

Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at Edinkillie Community Hall

FCC members present:

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

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Pat Hern, Juli Salt, Rosemary Pannell (FDT)

Apologies:

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 underway after some initial hiccups with the location of contactors compound and traffic lights.

PT noted that traffic calming in the form of a chicane had been installed on St Leonards Road in Forres, and asked whether this had been considered as part of the pavement in Upper Rafford.

TP replied that the idea had been rejected by Roads Department as the road is a Forestry Extraction Route, and there is insufficient traffic to make it effective. HD advised that painted road markings were to be installed at crossing points.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

HD reported that Debra Duke (CLO) had asked for confirmation of FCC ownership of the VAS signs to be include in the meeting minutes. All members agreed.

AG had flagged up that an addition insurance premium, to be paid by FCC, had been requested by Debra Duke, due to inclusion of the VAS signs on FCC's asset register. PT offered to follow up, and check out what the additional premium covers. **(Action: PT)**

- **Village Entrance Signs**

HD reported no further progress. This situation remains that Elaine had suggested that FCC contact the new owner of the field at the South end of Upper Rafford, where the council need to widen the verge to accommodate a new sign, as she had been unable to agree to their request for a new field entrance. **(Action: HD to follow up)**

b) **Broadband**

HD reported good progress on organising a public meeting to discuss the status of the OpenReach R100 plan to install fibre broadband in Finderne.

- Date: 20th May at 7:00 om in Rafford Church (not Church Hall)
- Speakers: Richard Lochhead (Scottish Government Minister and local MSP), Duncan Nisbett (Scottish Government), Robert Thorburn (OpenReach)

The objective will be for community members to hear first hand the programme and timetable for installation of the Openreach Fibre Network, which premises will be included, and to get answers to any questions that may arise.

As HD will be on holiday until 16th May, TH offered to liaise with Lochhead's office over arrangements and agenda **(Action: HD/TP to hand over details)**

TH reported that the alternative supplier, External Reality, had found a blockage near to Old Road, Lower Rafford, which would require some excavation work.

c) **Brockloch Field Development**

TP reported that the planning application had been lodged and a number of representations had been made. The subject of a representation from FCC was discussed at some length with views for and against making an objection being expressed. It was agreed not to make a representation.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

HD reported that a public meeting had been held in Edinkillie Community Hall in March. It had been suggested that a Clashgour Community Liaison Group (CLG) be set up, and that this group would play a part in determining the process for distribution of any Community Benefit. HD reported that FCC had not been notified of the meeting, but he had contacted EDF requesting FCC inclusion in the CLG.

AM reported that ground investigation works were continuing on the site.

TP reported that no further progress had been made on resolving the outstanding air space issues.

e) **Joint Community Council**

No FCC Meeting in March. Next meeting 9th May. PT offered to attend. **(Action: PT)**

f) **Resilience Planning**

TP reported that meeting had taken place including FDT and the Rafford Village Hall (RVH) committee, to discuss the feasibility of Solar Generation, and Batteries Storage RVH. Due to the fact in the case of a blackout the power demand for lighting and minimal heating could not be met by such a scheme, it was agreed that the SSEN Resilience grant could not be used to meet part of the cost.

HD offered to look out the previous information from SSEN regarding the grant **(Action HD)**

RP noted that Forres CC had offered to share resilience equipment including a pump and portable generator, should they not be required in Forres.

TP suggested again that a Communications Hub, using Starlink or similar, could be a useful tool for communication in case of power blackout.

g) Forres Health Services

TH reported on the NHS Forres Locality Planning Group meeting planned for April had been postponed until May.

TP suggested that for future meetings he has some prepared questions/comments to table on behalf of FCC. He offered to circulate proposed questions to members for discussion and agreement ahead of each LPG meeting. All members agreed to this proposal.

Suggested topics discussed included:

- E-Consult is proving useful, but it appears possible for practice members to close a consultation before it is completed to the satisfaction of the patient, with the content of the consultation no longer being available.
- How does the money from Developer Obligations for housing developments, that are targeted for Health Service improvement, reach the General Practice.
- How can the practice better communicate to the community the best way to approach the health services.

3) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. A940 Road Junction at Edinkillie Church

AM reported problems with drainage at the new road layout, with increasing run-off onto the road. vehicles. **(Actions: AM to forward details, PT to forward to Roads Dept)**

b. FCC membership

HD reported that regular requests for new members and other support have been made in community newsletters. TP suggest we advertise again for a minute secretary with TSI Moray, noting that an honorarium could be made available. **(Action: HD to contact TSI Moray)**

c. Local Place Plans

HD noted that the next JCC Local Place Plan meeting was planned for 30th April. (Action: TP to attend)

d. Lower Rafford Mini-Wetland

TH reported work in progress.

