



Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council

Minutes of Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council Meeting held on Thursday 31 August 2023 at Osprey Room, James Milne Institute, Findhorn

Present		Attendance	
A Skene	Chairperson	C Low	TFVCC
D Anderson	Minute Secretary	D Duke	CCLO
R Hutchinson		Moray Councillors	
S Moat		Cllr Van Der Horn	
J O' Hagan		Cllr Robertson	
M La Tourelle		Members of Public	
J Hynam		Approximately 25 in attendance for the public session	

Item 1 - Welcome

- a. Apologies – S Dominey, D Low (Kinloss Barracks)
- b. Declaration of Interest – to be raised as and when it occurs.

Item 2 – Public Session

- a. Community Safety Report/Police Scotland Report – no incidents reported in the FKCC area.
- b. Any other competent public business / public correspondence -

- i) The Robertson family read out a statement with regard to the FKCC response to planning application 23/01024/APP for retrospective consent to erect a 4.5m height flagpole in the grounds of Alba, 195 Findhorn. The Robertson family highlighted the comments within the response which they considered to be hasty, inappropriate and offensive, and that they may have influenced the planning officer's consideration of the application – noting that the application has been refused. The Robertson family expressed disappointment that at no time did any FKCC members come to speak to them to raise their concerns about the flagpole and provide an opportunity to demonstrate that their intentions with regard to the type of flag which would be flown. In no way were Robertson family seeking to cause offence to any member of the community and sought a formal apology from the FKCC for the language used in the response and the impact it has had on themselves, along with a retraction of the response. Within the statement, and as part of the wider discussion, some questions were raised and responses given:

What will happen to other flagpoles in the Conservation Area?

That will be a matter for the Moray Council as the Planning Authority, who will assess each flagpole on its own merit and situation.

Why did the Roads Authority not objection to the application?

The Roads Authority is a separate part of the Council who assessed the application on the basis of the potential for driver distraction and not on the basis of how the flagpole looked in its setting.

Why did the FKCC members not comment on the flagpole which was included on a drawing supporting a previous planning applications at 195 Findhorn in 2020?

The flagpole was not included in the description for the 2020 planning application, nor was it visible on the elevation drawing which accompanied the application. It was therefore missed by both FKCC members and the Moray Council planning officers.

It is the actual flag being flown which is causing offence?

The 'Saltire' flag being flown does not cause any offence to FKCC members. It is the future use of the flagpole, which cannot be controlled through a planning condition and will outlive the current occupants

of 195 Findhorn, which may cause offence.

Were the Church Elders consulted by the FKCC members?

The Church Elders were not canvassed prior to the submission of the response but the Session Clerk has subsequently confirmed that they have no view on the matter.

How many people approached the FKCC members expressing their concerns about the flagpole?

FKCC members who live in the village had been approached by a number of people on several occasions (approximately 10) prior to notification of the planning application. There were two other objections submitted to the Moray Council.

If the Robertson family submit an Appeal to the Moray Council Local Review Board, would FKCC members be submitting an objection?

There would be no requirement for the FKCC to submit any further information to any Appeal as all information in the planning file is provided to the Local Review Board.

Members of the FKCC would like to apologise to the Robertson family for any offence that has resulted from the wording of their response to planning application 23/01024/APP and acknowledge that the wording was insensitive. It was not our intention to cause upset to the Robertson family and our comments were regarding the flagpole and its position and not those who erected it.

As a Community Council we are a consultee on most planning matters and we urge anyone submitting a planning application to attend our meetings. We will review how planning applications are dealt with and discuss ways to improve how we get community input, supportive and otherwise.

