

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held in The James Milne Institute, Findhorn on Thursday 25th March 2010

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Sgt Jones (Grampian Police), Tanya McLaren (Forres Gazette) and 2 members of the public.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from I. Hampson, T. Dingwall, J. Innes (RAFLO), E. Ward.

Public Session

ITEM 2. ANY COMPETENT PUBLIC BUSINESS & GRAMPIAN POLICE REPORT

2.1 Grampian Police Report. Sgt Jones spoke about a number of local incidents that had been reported to the Police in recent weeks. These included a vandalism episode at East Grange Farm, a disorderly behaviour incident near the Abbey Inn at Kinloss and a possible abandoned vehicle on shore road in Findhorn. The vehicle now appears to have been removed. The Secretary enquired if Grampian Police had received any reports about an unauthorised camping incident in the copse immediately to the east of the village. He said that there were concerns amongst residents about underage drinking at the location. There were also concerns about fire risks. Sgt Jones said that he was unaware of the incident but it would be investigated further. Discussion followed on unauthorised camping issues and off-road driving on the dunes. Sgt Jones offered to inform the Secretary of the main points of the law relating to these issues. The Chairman thanked Sgt Jones for his attendance and for his helpful contribution.

2.2 The Chairman welcomed Mr Gary Hunt, the newly elected Chairman of the Moray Gig. Mr Hunt reported that the Moray Gig has now been running successfully for Ten years. During that time a wide range of groups of differing ages had benefited from activities associated with the Gig. The organisation is entirely run by volunteers and is very grateful for the tremendous public support that has been received over the years. It is planned to host a Gig regatta involving visiting vessels in July next year. The Chairman thanked Mr Hunt for his update.

2.3 There was no other public business.

Council Session

ITEM 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February were ratified. Proposed G.Verner, seconded P.Carroll.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Changes at Kinloss sewage Plant. The Secretary reported on further e-correspondence with Scottish Water who had confirmed that the treatment processes at the Forres plant are superior to those at Kinloss and that the new arrangements should therefore result in environmental benefits for Findhorn Bay. Mr Scott repeated his assurance that Scottish Water would continue to work with developers to provide water and waste services as required. If this necessitated increasing capacity then developers would be expected to contribute to the cost.

4.2 Funding arrangements for Community Councils. Discussions continue.

4.3 Possible projects to be funded from No2 account. The Secretary said that whilst large rocks could be obtained from Forres Quarry, delivery and plant hire would be at substantial cost. He queried whether the placement of isolated obstacles would be an effective deterrent particularly to motorcycles. P. Carroll

suggested that a simpler solution might be the reinstatement of the bund to the east of the dunes road principally using spoil that had blown onto the roadway over the years. He agreed to ask Mr Bichan to advise and if appropriate to quote for the work.

Action P Carroll

J. Willoner reported that he had been in contact with the head teacher at Kinloss School. Possible suitable projects for financial support included all-weather playground seating and the provision of materials for making bird boxes. The meeting noted that for a limited period, suitable playground seats are available at a discounted price. It was proposed by G Verner and seconded by P Carroll that a donation of £1000 be made to Kinloss School towards the costs of these two projects.

Action J Willoner

4.4 Community Councils Election Pilot. Proforma has been completed and sent off by Secretary.

4.5 Broadband consultation. The Chairman has flagged this up with JCCM.

4.6 Plastic recycling. P Carroll reported that he had received a lengthy reply from Mr Grant Wilson (Waste Monitoring Officer) to his enquiries about plastics recycling arrangements. Mr Wilson had taken note of concerns that the plastics container at Waterford was frequently overflowing and would instruct staff to address this. He had outlined difficulties associated with kerbside recycling of plastics. These included high volume to low weight ratio and cross contamination issues with the various different types of plastic. Overcoming these problems creates significant cost implications which make kerbside recycling non-viable particularly in the current financial climate. He also noted that plastic is a suitable material for landfill since it remains inert indefinitely and long term contamination is not a problem.

ITEM 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 Letter received from Grampian Housing Association informing us that purchase completed on 26 houses at Southside. Although the properties are in overall good condition considerable work is still required to bring them up to Scottish Housing Quality Standards for rented accommodation.

5.2 Annual report from Scottish Health Council.

5.3 Letter about new arrangements for CC insurance.

5.4 The Chairman has flagged up our concerns to JCCM about the possible premature switch from local press notification to electronic methods in respect of planning matters. These concerns are shared by a number of other Community Councils. Although the legislative process is not yet complete which will give Local Authorities the option to move to an all on-line system, it was felt important that Moray Council should be made aware of local feeling on this issue.

