

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held in The James Milne Institute, Findhorn on Thursday 28th January 2010

Present:

L. Morgan(Chairman), R. Shand, G. Verner, J. Willoner, H Morton, A. Skene, I. Hampson, T. Dingwall, P. Carroll, Cllr Hamilton, T. Negus (Sec).

In Attendance:

PC Dormond, WPC Doherty (Grampian Police), Tanya McLaren (Forres Gazette), E. Ward (Findhorn Foundation) and 4 members of the public.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from J. Innes (RAFLO), Sgt Jones, PC Skivington.

Public Session

ITEM 2. ANY COMPETENT PUBLIC BUSINESS & GRAMPIAN POLICE REPORT

2.1 The Chairman welcomed the two Grampian Police officers to the meeting. PC Dormond reported that concerns had been passed on to the traffic department concerning speeding traffic on the Forres to Kinloss road. Patrols had been instigated resulting in two motorists receiving penalty notices. Incidents logged at Kinloss included 2 cases of vandalism for which suspects have been identified, one drink-driving case and one 'hit and run' accident. There have been two cycle thefts at the Foundation and one incident of theft of building materials. These incidents appear to have been opportunistic and PC Dormond reminded the meeting of the need to be mindful of basic security precautions. The Chairman thanked the Officers for their contribution.

2.2 The Chairman welcomed Mr James Smith from the Moray Council Roads Department. Mr Smith told the meeting that it was proposed to revise and replace the brown tourist signage for Findhorn. He explained that organisations appearing on this signage had to be part of the Visit Scotland accreditation scheme. Symbols used on the signs have to come from the very limited range approved by authorities in Scotland. He is very conscious of the need to balance informative signage against intrusion into scenic views and conservation area status. Mr Smith answered a number of questions and said that the next stage would be a planning application for the proposed signs. The Chairman thanked Mr Smith for his attendance.

2.3 The Chairman welcomed Mr Caddy and Mrs Thomas from the Findhorn Hinterland Group. Mrs Thomas explained that the group had been formed following a public meeting in Findhorn in 2006. The aims of the group is to promote conservation and ecologically sensitive management of the land to the north and northeast of the Findhorn Foundation. Mrs Thomas gave a slide presentation of the work of the group which includes woodland management and replanting, educational benefits involving several local schools, green burials and a comprehensive survey of rare lichens. Mrs Thomas and Mr Caddy then answered a number of questions. The Chairman thanked them for their presentation.

2.4 There was no other public business.

Council Session

ITEM 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 26th November were ratified. Proposed H Morton, seconded R Shand.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Road junction at Findhorn Church. The Secretary reported that he and H Morton had attended a site meeting where Mr Smith of the roads department had explained the reasoning behind the new layout of the junction. The changes had been made following repeated concerns by residents regarding vehicles going the wrong way along the main street in front of the Post Office. In order to discourage this, a physical constriction had been constructed to reinforce the 'no entry' signs. This in turn had required a change in traffic priorities for vehicles going into and out of Church Place in the interest of road safety. These new priorities are very clearly marked. At the site meeting Mr Smith also passed on traffic survey data on vehicle speeds on the sea front road before and after the creation of the 20mph limit. This data showed considerable reduction in vehicle speeds following the new arrangements. The Secretary also noted that the damaged road sign just south of the Church had been replaced at last.

4.2 Street Trading Licenses for Charities. The Secretary reported that the proposed legislation to remove licensing exemption for charities holding sales has been dropped.

4.3 Roller Skiers. The Secretary said that he had received a full reply from Mr Gordon Smeaton outlining safety protocols followed by biathlon roller skiers. These appeared to be comprehensive and closely followed the agreed format of the British Biathlon Union. In addition risk assessments were carried out on the actual route used and he had sent an example of a completed assessment. The meeting felt that the organisers appeared to be making realistic efforts to ensure road safety. It was suggested that any adverse incidents relating to roller skiers should be reported immediately directly to the event organisers at East Grange Loft rather than to the Police.

4.4 Community Council Noticeboard in Kinloss. The Chairman reported that he had arranged for the minutes of the last meeting to be displayed on the board outside the Spar shop. This appeared to be a satisfactory location although perhaps some fine-tuning of the arrangements was still required. The Chairman will continue to liaise with the shop staff.