- ii) The James Milne Institute are seeking to install a safety barrier at the foot of the fire escape outside the Osprey Room. When installed, it will prevent people from falling off the raised platform outside. The JMI have asked if the FKCC would be amenable to submitting the planning application on their behalf to reduce the costs by half. A Skene declared an interest as she is a Trustee of the James Milne Institute and therefore did not express a view. It was agreed that this was clearly a project that would serve the community and that the application could be submitted by FKCC. **ACTION: Review of JMI application forms and signing by CC member (not A Skene).**

Item 3 – Ratification of Minutes of Meeting from Thursday 29th June 2023 Culbin Room, Kinloss Church, Kinloss

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

Item 4 – Matters Arising

4.1 (4.1) (4.1) (11.1) J Hynam reported that he had attended two meetings of the local oversight group for healthcare provision. There will be an event on 14 September at Moray College in Elgin where a new ‘app’ will be demonstrated which will assist health care professionals, professional carers and family carers. The event is open to all as the goal is to seek as wide as possible views on the ‘app’. **ACTION: J Hynam to share poster for the event so it can be placed on the FKCC notice boards.**

4.2 (4.3) (4.3) (12.2) R Hutchinson reported that the Resilience Plan leaflet had been distributed to Findhorn village and that a Whats App group had been set up. Some 20 members of the community had expressed an interest and a follow up event was being arranged for the 12th September. A Community Support officer at the Moray Council had been in touch with R Hutchinson to see if the meeting on 12 September could be opened up to the surrounding community councils. **ACTION: R Hutchinson to liaise with Community Support officer.** There is also a community training event on resilience at Lhanbryde Community Hall on the 21st September. M La Tourelle reported that a successful Fire Drill was held at the FPEV on 18th July and working groups in the local area are continuing to make their local/household resilience plans.

4.3 (4.7) (8.1) A Skene has contacted the owner of the track to the rear of ‘Bundon’ to discuss the removal of the public footpath sign. They have agreed that the sign can be replaced on their land. **ACTION: A Skene to contact owner to establish next steps.**

4.4 (4.10) S Moat reported that the Armed Forces Covenant has been awarded to FKCC and that he is liaising with D Low regarding a possible presentation of the award to the FKCC by Kinloss Barracks.

4.5 (6.1) The construction pods at the new accommodation at Kinloss Barracks were delivered.

4.6 (12.1) The setting up of a shared Google drive for documents, minutes, agendas was discussed and agreed. **ACTION: S Moat to set up shared drive.**

4.7 (13.1) The response to planning application 23/01024/APP was sent.

4.8 (14.1) FKCC members to consider and confirm the roles, descriptions and photographs for the flyer. **ACTION: S Moat to circulate draft flyer. ALL: provide comments to S Moat before next meeting.**

Item 5 The Findhorn Village Conservation Company (TFVCC)

5.1 C Low provided an update on behalf of TFVCC. The refurbishment and improvement of both sets of toilets were completed over the summer and they were officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant for Moray on Wednesday 9 August. Seven out of the eight steps down onto the beach have been replaced. Work is to commence on the eighth set of steps which will include a zig-zag ramp for easier access. This set of steps will be more expensive. The boardwalks will also be replaced. However the extent and nature of the replacement will be dependent on available funding. A fundraising event led by the businesses who operate at the beach, The Olive Tree Kitchen, Watershed Sauna and Vibe Beach Yoga is to be held on the morning of 1 September 2023.

5.2 TFVCC are currently seeking prices for a 'top-up' of the surfacing at the West Beach Car Park and there will be more work in the future to the Dunes Road. However the costs of such maintenance work, and those for the running of the toilets, are not being covered by the voluntary parking charges at the car parks and there may be a need to look at alternative means of covering these costs.

5.3 TFVCC are working with Scottish Water and the Moray Flood Risk Management team to install measures at properties which are at risk of flooding from surface water/sewerage and are working together on a longer plan to address flooding in the village.

Item 6 Kinloss Barracks Report

6.1 There are Motor Sports planning on the airfield at the Barracks on 16th and 23rd September. Mail drops to residents near the airfield were carried out in July. There needs to be some social media posts to raise awareness in Findhorn Village. **ACTION: S Moat to post details on FVCC social media. A Skene to place details from note provided by D Low on Findhorn Village notice board.**

6.2 There will be troop and vehicle movements during September. However there are currently no plans for air activity (note requests can be at short notice).

6.3 Deer management activities are planned for 2nd/3rd September, 9th/10th September, 30th September and 1st October. However no rough shooting will take place until there has been confirmation with regards to any avian flu restrictions.

