

Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present:

Tony Pinner (TP), Anna Gatward (AG), Howard Davenport (HD), Tom Hardie (TH)

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Andrew Kemp, Susan Kemp, Rob Parkinson, Margaret Birnie, Pat Hern, Mark Abbs, Kathleen Robertson, Peter Taylor

Apologies:

Anne Garrow, Niall MacDonald

1) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed.

2) Proposal of new member

HD proposed that Peter Taylor join the Community Council as a Co-opted Member. Seconded by TH and TP. HD will complete the Co-option forms and forward to Debra Duke for ratification.

3) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

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

HD reported that the footpath construction work was due to start on 25th March.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

TP reported that he and Stewart McCracken had recently fixed the 2 non-working signs, based on a procedure advised by the supplier. TP was thanked for his work on this. It was suggested that FCC review the requirement for a maintenance contract. PT agreed to review the contract. **(Action: PT)**

In the meantime, it was agreed to monitor any maintenance requirements, and TH and HD volunteered to cover any maintenance activities.

- **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. Although a plan for a new fence line had been discussed, Elaine was unable to agree to a new field entrance, as she suggested that was a planning issue. She had suggested that FCC contact the owner. **(Action: HD to follow up)**

b) Broadband

HD reported that FCC had received a response from Richard Lochhead, saying that OpenReach surveys in the area would be completed by the end of March. He suggested a public meeting in early April, for Openreach to answer any queries from the public. **(Action: HD to arrange a meeting)**

TH reported that the alternative supplier, External Reality, had been working on the ducting between Lower and Upper Rafford, and had found a blockage near to Old Road, Lower Rafford, which would require some excavation work.

c) Brockloch Field Development

TP reported that the FDT had held an open meeting on 6th March, to present the current layout to the community. FCC had asked for a copy of the presentation materials to be provided for those who had been unable to attend. Ian Chorlton had provided a and had agreed that we could pass these on. **(Action: HD to provide a link on FCC Website).**

It was observed that the new layout was a more compact arrangement, which reduced the amount of internal roadways required, and provided more space for community projects.

d) Windfarm Developments

HD reported that planning consent had been granted to the Carn Duhie wind farm, just to the west of Finderne, and south of Ferness.

AM reported that drilling work for ground surveys was continuing on the Clash Gour wind farm.

TP reported that he had attended a meeting on the SEEN plans for the 400KVa Power Transmission Line upgrade.

e) Joint Community Council

TP reported that he had tried to attend the JCC meeting held on 8th February, but the virtual connection using Zoom had been ineffective.

f) Resilience Planning

TP reported that meeting was being planned including FDT and the Rafford Village Hall (RVH) committee, to discuss the feasibility of Solar Generation, and Batteries Storage RVH. This could reduce the power costs for RVH, and the battery element could provide limited power in the event of power cuts. The SSEN Resilience grant could be used to meet part of the cost.

HD noted that the original application for the SSEN grant had also included some provision for Edinkillie Community Hall.

HD reported that he had not yet contacted Rhona McNicol from Moray Council to arrange a date for a Resilience Workshop **(Action: HD)**

g) Forres Health Services

TH reported on the NHS Forres Locality Planning Group meeting had been held on 20th February.

He reported a severe problem in recruiting staff in the area. He also reported that the group was having difficulty persuading the practices to communicate effectively with the community, and that

the practices were unwilling to set up a Patient Partnership Group. Better communication of how to seek treatment could reduce frustration.

KR identified that the Moray Council did have some input at a strategic level, through the Integrated Joint Board, comprising of TMC, NHS, and Health and Social Care Moray.

AM reported first had experience of inefficiency, in that multiple visits had been required to pick up Occupational Health equipment no longer required.

PT queried whether volunteers could help out in some medical practice functions.

4) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. A940 Road Junction at Edinkillie Church

AM reported work is now in progress at the junction. However the contractors managed to cut off the telephone lines in the area, which were out of action for 6 days. He also reported that some of the drainage work may not pass the test of time as damage had already been caused by heavy vehicles.

b. FCC membership

While it was great to have PT on board as a member, HD requested all FCC members and community representatives to contact further potential members. **(Action: all)**

HD reported that the recruitment poster at RVH had been replaced.

c. Local Place Plans

HD reported that he had attended the quarterly Local Place Plan meeting would take place on 29th January, and had circulated the information to members. The Local Place Plans were to be the basis of the next Moray Development Plan, and the timeline was to have something in place by September 2024. The downside of not getting involved could be that others may set the development priorities for FINDERNE.

