

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Edinkillie Hall

### FCC members present:

Peter Taylor (PT), Tom Hardie (TH), Tony Pinner (TP - **Chair** of meeting), Howard Davenport (HD)

### Also present:

Paul McBain (PMcB), Kathleen Robertson (KR), Juli Salt, Carol Bennett Buttacci, Carol MacRae, Sean Lusk, Andy Munro

### 1) Apologies:

Anna Gatward (AG – Treasurer)

### 2) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed with **Correction** to item **3 f Resilience**:

*Rafford Village Hall have agreed to store Resilience Equipment, but they need to confirm a suitable location and FCC (HD) are to provide a suitable container.*

### 3) Current Standing Items

#### a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

- **Provision of pavement in Upper Rafford**

HD reported that a representative of FCC had been invited by TMC Roads dept to meet with Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary on 24<sup>th</sup> September, to show an example of how the community had been involved with utilising the Scottish Government Active Travel fund. It was suggested that one of the householders who had agreed to sacrifice some land also attend. **(Action: HD to attend and contact householder)**

- **Vehicle Activated Signs.**

TP reported that he was continuing to download information from the signs, which should provide proof of the periods of breakdown. This data would be used to try to get a refund on the cost of the signs.

KR and PMcB reported that he had shared FCC experience with the VAS signs with Dyke CC.

- **Village Entrance Signs**

Project remains on hold, pending results of Moray-wide 20 m.p.h. speed limit consultation (q.v.).

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

Elaine Penny (MC) had delivered a presentation on the 20m.p.h speed limit consultation at the recent JCC meeting. The proposed plans and consultation can be accessed through the Moray Engage website.

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

HD reported that Elaine Penny had told him that Meanwhile, signage would be added by the Roads department "*within the next few weeks*" just west of the Dava Way railway bridge, to warn of pedestrians (i.e. on the Core Path section of the road). (**Action: EP/Roads**)

Alternative speed restriction measures would be discussed in ongoing liaison with Roads (**Action HD/PT**)

Ongoing liaison with Road Dept on the reduced speed limits would continue. (**Action PT**)

**b) Broadband**

TH reported that he had been contacted by households who were experiencing delays in being connected to the fibre network, despite the cabling being installed.

HD reported that FCC were now registered with Ordnance Survey Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (PSGA), and had made a further request D Nisbett for a spreadsheet showing the status of all premises.

Post meeting note: Nisbet had responded saying it would be issued following the current four monthly update of the database.

**c) Brockloch Field Development**

TP reported that further funding will be needed prior to Construction Phase. A meeting has been scheduled with Adrianna Burgess, the Green MSP with an interest in housing.

**d) Windfarm Developments**

AM reported that test drilling was in progress on the site of the proposed Berry Burn 2 substation.

**e) Joint Community Council**

PT reported that the main focus of the recent JCC meeting was a presentation by Elaine Penny on the Mory 20m.p.h. speed limit consultation.

**f) Resilience Planning**

PT observed that the FCC's registration with the Ordnance Survey PSGA should provide permission to use OS maps in resilience planning. (**Action HD to send passwords etc.**)

**Wildfires:** KR reported that Moray Council had agreed to propose a Summit Meeting, of all interested parties in Spring 2026. This would include all emergency services, estates, wind farms community bodies (including Halls and CC's) and NHS.

Topics under consideration would include the fire risks of Battery Storage facilities, and public education, including notification of high fire risk conditions. It was noted that as a result of recent wildfires only 7 out of the 22 Berry Burn wind turbines were currently operational

g) **Forres Health Services**

No further update

**4) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

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

AM will send his evidence to PT, who will then liaise with TMC Roads Dept.

**(Actions: AM, PT)**

b. **FCC membership**

The recruitment of new members was discussed again. FCC can have a total of 7 elected members, but needs a minimum of 4 members. With 3 out of the current 5 members not applying for nomination, and one confirmed new nomination, some further nominations will be required if the community council is to continue.