Item 7 Chair's Report

7.1 A review of the venues used for FVCC meetings was discussed. It was agreed that the use of the JMI and Kinloss Church would continue.

7.2 A letter has been received with regard to cyclists using the footway and travelling the wrong way around the one-way system. This issue has been raised previously with signage and road marking checked by Moray Council at that time and found to be compliant. When cyclists are seen using the footway or travelling the wrong way in the one-way system, then residents are encouraged to report it to Police Scotland.

7.3 A letter was received regarding the removal of a street lighting column from a private lane in Findhorn village, in the vicinity of no's 146a – 148 Findhorn. Residents in the lane have contacted the Moray Council street lighting team on a number of occasions but have yet to receive a response. The street lighting column was located away from the public road. **ACTION: Cllr Robertson agreed to contact the Street Lighting team to find out why the column was removed.**

Item 8 Secretary's Report/Correspondence

8.1 For discussion on Item a) see Item 2b ii) above.

For discussion on Item b) see Item 7.3 above

For discussion on Item c) see Item 4.2 above.

Item 9 Treasurer's Report

9.1 S Moat reported that the bank balance is £3,232.96, which is made up of:

Balance C/F TMC admin grant £ 2,210.83

Balance C/F Capital funds £ 1,022.13

9.2 Recent payments have been made to renew the website domain, data protection registration and for the printing of leaflets for the Findhorn village Resilience Plan. Any FKCC members with expense claims are urged to complete and submit them as soon as possible.

9.3 R Hutchinson asked if there were sufficient funds to provide refreshments at the forthcoming Resilience Plan Public Meeting (see Item 4.1 above). It was confirmed that the accounts, could cover the expenses. However if the meeting was to be open to other Community Council areas then a request to support the costs of refreshments would be made to Moray Council.

Item 10 Joint Community Council

10.1 JCC Meeting was held on Thursday 10th August and attended by A Skene. She reported two key areas of discussion, prior to the issue of the JCC meeting minutes. The first was a report from Police inspector A Meikleham who stated that post-Covid has been an extremely challenging time for Police Scotland. They have lost many from the workforce so are focusing as best as they can on prevention and partnership work. The continued increase in Cybercrime is a concern. In Moray there is a low incidence of crime and many of the calls received are related to mental health problems. The demands on Police Scotland increase alongside budget constraints from Scottish Government. In the main it will be back-office staff who are affected. Finally due to a lack of resources, it continues to be difficult to get police officers along to Community Council meetings.

10.2 The second area of discussion was a question raised by Forres CC regarding the Moray Growth Deal and which projects would benefit the west of Moray. It was confirmed that there were a number of projects which were based in the west of Moray and/or would benefit the west of Moray. These projects include the Digital Health project which is a Glasgow School of Art collaboration, based at the Altyre Estate. The project will develop applications to support people with a variety of health conditions to self-manage in their own homes and enable independent living. A citizen's panel has been established in west Moray to monitor and support digital health (see Item 4.1 above). There is also a Manufacturing Innovation Centre for Moray to be built in the Forres Enterprise Park which will help local businesses to grow and innovate. The Housing Delivery project will support the development of affordable and private housing at the Dallas Dhu site in Forres and there is a dedicated STEM hub planned for Forres which is due to be opened later this year. The west of Moray will also benefit from two wider Moray projects, the Business Enterprise Hub in Elgin which will support businesses across Moray and the expansion of the new m-Connect bus service in Forres to cover evening and weekend services next year.

Item 11 Moray Councilors' Report

11.1 Cllr Robertson reported that Forres Academy has been identified as having Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). The school is due to be replaced however funding has yet to be confirmed. School exam results across Moray were good in particular the 4th year results which were better than anticipated. Moray Council is to receive a Gold Award Armed Forces Covenant. There is also a Scottish Government consultation on Council Tax which includes significant rises in Council tax for properties in Band E to H which closes on 20 September:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/council-tax-consultation/#:~:text=The%20consultation%20will%20run%20for,in%20Scotland%20than%20in%20England.>

11.2 Cllr Robertson also highlighted that there be forthcoming consultations on the Moray Council's Corporate Plan and Budget and encouraged everyone to respond to these consultations as there will be difficult decision to be made in the future regarding services and budgets.

