

Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 31st May 2023, 19:00hrs – Edinkillie Village Hall

FCC members present:

Stewart McCracken (SMcC), Howard Davenport (HD), Anna Gatward (AG), Tony Pinner (TP)

Also present:

Kathleen Robertson TMC (The Moray Council) (KR), Paul McBain (The Moray Council) (PM), Debra Duke (CCLO) (DD), Jude Pinner (minute taker)

1) Apologies

Tom Hardie (TH), Shirley Munn (SM)

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes agreed. Agreed version to be placed on FCC website.

3) Matters Arising

a) Passing Places on Rafford – Dallas Dhu Road

No action to date. KR will raise with TMC colleague **(Action KR)**

b) U88 Junction re-alignment Dunphail

No further information. KR will raise with TMC colleague. **(Action KR)**

4) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic in Rafford

SMcC confirmed the signs have been erected but despite repeated re-setting have not functioned correctly. The suppliers are sending an engineer to investigate the malfunction.

HD reported that Elaine Penny (TMC) is finalising drainage and lighting proposals for the new footpath to enable surfacing to be completed. She has not yet had time to design the village signs because of lack of resources. **(Action HD, EP)**

KR informed FCC that there was no funding for TMC for reducing speed limits to 20mph in built up areas. Nothing will be done until Scot. Gov. funding available.

b) Broadband

TH reported that External Reality, Richard Allan is progressing broadband access towards Old Road, Rafford.

It is expected that he will be receiving support from FDT that will unlock his use of OpenReach poles and ducts to significantly speed up deployment to the rest of Rafford. SMcC noted that FDT have approved the financing of the fee for OpenReach.

Responsibility for rural broadband has just been transferred to Richard Lochhead in his new Ministerial post. At a FABa meeting last Monday he was left in no doubt as to the local business community's feelings. SMcC is currently trying to arrange a meeting with Lochhead and Nesbitt and is waiting for a response to his emails. **(Action SMcC)**

c) Brochloch Development

TP reported that FDT were now waiting to hear from TMC that a grant from the “Revolving Fund” was approved to pay for the next stage of the design process. This grant will be repaid, if the scheme proceeds, from the development funding.

d) Windfarm Developments and Energising Moray

Nothing to report on airspace proposal over Clashgour windfarm.

Energising Moray has been re-branded as Community Energy Moray (CEM) and are working with Energy4All.

A Key Initiative is to get involved with Community Participation in the EDF Clashgour Windfarm. CEM have formed a Community Benefit Society (Bencom) to administer the community participation. It is planned that this will become a membership organisation, with members having the opportunity to invest in the Wind Farm, with benefits of the investment yet to be determined. It was suggested that residents may get discounted shares.

CEM have offered to come and talk to FCC in more detail. **(Action: HD to register interest)**

EDF have also committed to provide community benefit at the Scottish Governments recommended rate of £5000 per MW, potentially realising a sum for over £1m p.a. It was suggested at the meeting that FCC approach EDF/Force9 to understand how this may be distributed, with the hope that some of this fund may come to Finderne. **(Action HD)**

e) JCC meeting Feedback

SMcC was not able to attend the meeting but has the minutes. DD informed that the next meeting will be 10th August, venue t.b.c. She informed us that the 50th anniversary of Community Councils was upcoming and could we provide some stories about FCC that could be put in any literature produced. TP suggested it gives us the opportunity to highlight what we have done (FDT, Blairs Loch, Traffic Calming etc.) and perhaps enable us to get more local interest in FCC. DD and PM also suggested FCC could get together with Dyke, Forres and Findhorn CCs to write a regular piece in the Forres Gazette to engage public interest. DD offered to assist in co-ordinating the four councils by approaching the other three councils. **(Action DD, TP)**

f) Resilience Planning

SMcC reiterated the need to identify the risks to the community and will work with SM and HD to identify the residents who offered to assist in emergencies and identify the assets offered. TH is currently investigating the use of the Musk satellite phone which may address long term communication issues. DD suggested Rhona McNicol, Community Support Officer, may be able to help by facilitating a workshop to formulate risks and solutions.

(Action DD, 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 and remains to be convinced of the commitment of Forres Health Centre. He will discuss the minutes of the planning meeting at the next FCC meeting **(Action TH)**

5) Pending items

a) Wildfires

HD has asked R Lochhead and D Ross who is the Minister responsible for Community Safety and Forestry Management Practices, with respect to wildfires. FCC were informed that Siobhan Brown was the “Minister for Victims” and may be the person to approach re: wildfire management. TP suggested that the recent early spell of wildfires could reinforce the urgency of a positive response. **(Action HD)**

6) Planning Report

Nothing to report from the planning lists for FCC area. TMC are investigating a query from a resident about the “appropriateness” of the Leylandii hedge in the new house opposite Tullochwood Lodges. TP was concerned about roadwork signs being left by contractors and was given TMC contact details to request the removal of them. **(Action TP)**

7) Secretaries Report

HD informed the meeting of the following email correspondence received since the last meeting:

- Scottish Parliament Boundary review consultation open – does not affect Moray
- Community Energy and Climate Action Fair taking place in Elgin Town Hall on Saturday morning 20th May.
- Basic Life Support With AED Training May 22nd. No FCC members were available but further training will be organized.
- Moray West Police Community Safety Partnership newsletter for April 2022 rec'd
- Corshellach Energy Project public exhibition 11th May, comments by Friday 26th May.
- SSEN Transmission Project – public meeting 25th April , feedback by 9th June.
- Letter from Community Energy Moray – an update and offer of meeting.
- 2nd May – Email from Garry McCartney of Forres Gazette, looking for a story on the possibility of Satellite Communications as a part of local resilience planning. It was agreed that we should complete the resilience planning before publicising measures we may take.
- Agenda for JCC on 11th May. Plus minutes of previous JCC.
- FCC insurance with Zurich, new policy docs received, based on 1st April 2023 renewal.
- Logie Primary newsletter received.
- Update from TSI Moray, including volunteering and funding opportunities.
- Co-op Local Community fund launched, applications by 11th June.
- Leancoil project update presentation on Tuesday 20th June, to be included in next FCC community newsletter.

8) Treasurers Report

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

Bank @ 31May 2023 £20,342.15 [£20k SSEN Resilient Communities Fund + £342.15 Moray Council Admin Grant Balance]

9) AOCB

Nothing raised.

9) Date & Venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 12th July 2023 – Rafford Village Hall.