

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 4th June 2025 at Edinkillie Community Hall

### FCC members present:

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

### Also present:

Dave Hughes (DH), Paul McBain (PMcB), Kathleen Robertson (KR), Juli Salt, Rosemary Pannell (RP), Carol Bennet Buttacci, Debra Duke (DD), James Close, Christine de Agostini.

#### 1) Apologies:

Scott Lawrence, Tom Hardie (TH), Juli Salt,

#### 2) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed.

#### 3) Current Standing Items

##### a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

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

Remedial work completed.

Road markings to be installed.

Redundant post to be removed.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

TH to install remote re-set. **(Action TH)**

TP to liaise with S. McCracken and download speed data. HD offered assistance with laptop computer. **(Action TP)**

TP will collate a history of breakdowns, using downloaded data to establish breakdowns.. TP and PT will write to supplier to seek rectification and/or refund. **(Action TP/PT)**

HD had responded to a request from C Matheson of TMC Roads department for feedback on the signs. HD had said we would not recommend the MessageMaker signs.

- **Village Entrance Signs**

On hold, pending results of Moray 20 m.p.h. speed limit consultation.

- **20 m.p.h. Speed Limits**

HD reported that Draek Van Der Horn had sent an email informing FCC that A and B roads would be considered, where they pass through residential areas.

- **Road Safety on C14E road, Lower Rafford to Dallas Dhu.**

PT's report on 30mph limit was sent to TMC Roads dept, with a letter also highlighting deficiencies in Passing Places and signage. On site meeting arranged for 5<sup>th</sup> June.

- **Police Report**

It was noted that the Community Council Police report, has reported that 3 cars has been stopped for speeding in Rafford in May.

b) **Broadband**

HD reported no reply from Richard Lochhead's office, to FCC's request for further information on extent of R100 rollout. **(Action: HD to follow up)**

c) **Brockloch Field Development**

TP reported Planning permission awarded on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Construction tenders are due in mid-June. Further funding will be needed prior to Construction Phase.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

HD and PT attended the SSE Clashgour Substation drop-in event on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, on behalf of Finnerne Paths Network, with a view to promoting a link path from Glaschyle wind farm to Johnstrie, to link up with the Lone Road which leads to Dallas. HD reported a positive response from SSE, and would follow up on behalf of the Paths Network. **(Action: HD).**

A similar event for phase 2 of Corshellach substation will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

PT and HD also met Peter Graham, who was representing Altyre Estate at the event. He outlined a ambitious plan to create an environmental corridor from Altyre to Speyside. PT offered to write to Sir Alistair Gordon Cumming requesting further information. **(Action: PT)**

e) **Joint Community Council**

PT reported back on the JCC meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The main focus was on the forthcoming CC elections in September/October.

- JCC was offering help with recruitment of new members
- PT suggested approaching schools (Forres Academy), and DoE coordinators, as we would welcome participation from younger community members 16 years and older.

DD mentioned that there was a volunteer meeting in Forres on Friday, and that she had attended a volunteer marketplace in Elgin, where she had promoted the role of CCs.

f) **Resilience Planning**

PT reported that the resilience equipment provided by TMC, had been divided and located at the village halls.

HD had spoken to Anne P of RVH, explaining we still had resilience funding from SSEN, which had been applied for on the basis of providing power generation facilities at the village halls. Any ideas would, of course, need to be approved by RVH committee. Anne P explained ideas for new entrance and parking facilities for RVH, which could be funded in part, at least, by FDT. It was agreed that RVH, FCC, and FDT should keep communication channels open. TP proposed a meeting with all parties **(Action: TP)**

DD noted that some other village halls had modified their electrical systems to be ready for temporary generators should the need arise.

PT requested help from DD in securing permission to use OS mapping in our resilience planning. **(Action: DD)**

**g) Forres Health Services**

No update this meeting, so it was agreed to carry over previous items to next meeting.

TH has received answers to some of the question posed to the Forres Area Health Forum, on behalf of FCC. He is considering how this information can be made available on the FCC website.

TH proposed a further three-part question on the Engage Consult facility:

1. There are differences between the opening times on the iPhone App, the Webpage, and the webpage video. Which is correct?
2. Why is it only possible to submit an eConsult during such limited hours? If it was available 7/24 it wouldn't affect the number of submissions as all the submission criteria would remain the same and this would allow patients to manage their medical admin at times convenient to themselves rather than effectively only during the working day.
3. In all other interactions with the health system, be it letter, email, telephone, video call or face to face, the name and position of the respondent is always given. Why not on all eConsult responses?

