

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held in The James Milne Institute, Findhorn on Thursday 29th October 2009

Present:

L. Morgan(Chairman), R. Shand, G. Verner, J. Willoner, H Morton, A. Skene, T. Negus (Sec).

In Attendance:

Sgt S. Jones & PC Kevin Skivington (Grampian Police), Tanya McLaren (Forres Gazette), J. Innes (RAFLO) and 1 member of the public.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from I. Hampson, Cllr Hamilton & Eva Ward

Public Session

ITEM 2. ANY COMPETENT PUBLIC BUSINESS & GRAMPIAN POLICE REPORT

2.1 The Chairman welcomed Sgt Jones & PC Skivington to the meeting. PC Skivington said that he had passed on our concerns about speeding traffic on the link road between Kinloss and the A96 to his colleagues in the traffic department. Sgt Jones introduced himself as the nominated Grampian Police contact for the Community Council. He gave a brief summary of recent incidents in Findhorn & Kinloss. These included a couple of vandalism incidents and 2 cycle thefts. He urged the public to be vigilant as the darker evenings are often associated with an increase in break-in offences. He said that arrangements are in hand for a traffic warden to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony in Findhorn to control traffic. J Innes raised concerns about the number of cyclists on the road without lights. PC Skivington agreed that this was a problem in the Forres area. It is proposed that press coverage be given in order to educate the public and patrols will be on the look out for offenders who may be subject to fixed penalty notices. PC Skivington said that he had booked the mobile Police Office for a number of dates in November. It was agreed that the Office would be placed in the Car park at Kinloss Church from 10 am to 2 pm on Friday 6th November. The Chairman had already secured permission to use this location and he would make and distribute posters as appropriate. It was felt that Findhorn would be best served by PC Skivington using the Village Centre as this had proved very successful in the past. The Secretary will speak with the new centre manager and pass on details direct to PC Skivington. The Chairman thanked both Officers for their contribution.

Action L Morgan, T Negus

2.2 There was no other Competent Public Business.

Council Session

ITEM 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24th September were ratified. Proposed J Willoner, seconded H Morton.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Following a request by Mr Willing at the last meeting that draft minutes be displayed on the public noticeboard in Findhorn, the Secretary has spoken with the relevant legal authorities at Moray Council. Agreement has been obtained that draft minutes may be publicly displayed providing that they are clearly marked as 'DRAFT'.

4.2 At the Community Council meeting on 27th August, Cllr Hamilton agreed to arrange for a Roads Officer to contact R Shand direct to arrange a meeting to review concerns relating to the new junction at Findhorn Church. R Shand said that he had not yet been contacted. **Action Cllr Hamilton**

ITEM 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 The Chairman thanked Council members for their support in electing him to this important Office. He is particularly concerned that the Community Council accurately reflects all shades of local opinion rather than just those of the members themselves. He would like to see greater public attendance at meetings and he asked members to consider innovative ways of canvassing public views and concerns.

5.2 The Chairman said that whilst he would try to keep meetings on track and to the point, members should feel able to present their point of view.

ITEM 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

6.1 Meetings Attended. 5th October in Elgin Town Hall – Welcome to new Councillors by Richard Lochhead MSP

6.2 Correspondence. Overdue reply from Moray Council to a request made in December 2008 for an additional bus stop near Findhorn War Memorial. Council not willing to provide additional stop.

Letter from Moray Firth Partnership about grant scheme.

Letter from Association for Protection of Rural Scotland.

Letter from Roads Dept about work to implement 20mph scheme in Findhorn.

Letter from OC RAF Kinloss about forthcoming exercise.

Letter from ENTRUST enquiring about fate of Kinloss Jubilee Garden project.

6.3 e-correspondence. Report sent to Scottish Government about our activity and expenditure on election pilot. Quarterly performance figures from Grampian Police. Copy of e-mail from Mr Thompson chasing up provision of interactive speed signs in Kinloss.

6.4 Newsletters & Flyers. SNH Autumn edition of 'Nature in Scotland', Moray Firth Partnership Newsletter, "Copies of 'Community Councillor', SEPA View autumn issue, Scottish Rights of Way Society Annual report, e-Newsletter from ENTRUST.