PMcB reported that the election timeline had just been agreed by TMC. The key dates being:

- Notice of election issued – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October
- Last day for lodging nominations – 4:00 p.m. Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October
- Declaration of new CCS if uncontested – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- Start of new term for uncontested CCs – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October

It was agreed that the scheduled FCC meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October would be cancelled and that the inaugural meeting of the new council would be on 19<sup>th</sup> November in Edinkillie Community Hall.

Further advertising of the election and the need for nominations was discussed. IT was agreed that the FCC specific leaflet compiled by D Duke should be included in a community email, together with FINDERNE map. **(Action: HD)**

All present were urged to speak to neighbours and acquaintances in FINDERNE to encourage nominations.

c. **Local Place Plan**

TP volunteered to follow up on the process for updating the LPP, with updates speed limit issues. **(Action TP)**

d. **Lower Rafford Mini-Wetland**

Item closed.

e. **Path to Rafford Church**

A further work party to be organised to complete the work, after the nesting season. It was agreed not to widen the path further, in order to restrict vehicular access. **(Action: TH)**

f. **Smart Meters**

AL reported that any new smart meters being fitted should be based on the more effective mobile network, rather than radio network communications. Again, if any household is having issues with smart meters they should contact Graham Leadbitter MP, and he has been able to put pressure on suppliers.

It was agreed that this item could now be closed.

g. **Scheme of Establishment**

It was agreed that this item could now be closed

## 5) Planning Report (TP)

No significant planning matters had been reported.

## 6) Secretary's Report (HD)

Summary of correspondence received by email to that was not already covered in the meeting:

- 21-Jull: email from Jane Young of ECA notifying that Edinkillie Hall hire charge would increase to £35 per day from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. No change to electricity charge.
- 28<sup>th</sup> July: notice of Moray Council Customer satisfaction survey closes 25<sup>th</sup> August.
- 29<sup>th</sup> July: notice from Forestry and Land Scotland that they are in the process of scoping and consultation on a review of Newtyle Land Management Plan. Consultation closes on 25<sup>th</sup> August. HD brought this to the notice of the Finderne Paths Network who have submitted comments.
- 29<sup>th</sup> July: Email from Innes CC including their response to a SPICE report asking for a halt to the use of freshwater for Hydrogen production.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Aug: Police Scotland August 2025 Community report for Forres Lossiemouth and Speyside Area.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Aug: FCC sent community newsletter highlighting
  - an update of FCC's Broadband Guidelines,
  - Douglas Ross, Richard Lochhead and Graham Leadbitter rural community surgeries,
  - notice of next FCC meeting.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Aug: email from a community member saying thanks for all the hard work put in by the FCC team.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Aug: newsletter from Rafford Village Hall, including notice of the Rafford Art Gala, being held from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Aug: email notice of £10m funding from Scottish Government for Changing Places Toilets in Scotland. Forwarded to Rafford and Edinkillie Halls.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Aug: email notifying that our Ordnance Survey PSGA registration has been approved.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Aug: notice from SSEN that the second round of their Regional Community Benefit Fund will open on 20 August 2025. £2 million is available in this funding round. Funding is available for projects from £40,000 up to £500,000. Separate local funds are available solely for communities who are situated close to new infrastructure, however none currently in our area.

## 7) Treasurers Report (AG)

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

Bank Balance £21,667.81

- £20k SSEN.
- £763.34 Moray Council Admin Grant balance.
- £240 Stocksigns compensation. (earmarked for sign maintenance)
- £664.47 balance of funding from FDT for LPP

## 8) AOCB

- With the 2 local ex-parish churches up for sale, a brief discussion was held on where funeral services could take place.
- TP thanked the Moray Councillors and Community Councillors for all their help and support during his time as a member, and chair, of Finderne CC

## 9) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – ~~Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025, at Edinkillie Community Hall.~~ **Now confirmed at Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at Edinkillie Community Hall.**