5.5 The Chairman updated the meeting on the Community engagement Pilot projects. 6 projects had been selected to receive financial support from Scottish Government funds.

ITEM 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

6.1 Meeting. With Mr James Smith and Mr Grigor re road junction at Findhorn Church.

6.2 Correspondence. Letter from Moray Council about changes to regulations for public processions. Letter from CO RAF Kinloss about Glasgow UAS Visit and forthcoming NATO exercise. Bill from Moray Council for hire of Kinloss School for February meeting. Treasurer to query this as we have not been charged in the past. Letter from ENTRUST requesting annual return. Copy of letter from Forres CC to CE Moray Council about Community Support Unit.

6.3 Newsletters & Flyers. Moray Firth Partnership. Scottish Rights of Way Society. Fundraising Seminar in Elgin Town Hall.

ITEM 7. TREASURERS REPORT

Nothing to report.

ITEM 8. ASCC REPORT

Nothing to report. Executive meeting scheduled next month.

ITEM 9. MORAY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

9.1 The Kinloss Church project had been successful in obtaining funding from the landfill tax fund.

9.2 In view of the uncertainties about future population numbers, the proposed extensive upgrade of Kinloss School has been reviewed. Revised priorities for school building upgrade projects are still under consideration.

9.3 Cllr Hamilton was pleased to note increasing youth involvement in various aspects of Community engagement.

ITEM 10. RAFLO REPORT.

Nothing further to report. (See 6.2 above).

ITEM 11. FINDHORN FOUNDATION REPORT

11.1 The Foundation has received a £150k grant from Community Energy Scotland and a £100k interest free loan from the Energy saving trust to install a biomass heating system at Findhorn Foundation.

ITEM 12. PLANNING

12.1 Proposed workshop in Aberdeen organised by Planning Aid cancelled due to poor uptake. Consideration is being given to rearranging at a location more convenient for Moray delegates. Llanbryde community Centre suggested – possible date in May. PC & HM expressed interest in attending.

12.2 Applications since last meeting.

Development at Kinloss Country Golf. Discussed at length following earlier site visit. Departure from H8 noted but in view of potential local economic benefits F&KCC support application.

New Dormers at 66 Findhorn – No objection

Alteration & Repairs at 173 Findhorn – No objection

New Access at Briar Cottage 196 Findhorn - No objection.

ITEM 13. STRYPLIES IN FINDHORN

13.1 A discussion paper by P. Carroll had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. In it he noted concerns about the blocking of some stryplies and paths and about the deterioration of surfaces caused by increased traffic, including construction vehicles servicing building works. He suggested a number of solutions including closer scrutiny of access issues by Moray Council planning officials, and possible eventual Community buyout of the land concerned. The meeting was unanimous in agreeing the significance of stryplies and paths which are so important to the character of the village. However, it was felt that a measured approach should be adopted. The first stage should be the compilation of an up to date, comprehensive and authoritative map/ inventory of all existing stryplies and connecting paths in the village. Given such a baseline, then it should be possible to identify any which have been obstructed or are at risk. Possible remedial measures could then be considered in depth. P. Carroll agreed to draw up such a map.

Action P Carroll.

ITEM 14. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

14.1 A Skene noted that the emergency repairs to winter damaged roads were already failing. Cllr Hamilton said that more permanent repairs would continue to be carried out as funds permit. The budget is extremely tight and additional funding from central government, although most welcome, is not expected to be generous.

14.2 J Willoner suggested that in the event of Moray Council charging for the use of Kinloss School for meetings, we should consider alternative venues in Kinloss.

14.3 P Carroll expressed concerns about cars exceeding the 20mph limit on Back Road in Findhorn and suggested additional surface markings. The Secretary agreed to speak to Roads dept. **Action T Negus**

14.4 P. Carroll noted that there was a lot of residual grit on the pavements and roads in Findhorn following the severe weather. Cllr Hamilton said that there is an on-going county-wide programme for sweeping up this residue and that Findhorn would be dealt with in due course.

14.5 P. Carroll suggested that some form of combination lock on the door of the bird hide could protect the structure from unauthorised use and vandalism. The lock number could be made available to genuine bird watchers. P Carroll to write to Chairman of Local Nature Reserve. **Action P Carroll**

ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 29th April 2010 at 7.30pm in Kinloss Primary School. (Secretary away. Agenda will be circulated early. Minute taker required. H. Morton to act as Planning Contact.)