forres & Lossiemouth Locality Manager for the Moray Health & Social Care Partnership. Due to an issue with Scott's Council email TH was only able to make first contact today. TH has a call scheduled for tomorrow to find out how the Moray Health & Social Care Partnership can address our concerns over the Forres Health Centre.

**5) Pending items**

**a) Wildfires**

Land management at windfarms has been addressed in 4 d) and will remain on the agenda.

**6) Planning Report**

A proposal for a second plot on the site opposite Tulloch Lodges has been withdrawn from the planning process. There were no other relevant applications in the Finderne area since the last meeting.

**7) Secretaries Report**

Correspondence received/sent regarding the following:

- Scottish Government have issued their Draft Energy and Just Transition Plan. A copy is available for anyone interested. Closing date for consultation responses is 4th April 2023.
- Nominations are open for Moray Young Citizens Awards. Closing date 3rd March 2023.

- St Johns Ambulance/NHS Grampian are looking for volunteer drivers to take patients to the Renal Unit.
- Grampian Police Moray West have issued their Community Safety Report for December. It is available on the FCC website.
- FCC received confirmation from Ian Douglas of the status of Core Paths in Rafford.
- Moray Climate Assembly are holding an online conference on Tuesday 31st January.

#### 8) **Treasurers Report**

AG confirmed a full report has been emailed to all FCC members as an Excel file. A summary was presented:

Bank balance as @ 20/1/23 £20,537.23 (20,000 SSEN + 537.23 Moray Council Admin Grant balance)

#### 9) **AOCB**

Howard Stoller contacted HD and informed him that he was still a member of FAADAG ( A96 dualling watchdog) and the latest report that Jacobs Engineers are now looking at a range of options to downscale the project and examine key areas to bypass. A report is expected in early summer 2023.

AG informed FCC that there is no news on when the church would become redundant and that a wedding had been booked for June. She thought the church hall would be available for the next meeting. FCC were advised that the village hall was very busy and if the church hall became unavailable the village hall will need to be booked well in advance.

AM updated FCC on the situation with the U88 junction re-alignment and asked that FCC try and find out what is being planned. KR to be contacted to try and get a progress report.

HD raised a concern that a recent change to FDT articles removed the requirement for directors to retire by rotation and this weakened the opportunities for members to endorse the directorship. After some discussion it was agreed that the requirement for a rotation of directors was still in place but was less restrictive.

**Post Meeting Note:** Further examination of the FDT Articles of Association has resulted in a suggestion to seek clarification on this point from the FDT.

#### 9) **Date & Venue of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on 6th March 2023 at Edinkillie Hall.