Action L Morgan

4.5 Intervals between Community Councils. The Secretary said that he had been in contact with the Elections Officer regarding our concerns about the gap between the 'old and new' Community Councils particularly in respect of possible lack of scrutiny for Planning Applications. It is understood the main reason for the interruption in normal business on this occasion was the complete revocation of the national scheme caused by revised Scottish legislation and boundary changes. This is not normally the case and routine review together with minor amendments are the usual procedure causing minimal disruption to Community Council activities. It was agreed that FKCC would correspond with Moray Council at mid term about this issue and any other concerns about the election process.

4.6 Damage to the Bird Hide. This was reported to Moray Council and repairs have been carried out.

4.7 Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland. The Secretary had received an e-mail outlining the benefits of membership which costs £20 per annum. The Treasurer was instructed to arrange and pay for membership of APRS.

Action J Willoner

4.8 Community Council Constitution. The Secretary reported that he had submitted the final draft of the Constitution as agreed at the November meeting to Moray Council. This had been agreed with one minor change and signed hard copies will now be sent off for final ratification.

Action T Negus

4.9 Kinloss Kirk Project. The Chairman had written to the Company developing the Southside former married quarters commending the Kirk project and requesting support for this worthwhile community venture. He had received a reply which he had passed on to the Kirk session.

4.10 Budget Consultation. The Secretary read out the letter written to Moray Council summarising the Community Council's views and suggestions for Budget savings. Acknowledgement has been received.

ITEM 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Graham Meltzer requesting a letter of support from the Community Council for a grant application for funding to install a biomass heating boiler at the Foundation. After consulting with Community Council members he had invited Mr Meltzer to the meeting to provide more details about the application. Mr Meltzer, however was unable to attend and the application would be submitted stating that a 'letter of support had been requested'. Should further evidence of Community Council support be required then Mr Meltzer would attend a future meeting.

5.2 The Chairman said that he had received a request from Mr Dingwall seeking Community Council support for a proposed development at Kinloss Country Golf Club. Following discussion with the Secretary it had been pointed out to Mr Dingwall that the Community Council are **statutory** consultees for all planning applications and that extreme care must be taken not to prejudice this important role. Any application including this one will be considered on its merits at the appropriate time. The Secretary suggested that when the time came, a site visit might be useful.

5.3 The Chairman reported that he had attended a briefing by the Station Commander at RAF Kinloss regarding the gap in operational cover caused by the premature phasing out of the MR 2 Nimrod. This would inevitably result in job losses. The projected long-term personnel figures for RAF Kinloss envisage a uniformed strength of some 1500 together with around 500 civilian employees.

5.4 The Chairman told the meeting that Rick Walker had kindly agreed to continue to host and manage the Community Council's website. A link had been placed to lead from the Community Council section of the Moray Council website. Pictures of new members would be added in due course.

5.5 The Chairman has visited the Southside former AMQ development. It seems that the number of houses for sale in the first tranche have been reduced to 100 possibly in view of the current economic climate. 14 out of the 18 Kinloss Park houses are under offer.

5.6 The Chairman drew the attention of the meeting to changes at the Kinloss sewage plant. This is to be closed and replaced by a pumping station which will transfer raw effluent to the Forres sewage treatment works. Pipe laying work is already taking place along the Waterford road. Concerns were expressed that there had been no Community Council consultation or notification about this important change. The Secretary was instructed to pass on our concerns to Scottish Water. **Action T Negus**

ITEM 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

6.1 Correspondence. Notification from HQ 51 Brigade about exercise low flying. Letter to Mr N Thompson assuring him of support for the proposed Moray Way. Letter from Moray library to update our data entry. Letter from Grampian Police seeking volunteers for the custody visitor scheme. Letter from Moray Council Access Manager seeking to fill vacancies on the Moray Outdoor Access Forum (passed to P Carroll). Letter from Scottish Government with latest copy of 'Good Practice for Local Authorities & Community Councils' Letter from Peter Peacock MSP about consultation on improving Broadband speeds. (passed to I Hampson) Letter from Moray Council accompanying 6 month Council expenses grant. (acknowledgement sent) Letter from Mr Shoult of Newton of Struthers. (Sec to reply).

