

Meeting Notes

Meeting on Wednesday 23rd August 2023 at Edinkillie Hall

FCC members present:

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

Also present:

Kathleen Robertson TMC (KR), Andy Munro (AM), Juli Salt (JS), Stephen Fraser (SF)

Apologies:

Jude Pinner, Anne Garrow, Anna Gatward

1) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed. It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Anne Garrow, Juli Salt and Kathleen Robertson.

2) Matters Arising

a. Passing places on Rafford – Dallas Dhu road

It was noted that there 2 issues here:

- i) KR had responded previously that it was not clear whether the passing place required by planning application 18/01583/APP had been constructed. KR to pass this to Planning Enforcement for action. (Action KR)
- ii) The 2 existing passing places in this area are overgrown and/or poorly marked. KR has passed this to Roads Maintenance for action.

b. A940 Road Junction at Edinkillie Church

AM reported that road workers had been marking out a proposed new junction layout, replacing the current Y junction with a T junction. Both representatives from the Edinkillie community at the meeting felt that this layout would be less safe than the existing layout.

KR had previously reported that any new junction was awaiting funding from the Scottish Government Road Safety Fund. She assured the meeting that the local community would be consulted prior to approval of any proposed change to the road layout. However, AM reported that he had previously been told that no consultation would take place, and had contacted Douglas Ross about his concerns.

KR to confirm consultation would take place. **(Action KR)**

3) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

- **Provision of a pavement in Upper Rafford**

HD had spoken to Elaine Penny (EP) of TMC Roads department who reported the contract for pavement construction would go out for tender before the end of August, with contracts awarded by end of September. The work would most likely be completed by Christmas, depending on contractors and materials lead times.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

SMcC reported that all 4 signs are now working. The meeting thanked SMcC and TP for all their work on testing and retesting the signs. The rebate from the suppliers for the problems would stay in the FCC bank account.

SMcC is following up on maintenance costs and funding for this. **(Action SMcC)**

EP had suggested that now the signs are in place that TMC would do a further comparative speed measurement test. TP has already downloaded the first batch of data from the signs, and has offered to share this with TMC.

- **Village Entrance Signs**

HD/TP showed a series of designs that EP had provided and chose the following design.

(Action: HD to feedback to EP)



b) Broadband

TH recapped the statement from the last meeting, and concluded that the provision of fibre broadband under R100 from OpenReach could slip to 2026 under the terms of their current contract.

It was suggested that a community meeting should be held where Richard Allen of External Reality and TH could explain the situation to community members, and advise householders of their options. It was suggested that this could take place at a Village Café event at Rafford Village Hall. **(Action: HD to contact Village Café team)**

The meeting approved the changes to the Broadband page on the FCC website suggested by TH. **(Action HD to implement on webpage)**

Following the inconclusive meeting with Lochhead and Nesbit, it was that FCC should keep up the pressure, by expressing our dissatisfaction with the slipping timeline for R100, and seeking clarity on the potential impact on R100 in Rafford from a 3rd party fibre rollout. It was suggested that Douglas Ross was also copied in. **(Action SMcC to send email)**

c) **Brockloch Field Development**

SMcC reported that FDT were now in receipt of funding to enable the architects to advance the design to the next stage.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

HD reported that Alex Walker of Community Energy Moray (CEM) has agreed to attend our next meeting to give an update on CEM activities and Community Participation in the Clashgour Windfarm.

e) **Joint Community Council**

HD attended the last meeting on 10th August. Topics covered include:

- Police report:- maintaining frontline services despite increase demand (mental health call ins particular) and reduced manpower and budget.
- Moray Growth Deal and how it affects the West of Moray
- Resilience Planning: Resilience group meeting 21/9.
- SSEN Consultation on Community Benefit for Overhead Powerlines

f) **Resilience Planning**

HD to follow up again with Rhona McNicoll about facilitating a FINDERNE Community Resilience Workshop. **(Action: HD)**

SM has a list of community members who have expressed an interest in helping with Resilience Issues.

