

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held in the Cumming Hall Kinloss on Thursday 28th February 2013

Present:

L.Morgan (Chairman), R.Shand, P.Carroll, H.Morton, D.Morton, G. Verner, I Hampson, Cllr Skene, Cllr Creswell, Cllr Mclean, Cllr Alexander, T.Negus(Sec)

In Attendance:

Tanya McLaren (Forres Gazette), Pete Finch (Findhorn Foundation) and 26 members of the public.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from A.Miller, J.Willoner, S Williams, Sgt Jones.

Public Session

ITEM 2. GRAMPIAN POLICE REPORT & ANY COMPETENT PUBLIC BUSINESS.

2.1 In the absence of a Police representative, the Secretary summarised the report e-mailed by Sgt Jones prior to the meeting. There had been no local incidents of note since the last meeting. Details were provided on progress in merging Morayshire and Aberdeenshire divisions. A new country-wide non emergency number **101** was launched on 21 February. This number replaces the former 0845 call centre number. The number is available 24hrs a day and costs a flat rate of 15p per call. The 999 emergency number should continue to be used in an emergency eg. to report a crime in progress or when violence is being used or threatened or when a life is in danger. P. Carroll reported that following his enquiry at the last meeting about break-ins at the Bird Hide, a Police Officer had visited him to take a statement.

2.2 The Chairman noted the large number of members of the public present and which he assumed was in response to the recent article in the Forres Gazette about possible effects on the 31 Stagecoach bus service resulting from proposed Moray Council budget cuts. The Chairman said that at this stage the Community Council is in the process of gathering accurate data about current patterns of usage of the buses. This would provide a sensible and sound basis on which to negotiate any future changes. The meeting was told that a questionnaire can be obtained from the Findhorn village shop and Findhorn residents who use the bus are requested to complete form and return it to the shop. Bus users at the Park are asked to collect a form from Pete Finch at the Foundation general office and to return it to him. Kinloss bus users are asked to telephone the Chairman, Les Morgan on 676716 to provide this information. He urged all regular bus users to provide this information at the earliest opportunity. The consolidated information will be passed to Moray Councillors.

Action T Negus, L, Morgan

2.3 The Chairman welcomed Fiona Burnett from Moray Council who briefed the meeting about forthcoming changes to recycling arrangements. In order to promote the recycling of plastics a separate (purple) bin will be provided to each household. In addition, the current blue paper recycling box will be replaced by a larger blue bin. The orange glass recycling box will be retained. These recycling containers will be serviced fortnightly in phase with the brown bin collections. The new bins will be delivered in mid March together with an explanatory leaflet. Fiona answered a number of questions and the Chairman thanked her for coming to the meeting and explaining the changes so clearly.

2.4 Mrs Hunt complained that Mr Hay had ‘fenced off’ some ground on the foreshore in front of his house and questioned the legality of this. Mr Hunt said that this was traditionally common land although he did concede that the land had formerly been leased by Novar estates to a group of boat owners which included himself. It is also understood that the Yacht club, who own the piers, have certain rights in respect of ground immediately adjacent to each pier. It was agreed that members should speak with Mr Hay to seek clarification.

Action R Shand, T Negus

Council Session

ITEM 3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 31 Jan 2013 were ratified. Proposed P Carroll, seconded D.Morton.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Defective Road Drain near Culbin Flats. H Morton has written to Tracey Rae to chase up his previous correspondence on the subject and has received an acknowledgement.

4.2 Aircraft Noise Contours. The Chairman has written to the Station Commander at RAF Lossiemouth and to Moray Council suggesting that since there are no longer any jet aircraft based at Kinloss, planning restrictions set in place to mitigate aircraft noise in the immediate area should be reviewed. The Secretary has included a similar recommendation in his latest consultation response for the new local plan.

4.3 Car Parking at Kinloss Abbey. P Carroll has spoken with the owner of land surrounding the entrance to Kinloss Abbey burial ground about the possible release of land for a car park. The owner gave a sympathetic hearing but she and her family are unwilling to give up land. She accepts that from time to time the grass may be damaged by cars, but past experience indicates that the grass soon regenerates.

4.4 Public Seats on the Loading Bank. The Secretary has spoken with Mr Reeves who has agreed to repair the broken seat. The Secretary has also spoken with Mr McRitchie who has agreed that repainting the seats may be done as part of the Community payback scheme.

4.5 Clearance of Footpath at aircraft viewing area. Approval has been given for this to be a Community Payback task and work will commence shortly.

ITEM 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 4 Feb attended emergency planning meeting in Elgin accompanied by Secretary. Work started on template for plan.

5.2 14 Feb Attended JCC meeting with D Morton.

5.3 7 March, due to attend/chair JCC sub group meeting aimed at promoting participation in forthcoming Community Council elections.

ITEM 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

6.1 Correspondence: Consultation document on proposed 8 year business strategy for Scottish & Southern Electric. Many letters & phone calls about Bus Service issues.

6.2 e-Correspondence. Tellmescotland upgrades. Consultation on redesigning Criminal Justice system with particular reference to women offenders. Invitation to join CRNS (subscription £180). Information about webcast debate on Human Rights in Scotland. 3 Communications from Antisocial behaviour co-ordinator including questionnaire on Community Wardens. (Sec to respond). Invitation to Scottish wildlife trust meeting 13 March.