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP reported 3 Planning Applications, which were discussed:

- 12 houses opposite Rafford Village Hall – no action to be taken (discussed earlier in the meeting)
- New house at Phorp Stables – although probably outwith Moray Local Development Plan, no action to be taken
- Alteration to Studio 1 Altyre Stables – No action required

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

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

- 15-Mar Query from RVH requesting info from FCC 2022 Community survey. Link sent.
- 18-Mar Acknowledgement of FCC Representation on Planning Application for 4 houses at Templestones
- 19-Mar email from D Duke notifying 1 year free use of Community Map Scotland, for use in Local Place Plans
- 21-Mar Note from RVH on new hire rates for the hall.
- 22-Mar email from Steve Ferris of Forres CC offering to share various items of Resilience Equipment, should Forres not need them.
- 24-Mar email from Ruairadh Milne prompting replanting of wild flower meadow.
- 26-Mar email for SEPA warning of illegal unlicensed waste collection services
- 26-Mar email from Edinkillie Hall requesting feedback on carpark extension project for National Lottery Funding application. Reply sent.
- 28-Mar Sent out Community newsletter including info on Footpath in Upper Rafford, Brockloch Planning application, FCC membership, and next meeting.
- 28-Mar Email from a community member thanking FCC for our hard work.
- 2-Apr CSP Newsletter for March 2024 rec'd from Moray Police West
- 3-April Email from Moray Library services suggesting mobile library locations in Rafford and Edinkillie/Logie. Positive response sent.
- 4-April Email from Elaine Penny with updates on the pavement construction including a set of detailed plans.
- 4-Apr Email from Richard Lochhead's office confirming 20th May date for public meeting on R100 Broadband.
- 8-Apr Email from Garry McCartney of Forres Gazette asking of info on the TMC grant of £2000 for RVH. Response sent.
- 9-Apr Notice of next Quarterly Local Place Planning meeting – 30th April
- 11-apr Email from Debra Duke on Midsummer Moray - Walking and Outdoor Festival in late June, suggesting we circulate this.
- 11-Apr Sent FCC Community Newsletter, including info on Brockloch Housing, Litter Picking, Broadband Meeting, FCC help required, and next FCC meeting.
- 15-Apr Invite for Forres ASG Spirit of Community Launch, 24th April
- 17-Apr Notice of next JCC meeting on 9-May.
- 17-Apr Notice of increase premium to be paid by FCC for speed signs.

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

AG provided the following update prior to the meeting:

- Bank Balance £20,919.11
 - £20,000 SSEN Resilient Fund;
 - £7621.32 Moray Council Admin Grant balance:
 - £57.79 Residents of Newtyle Access Road:
 - £240 Stocksigns compensation

7) AOCB

- **Office Bearers and Roles in FCC**

The following was discussed and agreed:

Office Bearers

- Chairperson – Tony Pinner, proposed by HD and agreed by all members
- Treasurer – Anna Gatward
- Secretary – Howard Davenport

Roles

- FCC Director on FDT – Tony Pinner
- Correspondence and Admin – Howard Davenport
- Minutes – Howard Davenport
- Planning – Tony Pinner
- Roads – Howard Davenport
- Broadband - Tom/Howard
- Resilience - Peter Taylor
- Local Place Plans – Tony Pinner and Howard Davenport
- JCC Liaison – Peter Taylor
- Windfarms – Howard Davenport
- Forres Health Services – Tom Hardie

- **Wildflower Planting**

HD reported that after discussion it had been agreed that Moray Council Land and Parks dept would manage maintenance of the wild flower area below Church Terrace in Lower Rafford. However they would not commence activities until the autumn, and had already provided seeds.

Ruairidh Milne has volunteered to co-ordinate a work party to prepare ground and sow seeds this coming Saturday 27th April, between 10:30 am and 12:00.

- **Mobile Library**

HD reported an approach from Moray Library Services to provide a mobile library bus, at Rafford and in the Edinkillie/Logie area.

HD had notified Rafford Village Hall, Logie Primary School, and Edinkillie Community Hall, suggesting they contact Library Services directly to take this forward.

8) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 5th June 2024, at Rafford Village Hall.