

Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 17th April 2023, 19:00hrs – Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present:

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

Also present:

Kathleen Robertson TMC (The Moray Council), Andy Munro (AM), Jude Pinner (JP – minute taker)

1) Apologies

Ann Garrow (AG), Julie Salt (JS), Ann Gatward (AG)

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting

Agreed

3) Matters Arising

a) Passing Places on Rafford – Dallas Dhu road

No action to date. Scott Lawrence (TMC)(SL) to be asked for progress report. **(Action SMcC)**

b) Forres Academy

Awaiting finance, 2027 now the earliest it will be allocated. This item to be removed from future agendas.

c) 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. Wild flower seed has been sown on the banking at the entrance of Lower Rafford. The chairman thanked HD for his work in organising this project.

d) U88 Junction re-alignment Dunphail

No further information. SL to be asked for a progress report. **(Action ?)**

4) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic in Rafford

SMcC confirmed the signs have now been delivered and will be erected on the posts, which have already been installed, on Weds 19th April by HD, TP, SMcC.

HD reported that work to complete the surfacing of the footpath would take place in the summer by TMC and the new village entrance signs were still awaiting TMC design.

It was noted that Highland Council were supporting 20mph limits in built up areas inline with Government policy. KR informed the meeting that although the Scottish Gov. was committed to reducing the limit to “restricted” roads there was no funding available. FCC will approach TMC to see if we can privately finance a 20mph limit in Rafford in a similar way to the VASS installation. **(Action HD)**

b) Broadband

TH reported that the date for R100 rollout has now been put back to 2025. The FCC broadband guidance will be updated on the website **(Action HD,TH)** . **SMcC** will try to get a date from Richard Lohead and Duncan Nesbit for a meeting with FCC to discuss broadband improvements, if necessary, he will offer dates outwith planned FCC meeting dates but will offer the two next planned meeting dates first. **(Action SMcC)**

It was noted that Edinkillie now had high speed broadband via the Logie network.

c) Brochloch Development

SMcC reported that Finderne Development Trust (FDT) signed off Stage 1 of the architects programme and following the upcoming May board meeting will update FCC for publishing on the website. The next stage will be to develop the layout and details and prepare for further Community consultation. It was noted that the self-build units had been removed from the plans to meet FDT and community concerns in delays in completion of the construction of the two units after completion of the main works.

HD felt that some of the answers to questions raised by the community were unsatisfactory and it was suggested he contact FDT with his concerns.

d) Windfarm Developments and Energising Moray

It was agreed that FCC would chase a response from Energising Moray **(Action SMcC)**

FCC had notification of airspace change over the Clashgour windfarm. TH is involved with consultation via aviation groups and will keep FCC informed.

HD noted that the Berryburn energy storage project presentation would be at Edinkillie on 8th May.

HD noted that a proposal to upgrade power transmission from Beauly to Blackhillock was at the consultation stage with presentations in Elgin on 24th Apr and Forres on 25th Apr. TP expressed concern because of the proximity of the proposed corridor to south of Rafford and will attend the Forres presentation.

A response has been received from Lethen Windfarm regarding wildfires/land management stating that they were conforming with "good practice".

e) JCC meeting Feedback

SM may not be able to attend JCC meetings, SMcC offered to attend. **(Action SMcC)**

f) Resilience Planning

SMcC felt we needed to identify the most likely potential threats and eliminate unlikely ones such as flooding. TH considered the most likely issue would be communication in the case of power outages etc. He will investigate independent devices such as the Musk satellite phone unit. KR raised the issue of co-ordination with other community councils/groups. HD suggested the JCC might be the best forum for that, SMcC will raise the issue when he attends.

TP will investigate to see what officers at TMC might help.

HD proposed brainstorming perceived threats and form a working group. SM to be asked for the list of people interested in involvement with Resilience Planning to form the group .HD will go back over survey responses to identify those interested.

SMcC reminded the meeting that the SSE funding was flexible, not just for generators. **(Action HD, TP, SMcC)**

g) Forres Health Services

TH attended the planning meeting of the Moray Health & Social Care Partnership. He did not receive a satisfactory answer to questions put to the doctors. He is awaiting the minutes of the meeting and will report back when he has the minuted responses. **(Action TH)**

5) Pending items

a) Wildfires

HD will chase response from Scot. Gov. response Unit. **(Action HD)**

6) Planning Report

Nothing to report.

7) Secretaries Report

Correspondence received/sent regarding the following:

- The Moray West Police Unit newsletter for March 23 was received.
- JCC minutes for Feb received from Debra Duke, SMcC to read. **(Action SMcC)**
- Moray Transport Forum, invitation to participate received.
- Invitation to participate in choosing a flag for Moray.
- Tim Slack (TS) reported on the Karro pig units. Noted that the field rotation had been changed from two years to three years. Also reported on the presence of flies and smell. KR re-assured the meeting that health and welfare issues were unlikely as pig farms were subject to a quarterly veterinary check. TS thanked for the report.
- An invitation to participate in "Local Place Plans" involvement for a 2027 Moray Dev. Plan has been received from TMC Planning. TP to investigate, register FCC interest and report back. HD to send out link to TMC website to FCC. **(Action TP, HD)**

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 £20,463.35 [£20k SSEN + £463.35 Moray Council Admin Grant balance]

AG emailed FCC to say that we could continue with use of Church Hall for the next meeting if required. AG to be thanked but plans now in place to use village hall on Wednesdays, All meetings now on Weds, HD has issued a new calendar. TP proposed a gift and card of thanks for AG for her help in running the meetings at Rafford Church Hall. SMcC to purchase something suitable. **(Action SMcC)**

9) AOCB

TH raised a question about the ownership of the flood alleviation land. Not known.

9) Date & Venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 31st May 2023 - Edinkillie Hall.