6.3 Newsletters & Flyers. March newsletter from Scottish Mink initiative.

ITEM 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

7.1 Cheques out for £19.50 for Osprey room rental and £7.90 for photocopying bus questionnaires.

ITEM 8. KINLOSS BARRACKS REPORT

8.1 A new secretary is being sought for the Osprey Bus. The Chairman has identified a possible volunteer.

ITEM 9. JCCM REPORT

9.1 An NHS Grampian manager attended the meeting on 14 Feb. She would welcome ideas on how to reduce the significant numbers of missed GP appointments.

9.2 The Chairman of JCC highlighted forthcoming major events in Moray which include the European Pipe Band championships and the National Orienteering finals.

9.3 Next JCC meeting is 9th May.

ITEM 10. MORAY COUNCILLORS REPORT

10.1 Cllr Creswell gave an account of her recent busy schedule which included Chinese New Year functions, meetings with Friends of The Falconer Museum, visits to Kinloss School and Forres Enterprise Park and the Kinloss Social Enterprise coffee morning.

10.2 Cllr Alexander recommended attendance at a forthcoming presentation by Mr Andrew Wright in Forres Town Hall on the historical and architectural aspects of the Forres conservation area. (date to be confirmed). The Pipe Band Championship organisers are urgently seeking volunteers to help with the event. The A96 diversion related to the flood alleviation works opens shortly. Speed limits will be rigorously enforced. There is a planning hearing next week which includes the R3 application at Kinloss. Work will start very soon on the new health centre.

4.3 Cllr McLean spoke of his recent visit to Forres Enterprise Park where around 450 people are currently employed. This number is set to rise.

4.4 Cllr Skene drew attention to the new Job Club at Forres Library which helps people with improving internet skills, CVs and job applications. Morayvia are considering use of former Roseabbey school buildings.

ITEM 11. LOCAL IMPLICATIONS OF MORAY COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS

11.1 Concerns aired earlier in meeting about possible effects on bus services. There is an 'impact' meeting scheduled for 27 March. Results of local survey to be sent to Cllr Creswell beforehand.

11.2 We have been told that the north public toilet in the Findhorn beach carpark will be closed. In the past, closure has resulted in vandalism. Secretary to place notices directing visitors to the one remaining public toilet still open.

Action T Negus

11.3 Local changes to Library service unclear at present. Concerns expressed about possible loss of much valued mobile library service in Findhorn which was reduced recently as a result of earlier Council cuts. These concerns are exacerbated by possible threats to bus service access to Forres library.

ITEM 12. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS OCT 2013

12.1 The Joint Community Council of Moray intend to mount a public awareness campaign to promote participation in the Community Council Scheme. It was agreed to contribute £75 towards this campaign.

12.2 The meeting acknowledged that a great deal of effort had been put into publicising the last CC elections in 2009 with somewhat disappointing results. It was suggested that a more targeted approach might be more effective. The meeting agreed that a younger demographic representation on the Community Council is highly desirable. A larger pool of candidates resulting in an election would certainly emphasise the democratic nature of the Community Council scheme.

ITEM 13. PLANNING.

13.1 Actions from last meeting. Objection sent to application for 110 Findhorn on grounds of unsafe vehicle access. This has been ignored and application has been approved.

13.2 Site visit by HM, IH, JW & Secretary in respect of application 13/0084/APP on 5 Feb. Objection sent on grounds of visual intrusion in wooded area at entrance to village.

13.3 No new applications since last meeting.

ITEM 14. FINDHORN FOUNDATION REPORT

14.1 The Chairman welcomed Pete Finch as the new Findhorn Foundation representative.

14.2 He reported that Ana Rhodes Castro, the current Chief Executive, leaves in May and will be replaced by Camilla Pederson.

14.3 The first occupants of the new housing north of the Universal Hall are expected to move in during late March although it will be some while before the complex is fully occupied.

ITEM 15 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

15.1 I.Hampson noted that dog fouling is getting worse along the Dunes road. There is already a bin at the far end of the road and perhaps additional bins along the length of the road may help. I Hampson to write to Tracey Rae requesting additional bins.

Action I Hampson

15.2 D.Morton noted that the current arrangements for booking the Cumming Hall are no longer valid. The facility is well used and a replacement procedure for bookings is an urgent requirement. D.Morton to contact Barrack Staff Officer with a view to devising alternative booking system.

Action D Morton

15.3 P Carroll noted that in some cases the marked no parking areas designed to allow vehicle access from the main road into some stryplies were too narrow. Secretary to write to roads dept requesting additional road marking to improve access.

Action T Negus

15.4 The Chairman read out a letter from Mr Simpson of Glebe Road, expressing concerns about litter and broken glass on pavements between the Spar shop and Kinloss School. L Morgan to write to Moray Council.

Action L Morgan

15.5 G Verner noted an excessive number of potholes on the Miltonhill road. Cllr Skene agreed to look into this.

ITEM 16. FORTHCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS.

16.1 Sat 2nd March MIRO Film night James Milne Institute.

16.2 Friday 15th March. 'Hall Tales' Kinloss Church Hall.

ITEM 17. NEXT MEETING.

Thursday 28th March in Findhorn.