

Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 24th January 2024 at Edinkillie Community Hall

FCC members present:

Tony Pinner (TP), Anna Gatward (AG), Howard Davenport (HD), Stewart Mc Cracken (SM)

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Andrew Kemp, Susan Kemp, Pete Mitchel (PM), Roy Dennis, Juli Salt, Ian Chorlton, Sean Lusk, Mark Abbs

Apologies:

Anne Garrow, Kathleen Robertson

1) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed.

2) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

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

HD reported that the footpath construction work was out to tender, with returns due in today. Work is planned to start early March.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

SMcC reported that 2 of the VAS signs were now not working, The suppliers chief engineer had visited the site prior to Christmas to fix a sign. SMcC has trying to contact with the suppliers again, but would now try to seek “pro bono” advice from a lawyer to advise on the text for a “stern” letter with the objective of replacing all the signs or getting our money back. **(Action: SMcC)**

- **Village Entrance Signs**

HD reported that Elaine Penny had been in contact with the buyers of the field at the South end of Upper Rafford, where we need to widen the verge to accommodate a new sign, but had no further information. **(Action: HD to follow up)**

b) Broadband

TH reported a confusing exchange in the Scottish Parliament, culminating with the First Minister advised that the remainder of contracted premises will be connected to superfast broadband between now and 2028.

TH advised that the ScotlandSuperfast postcode checker is broken (post meeting note: now back on-line). Premises in both Upper and Lower Rafford are shown for connection by end of March 2025. RD and AM reported survey work being carried out on behalf of OpenReach in the Edinkillie area, where connection is also shown to be scheduled for end of March 2025.

TH further reported the following from the alternative provider, External Reality:

- They have three properties in Upper Rafford with approved vouchers, which has secured the funding needed to bring a fibre backhaul to Upper Rafford.
- Survey work will commence by mid-February, which will include rodding between chambers in Lower and Upper Rafford. Excavation will be required on Old Road and the B9010 with traffic management in place.
- Provided no blockages or damage are found, the link between Lower and Upper will commence end February/early March.

HD reported that FCC are trying to arrange a further meeting, with attendance from Richard Lochhead (MSP), Duncan Nisbet (Scottish Government), and Robert Thorburn (Openreach) to focus on the R100 fibre rollout. **(Action: HD to arrange meeting)**

c) **Brockloch Field Development**

IC gave a report on the current status:

- An FDT newsletter had recently been circulated outlining the status of all FDT Projects including Brockloch
- Design Stage 3 was underway and would be completed by end of March, followed by the Planning Application
- Self-Build option had been removed
- 8 properties would be for rental and 3 for sale, with prices/rents roughly 30% below market rates

In response to a query of why garages would not be included in the design, IC replied that in order to maintain an affordable build prices these were not included, and suggested that residents could erect sheds for storage if required. IC also suggested that some communal storage for bicycles etc may be provided at a later stage.

IC also announced that a Brockloch Project Information Day has been scheduled for Wednesday 6th March, with architects present, and would hear any comments from member of the community. IC also confirmed that the information presented on the day would be available on-line for those unable to attend.

In answer to a query, IC stated that the development would not be "Passiv Haus" certified as such, but would have higher insulation values than the minimum required by current standards.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

HD reported the following:

- Lethen Windfarm had received objections from the Highland Council and would be going to Public Enquiry early in 2024.
- Berryburn Windfarm had sent out an update with the following timeline:
 - Q1 2024 Community Liaison Group meetings
 - Q2 2024 Construction Contacts tendering
 - Q4 2024 Confirm project Financing
 - Q1 2025 Start Construction
 - Q3 2026 Project Operational

e) **Joint Community Council**

HD reported that no JCC had been held since the last FCC meeting, but that the next meeting was to be held Thursday evening, 8th February, by Zoom.

f) **Resilience Planning**

IT was agreed that a Resilience Workshop should be held soon. Several community member present expressed an interest in being involved. FCC to contact Rhona McNicol from Moray Council to arrange a date. **(Action: HD)**

g) **Forres Health Services**

TH reported that no NHS Forres Locality Planning Group meeting had been held since the last FCC meeting. The next meeting is on 20th February. **(Action: TH to attend)**

3) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. **A940 Road Junction at Edinkillie Church**