It was agreed the FCC should collaborate with FDT on this. The next quarterly meeting has been set for 30th April 2024.

d. Community Council Funding Model

HD/AG have sent information on required funding to Debra Duke. Item closed.

e. FINDERNE Development Trust 5 year Plan

HD sent an email to FDT expressing our concerns about the lack of consultation on the new FDT 5-Year Plan. A response was received from the FDT Chairperson, saying that they have found postal surveys and have limited value, but they have been in dialogue with friends, neighbours and community groups. The plan was not set in stone, and they welcome community feedback.

The meeting agreed to take no further action and close this item.

f. Lower Rafford Mini-Wetland

TH elaborated on his idea to create a wetland area in Lower Rafford, in the location of the Flood alleviation diversion of the Rafford Burn. The idea would be to encourage a wetland habitat in this area, to reduce the need for mowing, whilst maintaining the diversion channel. KR suggested that Will Burnet of TMC Flood Alleviation Team would be the person to contact. **(Action: TH)**

g. Road Gritting

In response to a query about TMC strategy on Road Gritting, FCC had received a response from Roads Dept, identifying various road priorities for gritting. The Roads team also leave salt/grit piles at strategic locations for public use on the roads. They would not provide grit bins but would fill a limited number of bins provided by others. However, they would not provide grit for village halls.

The meeting agreed not to pursue the provision of grit bins, on the grounds of appearance, so the matter is closed.

5) Planning Report (TP)

TP reported that a planning application had been made for 4 houses in the Templestones area. As this area is designated as a Rural Cluster within the current Local Area Development Plan, there would be no grounds for objection regarding location. However, TP reported local concerns about run-off from sewage treatment being directed to a ditch which floods onto the road. It was agreed to make this point to the Planning Department. (Action: TP)

TH had received “neighbour notification” of a revised planning application for a triangular plot on Old Road, Lower Rafford. He did not think the building line and roof line fitted in with existing housing. (Action: TP to investigate)

6) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD gave a summary of correspondence received by email to 13th March 2024:

30-Jan Email from community member, notifying us that they are not on R100 rollout despite it going past their property, asking for advice. Responded by HD.

30-Jan Further request from Debra Duke on CC running costs. Responded by AG and HD.

31-Jan Agenda for JCC 8-Feb-2024.

31-Jan MLOAF vacancies

31-Jan FCC response to Dallas Dhu housing Pre-application notice

1-Feb Email from Dianne Anderson TMC Road dept, indication works to start at A940/Glencarnie junction

2-Feb Response from TMC Planning dept on landscaping and planting at Brookfield, Rafford.

2-Feb Notice that Carn Duhie wind farm has been consented

4-Feb Moray Police West CSP for January received

12-Feb Pre-Application Notice for erection of Telecoms tower at Beachans, Edinkillie.

13-Feb email from R Lochhead saying that Openreach Survey work in our area should be complete by end March, and suggesting a public meeting early April

13-Feb Response form Karen Astill, chair of FDT to our email expressing concerns about lack of consultation prior to issue of FDT new 5 @Year Plan.

- 15-Feb Notice of SSEN 400kv OHL project CC briefing call
- 16-Feb Notice of m.connect Phae 2 customer engagement meetings
- 16-Feb Logie Primary School newsletter
- 19-Feb Rec'd Moray LDP 2027 Evidence report Energy. Response required by 11th March.
- 4-Mar Response from TMC Roads dept on Gritting.
- 4-Mar Agenda for Moray Transport Forum meeting on 5th March
- 4-Mar Moray Police West CSP for February received
- 7-Mar Reminder from Debra Duke for nomination for Road safety Champions
- 7-Mar Rec'd draft of Forres ASG Spirit of Community document, for comments by 19th March
- 7-Mar Local Place Plans update and notice of next quarterly meeting on 30th April.
- 11-Mar Received copy of Brockloch Project presentation materials

7) Treasurers Report (AG)

AG provided the following update prior to the meeting:

- Bank Balance £23,005.99
 - £20,000 SSEN Resilient Fund;
 - £708.20 Moray Council Admin Grant balance:
 - £57.79 Residents of Newtyle Access Road:
 - £240 Stocksigns compensation
 - £2000 funding from TMC to be passed to Rafford Village Hall for wall repairs

8) AOCB

- Moray Council Report. KR provided an update of recent activities
 - The Moray Council Budget had been approved with cross-party support
 - In response to the murder of a bus driver in Elgin, extra youth workers were being hired to focus on antisocial behaviour, plus 2 community workers
 - TMC had agreed to reduce the use of Glyphosate
 - ASN Early Learning had been re-instated in the budget
 - Corporate Plan agreed
 - New Forres School public consultation planned for April
 - D Day memorial celebration 6th and 8th June
 - TMC looking for new Chief Executive
 - A £15,000 Ward Fund had been established, resulting in the £200 award for RVH.

9) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 24^h April 2024, at Edinkillie Community Hall.