

Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 28th August 2024 at Rafford Village Hall

FCC members present:

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

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Juli Salt (JS), Rosemary Pannell (RP), Carol MacRae (CM), Sean Lusk (SK), Sally Lusk (SL), Mike MacDonald (MM), Anne Garrow (AG), Andy Kemp (AK), Susan Kemp (SK)

Apologies:

Kathleen Robertson, Tom Hardie (TH)

1) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed.

2) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

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

Construction works complete, but some snagging items to be tackled. Elaine Penny, Roads Engineer, to propose some road markings at crossing points.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

PT reported he was still waiting for a response from JCC to the question of insurance of CC owned assets. **(Action: PT to follow up)**

- **Village Entrance Signs**

HD reported that he had followed up with Elaine Penny and Landowner on land for the Village Entrance sign at the south end of Upper Rafford. Elaine has agreed to mark out the area of the field needed for the sign, which the owners will review. **(Action: HD to follow up)**

- **Road Closures**

The proposed closure of the B9010 in Upper Rafford, for the purpose of installing the infrastructure needed by Openreach to install the R100 fibre network through the village was discussed. Key points raised included:

- The lack of prior notice,
- The length of the "official" diversion,
- Whether a road closure was in fact required, or whether the work could be managed with traffic lights.

It was noted that TMC roads department had committed to stressing to the contactors the need for better notice, were in the process of reviewing the need for road closure, and accepted that local residents would be aware of alternative diversions.

b) **Broadband**

OpenReach R100

HD reported that he had queried the completion dates shown in the Digital Scotland Address Checker, and that Duncan Nisbet had relied saying that completion dates for both phases in Finderne would be updated by end August.

Nesbit also said “We expect the majority of properties in each phase to have service available by March of next year, however for the reasons described in the video linked below, the website will report these as due for completion by the end of June. This allows for any challenges encountered during the build and commissioning phases. As you are aware, build has already started and we expect we will see the first properties in these phases having service available by the end of next month, with build continuing across the phases into Spring 2025”

External Reality

TP reported that in a meeting with FDT, ER had said that, in Upper Rafford, they would only be connecting with one property in the north end of the village at the moment. The poor state of the ducts in the middle of the village makes it uneconomic for them to go further. However, this will be reviewed if the situation with the ducts changes.

c) **Brockloch Field Development**

TP reported that further landscaping drawings had been submitted at the request of TMC Planning department, and that a notice to neighbours had been issued, which was delaying consideration of the application. JS reported that some neighbours were concerned that the new landscaping drawings showed large trees to be planted on the north east corner of the site, which would shade the adjacent existing properties.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

HD reported no update on windfarms.

e) **Joint Community Council**

PT reported on the meeting of 8th August. Key items raised in community council reports included:

- Manny CC's working on Resilience Plans and Local Place Plans
- Community Energy Moray are exploring profit sharing in the Clash Gour Windfarm
- MConnect bus service is expanding, including some evening service
- Problems with gulls reported in many areas, particularly in Elgin.

f) **Resilience Planning**

Various options for providing power in the case of power cuts were discussed, with no conclusion. It was agreed that PT would set up a working group to develop a draft Resilience Plan for Finderne. AK volunteered to join the group. **(Action: PT to organise working group)**

g) **Forres Health Services**

No report. TH to provide follow-up on the previous questions that had been agreed for the NHS Forres Locality Planning Group.

(Action: TH to follow up)

3) **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

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

It was confirmed that AM should phone PT when the road is flooded, so pictures can be taken, and forwarded to TMC Roads Dept. **(Actions: AM, PT)**

b. **FCC membership**

TP had issued an updated recruitment poster.

(Action: All CC member to review)

FCC attendance at Rafford Village Café and Edinkillie Cake and Cuppa was again suggested. PT confirmed his availability for RVH Café on 5th October, at which point we should have more to discuss on Resilience and Local Place Plan.

c. **Local Place Plans**

TP reported FDT had agreed to the FCC request for funding of a consultant to assist in development of a Local Place Plan for Finderne. The FCC agreed to the engagement of Collective Architecture, and an initial zoom meeting had been held.

The process would be:

- CA to collate baseline data, based on documents provided by FCC
- Get Community input for an initial Draft LPP by means of a survey to be posted out to all households and businesses in Finderne
- Develop the initial Draft LPP
- Present the initial Draft LPP to the community at a Drop-in event
- Incorporate community feedback and present the proposed LPP to Moray Council

TP/HD will put together a draft of a community survey, based on the needs of the LPP, and on answers to previous surveys. **(Action TP/HD)**

PT and SL suggested that an interactive version of the survey would be useful for those who preferred to complete an electronic version.

d. **Lower Rafford Mini-Wetland**

No update.

e. **Path to Rafford Church**

MM suggested that we need to confirm where the phone cables go up the path, to avoid any potential damage. It was agreed that suggested a September/October timescale would be appropriate, and TH to propose a date. **(Action: TH)**

f. Road to Rafford Cemetery

HD reported he had written to TMC Parks and Road Department, asking for their help in repairing the short section of road from Kirkside to the Church Car Park. TMC legal dept now checking ownership and responsibility. (Action: HD to follow up)

PT reported that the Parish Church had checked ownership of the land around the church just a few years ago.

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP reported that no new planning applications of note for Finderne had been lodged.

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD gave a summary of correspondence received by email to 27th August 2024:

- 1-Aug: SURF Awards Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration are currently open for applications. Deadline 5th September,
- 1-Aug: Response from Grant Speed at TMC Lands and Parks to query on maintenance of road to Lower Rafford cemetery and carpark.
- 2-Aug: Planning consultation document from TMC re application for Energy Storage plant near Berryburn wind Farm.
- 3-Aug: Moray Police West report for Community Councils
- 9-Aug: Reply from Duncan Nisbet, Digital infrastructure lead at Scottish Government, answering queries on R100 project timeline
- 12-Aug: Email from RVH with some event dates.
- 13-Aug: note from Speyside CC with notice of a meeting of "Save our Speyside" on 23rd August, concerned about impact of wind farms, pylons battery storage etc in their area. *To be included on agenda for next FCC meeting. (Action: HD)*
- 13th Aug to 24th Aug: – various emails with Lisa from RVH, Colin Matheson from TMC Roads Department, and community members regarding proposed road closure in Rafford.
- 21-Aug: email from I Charlton of FDT, regarding Resilience Contact with Rhona Mc Nicoll.
- 28-Aug: email from TSI Moray indicating possible funding toward development of the LPP

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

AG provided the following update, based on report issued prior to the meeting:

Bank Balance £21,004.11

- £20k SSEN;
- £706.32 Moray Council Admin Grant balance;
- £57.79 Newtyle Access Road Residents balance;
- £240 Stocksigns compensation. (earmarked for sign maintenance)

TP reported that he had attended the Community Council funding meeting convened by JCC. There had been some discussion about larger CCs, with larger grants and free access to meeting rooms, helping our smaller CC's. There was also discussion about CC members claiming expenses, then donating back to their CC, in order to release funds from ringfenced Admin Grant to an unallocated pot. FCC decided not to pursue this.

AOCB

- **Rafford and Edinkillie Churches**

AK asked if either FCC or FDT had any interest in buying the redundant churches. TP replied that this hadn't been considered, but that a separate group have been looking at possible uses for Rafford Parish Church.

7) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 9th October 2024, at Edinkillie Community Hall.