AM is still concerned about the safety of the proposed changes to the junction, and reported ongoing dialogue with Roads Department and Douglas Ross. It was agreed that a meeting on-site with AM and FCC members to discuss these concerns should take place. **(Action: ??)**

b. **FCC membership**

It was stressed that Finderne CC urgently needed new members. With SMcC intending to resign we be left with just 4 members. In answer to a query, HD confirmed that 4 members constitute a quorum, and the maximum no of members is 7. All FCC members and community representatives were urged to contact potential members. **(Action: all)**

Post meeting note. The Rafford Village Hall recruitment poster had disappeared. **(Action: HD to provide another poster to RVH.)**

c. **Local Place Plans**

HD noted that the next quarterly Local Place Plan meeting would take place on 29th January. TP told the meeting that he could not attend. HD to check hi9s availability. **(Action: HD)**

d. **Community Council Funding Model**

HD suggested that he forward a table of current suggestions for items to be included to FCC members to finalise our budget request. **(Action: HD)**

e. **Finderne Development Trust 5 year Plan**

HD reported that FCC had received a reply from FDT regarding concerns about the lack of consultation on the proposed 5-Year Plan. This letter explains the process, but does not address the lack of consultation. IC and SMcC stated that the new 5-year plan was now available on FDT website, and that the FDT was open to any ideas that the members of the community wished to bring forward. However many of those present re-iterated concerns about lack of consultation prior to the Plan being finalised.

I was agree to send a letter back to FDT, asking them, in lieu of prior consultation, to actively seek comments on the Plan from community members, and committing to re-issue and updated version based on comment received. **(Action: HD to draft letter and circulate to FCC members)**

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP had reported by email:

- No new planning applications since the previous meeting.
- TP agreed to follow-up with TMC Planning Department about the lack of response to 2 previous emails sent regarding planning concerns. **(Action: TP)**
- HD noted that a consultation event had been held today (24th January) in Forres about the Dallas Dhu Residential Development. (Post Meeting Note: information available until 31st January on TMC Website.)

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD gave a summary of correspondence received by email 23rd January 2024:

- 19-Dec Lethen Windfarm Update – Public Enquiry early 2024
- 22-Dec Berryburn Windfarm Update – timeline
- 3-Jan Edinkillie Hall Fire Procedure
- 4-Jan December CSP Newsletter from Moray West Police
- 4-Jan A9 Dualling Programme Update – plan to complete by 2035
- 9-Jan Notice of next JCC meeting – Thursday Evening 8th Feb by Zoom
- 11-Jan Report on the September 2023 Moray Resilience workshop
- 16-Jan Notice of Local Place Plan Quarterly meeting – Monday Evening 29th January
- 16-Jan Notice of Dallas Dhu Housing - Community Engagement Event - 24th January
- 18-Jan m.Connect Bus Project update
- 21-Jan Response from FDT on 5 Year Plan
- 22-Jan Email from RVH – Grit needed at RVH Carpark, & funding for Defib maintenance
- 22-Jan Notice of rescheduled Moray Transport Forum meeting on Teams, Tues 23rd Jan

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

AG provided the following update prior to the meeting:

- Bank Balance £21,017.99
 - £20,000 SSEN Resilient Fund;
 - £720.20 Moray Council Admin Grant balance;
 - £57.79 Residents of Newtyle Access Road;
 - £240 Stocksigns compensation

7) AOCB

- **Mini-wetlands Project**

TH is planning to create a “mini wetlands” area on some by the Rafford burn in Lower Rafford. He will write to Moray Council to discuss. **(Action TH)**

- **Grit and Salt Piles and Bins.**

Having received an email from Rafford Village Hall asking about salt/grit for their carpark HD had replied that in the first place RVH should contact the Council Roads Dept. It was noted that the council had left piles of grit at the roadside in various places, to be used by road users as they saw fit. HD suggested contacting the council to get clarity on the council policy.

(Action : HD)

Some of the community members present raised the issue that salt piles were detrimental to the local environment, and the use of grit bins, or grit only mixes would be better.

- **Finderne CC Chairperson**

SMcC indicated that he is resigning as Chairperson and Member of FCC. TC thanked SMcC for all the work and effort that he had put in.

8) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 6th March 2024, at Rafford Village Hall.