11.3 Cllr Van Der Horn shared information about a mapping service which would be free for a year and could be used by communities in the development of their Local Place Plans. **ACTION: Cllr Van Der Horn to provide details of this service to Community Council Liaison Officer who will share the information with all community councils.**

11.4 Cllr Van Der Horn reported that there had been a sewage discharge into Findhorn Bay around the 27th July which was believed to have been from Kinloss Barracks. There have been no further discharges. However the trees around the bay near Kinloss have been dying back and there is concern that this might be due to higher salinization levels in the Bay. The die back of the trees is being investigated. There has also been vandalism at the Bird Hide on the bay.

11.5 Cllr Van Der Horn asked if there were any community views on the application process for the new Short Term Let licenses. The general consensus was that the forms were difficult to fill in, over burdensome and not proportionate. There was also concern that it was a flat rate fee regardless of the size of property being let.

Item 12 Findhorn Park Eco Village Report (FPEV)

12.1 M La Tourelle reported that the Moray Council's deadline for submission of interests for Local Place Plans and their Call for Ideas had passed on the 31 July 2023. There had been a series of submissions from parties within the FPEV including from the Findhorn Foundation, the New Findhorn Association and from individuals. In terms of taking forward the Local Place Plans there was a series of presentation by interested parties at a meeting on 12 August 2023. It is understood that the Findhorn Foundation will be submitting a Strategic Development Framework to the Moray Council

12.2 M La Tourelle also shared the news that the Findhorn Foundation had announced that they would be ending their educational programme at the end of September due to financial difficulties. It was also reported that the Community is investigating and preparing for a Community Buy Out of the land owned by the Findhorn Foundation.

Item 13 Planning

13.1 Five planning applications have been submitted for the FKCC area and were discussed during the meeting, no members of the public had approached FKCC members with regard to these applications. It was agreed that there was no planning reason to submit a response.

23/01258/APP Retrospective consent to replace aluminum front door with timber door, 2x roof lights with large Velux roof lights, 7 x UPVC windows with timber windows, install 1 new Velux roof light and 1 new sun pipe to ground floor shower room at 166 Findhorn.

23/01156/APP S42 Application seeking to vary conditions 3 and 4 of full planning permission 21/02011/APP associated with the re-location of the foul pumping stations at Kinloss Barracks, Kinloss.

23/01291/ADV Erect free-standing visitors information board at Kinloss Abbey, Kinloss.

23/00988/APP Change operating period of Holiday Park to 11 months for static caravans, pods and eco-chalets and 12 months for motorhomes, touring caravans and camping at Findhorn Bay Caravan Park, Findhorn.

23/00993/APP New solar array at Copperfield, Whiteinch

Item 14 Any Other Competent Business

14.1 A Skene shared that C Brenton had sadly resigned as a Community Councillor and that there was now a vacancy and a need to agree a new Vice Chair. S Moat volunteered to be Vice Chair. With the resignation of C Brenton there was a need for another signatory on the FKCC bank account. D Anderson volunteered. **ACTION: S Moat to liaise with D Anderson regarding addition to bank account. ACTION: All to consider if there are any people known to them in Kinloss who may wish to join the FKCC.**

14.2 J O'Hagan confirmed that she would organise the Remembrance Sunday events this year and would be in touch with the relevant parties. Cllr Robertson offered to arrange a piper. R Hutchinson volunteered to lay the wreath at the Findhorn War Memorial and S Moat volunteered to lay the wreath at Kinloss. **ACTION: J O'Hagan organise events and to seek support where required from other FKCC members.**

14.3 S Moat reported that the Forres Skate Park would be presented to Moray Council at the end of September.

Item 15 Forthcoming Community Events

15.1 The following forthcoming events were shared:

- Universal Hall promotions can be seen on website www.universalhall.co.uk
- 2nd September Pride in Forres, Grant Park, Forres

Item 16 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 28th September 2023, 7.00pm at the Culbin Room, Kinloss Church, Kinloss.