ITEM 7. TREASURERS REPORT

7.1 The Treasurer presented the audited end of year accounts.

7.2 The Treasurer said he would obtain the necessary forms to change the signatories on the two bank accounts to reflect the change in the post of Chairman.

ITEM 8. ASCC REPORT

8.1 The Chairman said he would be attending the ASCC Annual Conference on 14th November. He explained that there was no AGM as such and that the main business is covered by means of a postal ballot. The Secretary then went through the various elections and motions relating to this postal ballot and noted the decisions of the meeting. He was instructed to forward the ballot to ASCC electronically.

Action T Negus

ITEM 9. MORAY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report in absence of Cllr Hamilton..

ITEM 10. RAFLO REPORT.

10.1 The RAFLO congratulated the new Community Councillors on their appointment.

10.2 He said that following a low-flying complaint at the last meeting, he had ascertained that visiting aircrew were routinely fully briefed on local circuit procedures. He suggested that any perceived low flying incidents should be reported immediately to 672161 (Operations Wing) so that they could be investigated and followed up if necessary.

10.3 The RAFLO drew attention to the forthcoming Tactical Leadership Training Course from 15 – 27th November. A number of different aircraft types would be deployed to Kinloss. Apart from arrivals and departures there would be no weekend or late night flying.

ITEM 11. FINDHORN FOUNDATION REPORT

None in absence of E.Ward.

DRAFT

ITEM 12. PLANNING

12.1 The Secretary said that during the interregnum between the old and new Community Council he had not been receiving the usual weekly lists of planning applications. However, he had regularly searched the Moray Council website and had identified the following applications made since the last meeting.

Week Beginning

28 Sept – Replacement Garage and Porch at 194 Findhorn – No Objection

5 Oct - No Applications

12 Oct – Outline Planning for new house at Miltonhill Kinloss – No Objection

19 Oct – Install French Windows at 128 Findhorn – No Objection

Install Oil Tank at 196 Findhorn – No Objection

26 Oct – No Applications

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

13.1 The Secretary outlined arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed that L Morgan would lay a wreath on behalf of the Community Council at the Ceremony at Kinloss Abbey whilst H Morton would lay a wreath at Findhorn.
Action L Morgan, H Morton.

13.2 The Chairman sought the views of the Community Council about a possible move to introduce licensing arrangements for BYO functions in Moray. The meeting noted that such functions sometimes took place in Findhorn and that there had not been any problems in the past. It was felt that an attempt to impose a licensing requirement on such functions was unnecessarily bureaucratic and should therefore be discouraged. The Chairman agreed to relay these sentiments to the next JCCM meeting.

Action L Morgan

13.3 R Shand noted that the sale arrangements for Southside Estate appeared to differ from those originally publicised.

13.4 R Shand suggested that the Community Council considered supplying free cycle lights in an effort to reduce the incidence of cyclists riding without lights. The meeting felt that any funds in the capital account should be spent on more permanent projects. The Chairman asked members to think about possible projects.

13.5 G Verner said that he had been approached by a concerned local resident who had had a 'near miss' in his vehicle with a group of roller skiers. He had reported the incident at the Police Station in Elgin who had apparently said there was nothing they could do. The meeting recalled previous concerns on this issue and that undertakings had been given by the organisers that the use of warning signs and safety marshals would be routine. It is understood that there were no signs or marshals at the time of this latest reported incident. The Secretary was instructed to write to the organisers in an effort to improve road safety.

Action T Negus

13.6 G Verner asked that in view of the 2 vacancies on the Council whether the co-option of additional members was permitted. The Secretary said that co-option was not permitted within 6 months of the formation of the new Council and that the next step was to hold a second round of the election process. Members were encouraged to identify and encourage potential candidates, particularly those from Kinloss.

13.7 The Chairman said that he was happy to continue to represent Findhorn & Kinloss on the JCCM and members assured him that he had their full support in this important post. The Community Council is represented on a number of other bodies and the Secretary was asked to identify these so that members could be nominated accordingly.

Action T Negus

ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26th November 2009 at 7.30pm in Kinloss Primary School.