

Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 8th November 2023 at Edinkillie Community Hall

FCC members present:

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

Also present:

Rob Parkinson, Andy Munro(AM), Kathleen Robertson (KR)

Apologies:

Tony Pinner (TP), Tom Hardie (TH), Juli Salt, Anne Garrow, Paul McBain

1) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed.

2) Matters Arising

a. Passing places on Rafford – Dallas Dhu road

Overgrown Passing Places and Dilapidated Signs. HD reported that FCC had received a response from Moray Council Roads Department to the effect that they had insufficient funds to maintain passing place signs, or add new signs, due to other priorities. They would ask the Roads Maintenance team to review the overgrown verges at the existing passing places.

b. A940 Road Junction at Edinkillie Church

HD reported that he had forwarded the email from Dianne Anderson, explaining the Roads Department plans for the junction, to the interested community members. FCC have also requested a sketch to clarify the explanation. **(Action: HD monitor the response)**

c. Rafford Village Hall access visibility

It was reported that Rafford Village Hall had spoken to their northern neighbour, and that RVH was getting a quote for lowering the wall to improve visibility. They had been told that TMC Roads Department would not approve a mirror at the exit. SMcC pointed out that FDT would be funding some work at the Hall and suggested that this work is included in that package.

(Action: HD to monitor progress)

d. FDT e-Bulletin

HD reported that FDT had issued an update on most of the projects in the 2022-23 Annual Operating Plan.

e. Car Park charging in Forres

KR explained that TMC were looking at all potential ways to increase revenue. As carpark charging is in place in Elgin, they were looking to extend this to other towns. However they were aware that some of the Forres car parks are on Common Good ground, and TMC were seeking legal opinions on how this could be managed. Once a feasible plan was put together, there would be a community consultation on the subject.

HD mentioned some concerns raised at the previous meeting: impact on rural communities that need to drive to Forres, and impact on the shops on Forres High Street.

3) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

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

HD reported that Elaine Penny had still not received the design drawings that would allow her to go to tender for the work. So the work would not start this year, but she needed the work to be completed before end of March 2024 for budget reasons.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

SMcC and TP had met on site with the signs supplier, and all the signs are now working. SMcC told the meeting that he had agreed with the supplier that the 5 year warranty would start now, and that no ongoing maintenance work was required.

- **Village Entrance Signs**

HD reported that the field at the South end of Upper Rafford, where we need to widen the verge to accommodate a new sign, is currently up for sale. Upon hearing this Elaine Penny had notified the selling agents of our interest in widening the verge.

b) Broadband

HD reported that the Broadband Update meeting held in Rafford Village Hall on 25th October had been very successful with around 75 people attending. The FCC website has been updated with the a summary of the presentations made at the meeting.

It was agreed that FCC should try to arrange a further meeting, focussing on the R100 fibre rollout, hopefully with attendance from Richard Lochhead (MSP), Duncan Nisbet (Scottish Government), and Robert Thorburn (Openreach). **(Action: HD to arrange meeting)**

c) Brockloch Field Development

HD reported that an update on this project had been included in the FDT newsletter.

Post meeting note: The newsletter said:

RIBA stage 2-4 (The design Phase) commenced 15th September with an approximate running time of 6-8 months. Once this is completed the project can be sent out for tender to contractors.

Once prices are received the main funding from the Rural Housing Fund can be applied for.

Shortly after construction has commenced the application process will be opened to prospective applicants to either rent or purchase the affordable homes being built.

Our progress will be updated via this newsletter after every board meeting.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

The only update was from AM, who reported a lot of vehicle activity on the Berryburn 2 site, presumably conducting detailed geophysical surveys

e) **Joint Community Council**

No JCC meeting since last FCC meeting. Next JCC meeting 9th November, but nobody from FCC available to attend.

f) **Resilience Planning**

TMcC agreed to contact Rhona McNicol from Moray Council who had agreed to assist in facilitating a Resilience Workshop in Finderne, in order to identify risks and prioritise possible mitigations.

(Action: TMcC)

g) **Forres Health Services**

TH reported no movement since the last FCC meeting.

h) **Newtyle Access Road**

AG reported the work complete and residents very pleased.

i) **Pending Items**

None

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP had reported by email:

- No new planning applications since the previous meeting.
- The land for sale at the southern end of the village is being sold as agricultural land, it currently has no PP for housing or development.
- No response from Planning Dept to the query about the planting and access to the site at Brockwood (New house opposite Tulloch Lodges) despite regular emails to MC Planners to ask what the outcome of our query was)

Notes from previous meetings

- 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 up to 8th November 2023:

- 5-Oct :- Queries from Debra Duke to all CC's on usage of Admin grant
- 6-Oct :- CSP from Moray Police West
- 12-Oct :- Report on Rafford Village Hall AGM
- 16-Oct:- Grant Speed at Moray Council says new wild flower seeds not yet available. Would be best if community continue maintenance but if they cannot the council will.
- 18-Oct:- invite from SSEN to participate in telephone survey
- 19-Oct: Outfit Moray 1st Sid course timetable to March 2024
- 20-Oct: from Dyke CC, wanting info on Vehicle Activated signs
- 27-Oct: from various community members asking for more info on Broadband Update
- 1-Nov: response to Jim Grant of Moray Council saying they had no had input into broadband prioritization
- 2-Nov : TMC Budget process. Email from Debra Duke saying *"Please see information about the budget 2024/25 process and a survey that is open until 22 November. Please complete the survey and pass this on within your communities to encourage others to complete the survey. "*
- 4th Nov:- October CSP from Moray West Police
- 6-Nov:- from Garry McCartney of Forres Gazette asking for more info on CC membership drive

Action arising: HD to circulate TMC budget survey via community newsletter.

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

AG provided the following update prior to the meeting:

- Bank balance as @ 7Nov23 £20,837.54:
 - £20,000 SSEN funds
 - £539.75 Moray Council Admin grant balance
 - £240 refund from Sock Signs
 - £57.79 Newtyle Road balance of residents' funds to be used for salting

All of Newtyle Access Road funds now received and paid to Highland Surfacing.

7) AOCB

- **Forres Academy**

KR reported that the upper floors of the old building were unusable, so pupils are being transported to other schools for extra-mural activities.

A consultation on the new build school for Forres would take place early next year. Current possibilities are Roysvale Park or Lochie Hill.

- **Gritting for Newtyle Road**

Although the new road is not adopted it was recommend to ask Roads Department to provide a salt bin or salt pile.

- **FCC Membership**

HD reported that TP had produced a poster to encourage folk to join the FCC. It is displayed at Rafford Village Hall, but not yet in Edinkillie Hall, (Action: HD)

HD reported that he had provide Garry McCartney of Forres Gazette some information on the work of FCC, for a planned article on community council recruitment.

8) Next meeting

Next meeting and AGM: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 13th December 2023, at Rafford Village Hall.