

**Minutes of Meeting of Findochty Community Council**  
**Held at Findochty Town Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

**Persons Present:** Lesley Loades (Chair), Ian Gardiner, Martin Legge, Lorna Breetzke, Andrew Slater, Elizabeth Campbell, Craig Breetzke, Councillor Gordon McDonald

**Apologies:** Councillor Anne McKay

**Guests Present:** Donna Campbell (Findochty PSG), Sue Tozer, (Findochty PSG) Alistair Campbell (Libraries & Museums Manager)

**Matters Arising from Previous month's meeting**

**The Plinth** – Lesley informed the CC that the plinth top is finished and waiting for collection. John Gardiner has agreed to fix the top to the plinth.

- **Action** – Martin to collect
- **Action** – Lesley and Elizabeth to get a commemorative plaque to be attached to the plinth.

**Future of the Town Hall** – Lesley contacted Tracey Rae regarding the Moray Council's plans for the Town Hall. At present closure is not on the agenda but this could not be guaranteed in the future.

**Dog Fouling** – Lesley contacted the Dog Warden who said unless they have photos or a name there is nothing they can do.

**Sea Level Indicator** – Councillor McDonald advised this is to be discussed at the Harbour meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

- **Action** – Councillor McDonald to report back to CC at next meeting

**Coastal Grant** – Lorna explained that on this occasion they would not be applying for the grant due to the strict regulations concerned with the repair of the steps at McKenzies beach and also the amount of money it would require if a Council approved contractor had to be used for the job. Lesley asked Councillor McDonald if he could raise this at the harbour meeting.

**Flooding at Strathlene** – Councillor McDonald advised he has reported the problem to the Council and has been told the main issue is water coming from the surrounding farm and no adequate drainage on the road. The problem has been noted but with no resolution at this time as would probably require major road works.

**LEADER funding** – Martin sent off receipts as requested.

**Findochty Library** – Alistair Campbell attended the CC meeting to discuss the issues raised by the CC regarding the opening of the new library in Findochty Primary School. Donna and Sue from the Findochty Parent Support Group also attended to voice their concerns.

Donna challenged Alistair Campbell over several issues which they felt as parents of children attending Findochty Primary School concerned them. Firstly was the fact that the librarian is left on her own at night with no view of the entrance where youths are free to enter and hang around the stairs and the area under the stairs. It was also raised that teachers are sometimes still in the school after school hours when the library is open and until they leave the alarms on the doors at the top of the stairs are not set. Donna suggested to Mr. Campbell that a janitor could be employed during library opening hours to increase safety but Mr. Campbell advised there is no budget for a janitor. He did however suggest they would have no problem with volunteers along as they have a full disclosure.

The next issue raised was referring to the original plans for the library. The Council had told the CC at the time that there would be doors at the bottom of the stairs so that there would be no access to the rest of the school. Alistair Campbell responded by informing the CC that this had not been possible due to Building Standards not allowing them to block a fire exit. Lesley stated that no one had been informed of this change to the plans.

The state of the library was then discussed. The PSG and CC were extremely disappointed by then lack of effort put into the decoration of the library. Alistair Campbell apologised for this. The PSG advised they have spoken to the teachers and a project with the children will be organised to decorate the walls.

Another matter raised by the PSG was the possibility of someone being able to come into the school and hide under the stairs until the children come in the next day. Mr. Campbell advised that the school has motion sensors so any movement would be detected and set off the alarms immediately.

Lesley raised problem with the poor lighting outside. Mr. Campbell advised he would look into this.

Lesley asked if there are any plans to put a sign at the top of the road for the library. Mr. Campbell advised there will be signs at the corner of the car park but not on the road. He told the CC that if they want a road sign it is up to them to have a separate campaign.

Andrew asked Mr. Campbell why the library could not have been put into the nursery and the nursery further moved into the school. Mr. Campbell advised it had been decided at the time that the nursery was to be kept where it was. Donna stated that the PSG had never been approached about this matter. Councillor McDonald said he felt

that the decision had been made on a false premise and asked Mr. Campbell if it would not be possible to change the position of the library at a future date. Mr. Campbell advised he can look into this and the estimated cost and come back to the CC and PSG with an answer. Alistair Campbell is to attend the next PSG meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February to discuss further.

On a positive note Mr. Campbell advised the usage of the library has gone up since re-opening.

**Date of next meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm in the Findochty Town Hall**