The meeting agreed these questions should be submitted, with the aim of improving the service for all users. **(Action TH)**

**4) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

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

AM had previously reported icing on the side road up to the viaduct, and that he had some picture of recent flooding and would send these to PT, who will liaise with TMC Roads Dept.

**(Actions: AM, PT)**

**b. FCC membership**

The recruitment of new members was discussed. In addition to attracting younger members, maybe for a rotation of 6 months service (see item 3e above), it was suggested we publicise more the successes and positive outcomes from CC activities. It was also suggested that we create a "welcome pack" for new residents.

HD reported that both these things had been done previously, but would circulate so they could be refreshed. **(Action: HD)**

**c. Local Place Plan**

TP/HD reported that we have provided and updated registration document to TMC, and should hear back soon.

**Post meeting note:** we received notification on 6<sup>th</sup> June, that our LPP is ready to be registered and will be published on the TMC website in due course.

**d. Lower Rafford Mini-Wetland**

No update.

**e. Path to Rafford Church**

A further work party to be organised to complete the work, after the nesting season. **(Action: TH)**

**f. Smart Meters**

HD reported the advice on Smart Meters had been included in the last community newsletter. Item closed.

**5) Planning Report (TP)**

Only one application for building: Demolish derelict farm buildings and erect 2 dwelling houses at Phorp. No reason to comment.

Also application for reinstatement of peat in Newtyle forest, in accordance with Forestry Plan, which was commended.

FCC received a Proposal of Application Notice w.r.t. the new Forres Academy Building. KR noted that there a public meeting was scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> June , with others to follow later in in the year. To be included in next FCC newsletter. **(Action: HD)**

**6) Secretary's Report (HD)**

Summary of correspondence received by email to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 that was not already covered in the meeting:

- 29-Apr: PT provided a report on his attendance at Edinkillie Community Association AGM.
- 2-May: FCC issued community newsletter
- 6-May: rec'd request to sign up to petition to halt use of freshwater for hydrogen production
- 8-May: email of introduction from Karen Greaves new TMC Chief Executive, suggesting that she would like to attend one of our FCC meeting. Need to respond. **(Action: HD)**
- 9-May: email from Denise Whitworth, depute Chief Exec at TMC, recognising the role of community councils, and proposing some workshops as part of a Community Engagement Programme. (KR reported in the meeting that these have been cancelled, and a new approach was being developed)
- 19-May: email from RVH saying they would be attending a funding roadshow being co-ordinated by tsi Moray.
- 22-May: rec'd updated insurance document. Filed on FCC Dropbox.
- 23-May: notice of next Forres Area Tourism Network meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May, and 25<sup>th</sup> June
- 2-Jun: rec'd copy of new FDT bus timetable from FDT, with request to publicise. **(Action: HD)**
- 4-Jun: rec'd CC police report for Forres, Lossie, and Speyside.

## 7) Treasurers Report (AG)

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

Bank Balance £21,727.21

- £20k SSEN.
- £832.34 Moray Council Admin Grant balance.
- £240 Stocksigns compensation. (earmarked for sign maintenance)
- £664.47 balance of funding from FDT for LPP

TP noted the FDT had agreed that FCC should keep the LPP balance for the time being at least, in case modification to the LPP were required.

It had been agreed that TP and HD be added as signatories for the FCC Bank Account, as 2 of the existing signatories were no longer members. **(Action: AG)**

AG raised concerns about the lengthy process for changing signatories with Royal Bank of Scotland. It was agreed that FCC should investigate the possibility of changing banks. It was suggested that we contact Debra Duke (CCLO) to ask about other community councils experience of different banks.

AG raised the issue that even these new signatories may not be FCC members after September. So we need to agree a process for transferring authority to the new members. **(Action: All)**

## 8) AOCB

### a) Off Peak RTS Electricity Meters

In a follow-on from the update on Smart Meters, KR reported that the closure of the RTS system for off-peak electricity was being postponed..

### b) Digital Voice switchover

KR also raised the issue of the planned switchover from traditional landlines to broadband based Digital Voice services, which particularly effects those with no broadband connection, and no mobile phones, as well as people using home care alarms. HD pointed out that we had previously included a link to TMC advice on this in a community newsletter, but it was agreed that this should be repeated. **(Action: HD)**

### c) Community Council Scheme of Establishment

PT and HD had reviewed the document sent out by DD. PT had raised a couple of queries:

- regarding CC's no longer being in the loop on Alcohol Licencing Applications,
- suggesting that the Administration Grant could also be used for the insurance of CC owned assets.

It was agreed to send PT comments to DD for review. **(Action: HD)**

## 9) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025, at Rafford Village Hall.