g) **Forres Health Services**

TH attended a virtual meeting of the Forres Area of the Moray Health Partnership on digital access to services. (ironically Broadband issues hampered this). TH will urge the group to consider how many in the community are not digitally enabled. **(Action: TH)**

h) **Newtyle Access Road**

SMcC reported that all Businesses and Residents who use the road have agreed to fund road improvements (Businesses paying the greatest share). Most monies have been deposited in the FCC bank account. The repair work will include filling potholes and resurfacing the road with tarmac. Work to commence in October.

i) **Pending Items**

i) **Wild Fires**

It was agreed that mitigation of the impact of wild fires would be included in discussions on resilience, and to close this agenda item.

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP reported no new planning applications since the previous meeting.

TP still to hear back from Planning about the Leylandii hedge that had been planted at a new dwelling on B9010 south of Upper Rafford. (Planning permission specified indigenous species).

TP had raised concerns with TMC Planning Department on the potential impact of increased traffic on the Rafford Dallas Dhu road due to the proposed development of additional housing at Dallas Dhu. TMC yet to respond.

TP has registered FCC's interest in Local Place Plans, and TP and TH provided some examples. It was recognised that the development of a plan would take a lot of work, but that it may be better for the area if we were pro-active to avoid other parties taking the lead on development in Finderne.

TP and SMcC to attend an information meeting on the subject on 28th September. **(Action: TP/SMcC)**

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD gave a summary of correspondence received by email:

Correspondence up to 22th August 2023:

- 13 Jul – draft minutes of JCC Transport forum
- 17 July – FACT newsletter
- 19 July - The Moray Council Community Wealth building strategy is now out for consultation. Closes 2nd August.
- 24th July – Survey from Rhona Nicol on Resilience Training needs
- 28th July – Community Energy Moray newsletter
- 1st Aug – opportunity for Basic Life Saving Skills with AED Training' with Outfit Moray on 23rd August
- 4th Aug – Annual Data Protection Fee from ICO reminder, direct debit.
- 4th Aug – Agenda for JCC meeting 10th August.
- 6th Aug – CSP newsletter from Moray West Police
- 7th Aug – Scottish Community Councils newsletter
- 7th Aug – Moray Local Action Group Funding Year 2 Open
- 7th Aug – TSI newsletter
- 8th Aug – SSEN Community Benefit Consultation, closed 10th August
- 14th Aug – notice of overnight resurfacing in A96 in Elgin from 20th Aug to 2nd Sept.
- 15th Aug – TSI newsletter - Sustainable Clothing Cafe | Volunteer Equalities Training | Moray Local Action Fund
- 22nd Aug – JCC Transport Forum Agenda

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

AG provided the following update prior to the meeting:

Bank balance £ 36,254.80:

- £20,000 SSEN
- £589.60 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £15,425.20 Newtyle Road funds
- £240 refund from Stocksigns for FCC use

7) AOCB

Rafford Village Hall

JS reported that visibility was restricted when exiting Rafford Village Hall carpark in a vehicle. Others agreed. It was suggested that the stone pillar that restricts the view could be lowered. TP and SMcC suggested funds may be available from FDT Community Facilities Project. HD to contact Village Hall to discuss. **(Action HD)**

Mini Wetlands

TH has contacted TMC with a view to creating a mini-wetland project beside the burn to the north of Lower Rafford.

Projector and Screen

It was noted that the use of projector and screen (belonging to TH) has been a very useful asset at the meeting, and should be used again in future when appropriate.

New Residents

HD noted that a number of houses were on the market in Rafford, and reminded the meeting that FCC have a pamphlet design for new residents. It was also noted a number of properties in Edinkillie/Dunphail were also on the market.

FDT e-Bulletin

HD reminded the meeting that the FDT had committed, in our joint FDT/FCC meeting in November 2022, to produce a monthly e-Bulletin to keep the community up to date on Brockloch and other FDT projects. Nothing had yet been issued. HD to send a reminder to Ian Chorlton at FDT.

8) Next meeting

Next meeting 7:00 pm – Wednesday 27th September 2023, at Rafford Village Hall.