6.2 e-correspondence. Grampian Police Quarterly figures. E-mail from Community Councillor in Edinburgh seeking views on our dealings with ASCC. (reply sent) Consultation about road hierarchy and priorities in Elgin. e-Community Planning bulletin.. 'Better Community Engagement Pilot'. Flyer for Scottish Rural Network Event inc LEADER Grants.

6.3 Newsletters. SNH winter edition of 'Nature in Scotland', SEPA View winter issue, Tenants Voice.

ITEM 7. TREASURERS REPORT

7.1 The Treasurer has received a cheque for £293.30 from Moray Council to cover Community Council routine expenses for 6 months.

7.2 Recent outgoings include £44 for poppy wreaths and £81.10 Secretary's expenses.

7.3 Now that the new grant has been received the Treasurer will transfer residual funds from No 1 (working) account to No2 (capital projects) account.

ITEM 8 ASCC REPORT

Nothing to Report.

ITEM 9. MORAY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

9.1 Cllr Hamilton congratulated P Carroll and T Dingwall on their election to the Community Council. He commiserated with Mrs April Miller and hoped that she would not be put off involvement in Community affairs.

9.2 Budget discussions continue and will be finalised and announced on 11th February.

9.3 The recent very cold weather has taken a heavy toll on the roads of Moray. Class A & B roads have been inspected and over 200 areas of concern have been noted. C class and unclassified roads have yet to be inspected. 'Find & Fix' squads are carrying out temporary repairs as required. Repairing damage will inevitably put pressure on an already strained roads budget.

ITEM 10. RAFLO REPORT.

10.1 51 Sqn RAF Regiment will be holding an exercise on the Airfield 1-10 Feb. There may be some night firing.

10.2 Detailed plans are still to be formulated relating to the draw down associated with the premature phasing out of the MR2 Nimrod. It is hoped that more information will be available for the next meeting.

ITEM 11. FINDHORN FOUNDATION REPORT

Nothing to Report.

ITEM 12. PLANNING

12.1 Correspondence. Moray Council propose an information/training session for community Councillors on e-planning on Monday 22nd February at 7pm. Venue to be notified. The meeting showed considerable interest. Secretary to pass this on to Tracey Rae.

12.2 Notification of Consultation about transport requirements for small developments in rural parts of Moray.

12.3 Courtesy Copy of Letter from Mr D Urquhart to Moray Council concerning his access rights across land to the east of the Dunes Road recently scheduled for building in the local plan.

12.4 Letter from Moray Council notifying that outline planning permission has been granted for a house in the garden of 5 Fryrish Road. (Application registered Jan 2007 – no reasons given for delay).

12.5 Draft Copy of Moray Urban Design Guide.

12.6 e-mail to Chairman from M Thompson objecting to proposed development at Lochyhill. Discussed by members. Consensus did not support Mr Thompson and considered that the proposed development is located outside our boundary and more properly the remit of Forres Community Council. It was also felt that Mr Thompson should have registered his concerns during the extensive consultations relating to the local plan when the site was designated for housing. The Chairman will reply to Mr Thompson.

12.7 Planning Applications registered since last meeting.

Kinloss – None

Findhorn Foundation – None

Findhorn Village 12 Jan New Access at Tor Avon associated with cyclepath extension. No Objection.

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

13.1 H Morton told the meeting that Moray Council has made a provisional booking for the James Milne Institute for 28th March for use as a polling station in the event of a general election on that date. This clashes with a scheduled community Council meeting. In the unlikely event of an election being called so soon then we would seek to hold the meeting in the Village Centre in order to avoid a change of date.

13.2 P Carroll said that he noted from previous minutes that the Community Council had a vacancy for a representative on the Nature Reserve Committee. He is already a member but is happy to represent the Community Council as well. The Chairman gratefully accepted this offer.

13.3 P Carroll asked for a copy of the agreed constitution. The Secretary agreed to e-mail this to both new members.

13.4 The Secretary reported that the south west corner of the wall round the war memorial had been damaged recently. The damage had been reported to Moray Council straight away and repairs had been carried out the following day. The Secretary has written to Mr Morrison to thank him for his extremely prompt response.

ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 25th February 2010 at 7.30pm in Kinloss Primary School.