

FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held in the James Milne Institute Findhorn on Thursday 28th March 2013

Present:

L.Morgan (Chairman), R.Shand, P.Carroll, D.Morton, J.Willoner, I Hampson, G Verner, Cllr Creswell, T.Negus(Sec)

In Attendance:

S.Williams (Kinloss Barracks), P.Finch (Findhorn Foundation), Tanya McLaren (Forres Gazette), and 5 members of the public.

DRAFT

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from H.Morton, A.Miller, Sgt Jones, Cllr Skene, Cllr Alexander, Cllr Maclean.

Public Session

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

2.1 The report submitted by Sgt Jones prior to the meeting was summarised by the Secretary, Police had been alerted to reports of a man carrying a sword in Findhorn on 27 March. This 'weapon' turned out to be a plastic toy. Enquiries about vandalism at the Bird hide are ongoing and one person has been interviewed and a second individual is still to be seen. Grampian Police will cease to exist as a separate entity on 31 March when the National Force, 'Police Scotland' becomes fully operational. It is unlikely that the public will notice any change at a local level and we have been assured that the Community Council will continue to receive full support.

2.2 Ms Davina Thomas asked if it was possible to provide a communal purple bin in Findhorn for plastics recycling. She has declined to accept a separate bin for her house. Whilst she fully supports the principle of recycling, she feels that she will not generate enough material to make full use of a separate bin of her own. It was suggested that perhaps she could co-operate with her neighbours to share a bin. Possible sites for a communal bin were discussed. A location by Findhorn Kirk where the bottle bank used to be was considered suitable and the Secretary will request that a communal bin be put there. A second site towards the Northern end of the village would be advantageous and either the car park of the Crown or the Car park of the yacht Club were suggested as possible locations. P. Carroll agreed to investigate.

Action T Negus, P Carroll

2.3 H.Grigor noted that despite the 'Keep Clear' road markings parked vehicles are tending to obstruct access to some of the Stryplies. He had taken a photo of a blatant example. The Secretary said that this topic had come up at the last meeting and that he had written to the Council requesting that the Road Surface signs be augmented by demarcation lines. He will be happy to forward Mr Grigor's photograph to reinforce the point.

Action T.Negus

2.4 Mr Baxter asked for the Community Council's help in resisting attempts to include possible over development at Newton of Struthers within the emerging new Local Plan. F&KCC had previously supported residents in a similar situation during preparation of the current Local Plan. F&KCC continues to maintain this approach but notes that the threatened developments are currently not recommended by planning officers for inclusion into the draft plan. F&KCC will continue to monitor the situation as the new plan evolves. In addition, the Chairman advised Mr Baxter to contact him (by phone, e-mail or letter), if he felt that the Community Council should be made aware of any further issues.

2.5 Pete Finch said he had been asked to raise the topic of Dog Fouling in the vicinity of the Culbin Flats. The Secretary said that the matter had already been raised by a resident of the flats at the January meeting, when the Community Warden was in attendance. The advice then was that the Council is aware of the issue and wardens have started to issue fixed penalty notices to offending dog owners.

Complainants are advised to note details of incidents and to call in to the antisocial behaviour call centre to report them. It is understood that this number has previously been circulated to residents of the Culbin Flats.

Council Session

ITEM 3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 28th February were ratified. Proposed P Carroll, seconded G.Verner.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Bus Services. The Secretary and the Chairman briefed the meeting on the methodology and results of a recent survey of current usage of the Stagecoach 31 bus service. The results have been forwarded to Ward Councillors and to Cllr Murdoch. They have also been sent to Mr Toonen, the Equalities Officer at Moray Council, who is required to make an impact assessment of any proposed changes. Mr Toonen has thanked us for our report, which he considers relevant evidence that should be taken into account during his analysis. F&KCC has asked to be consulted on any proposed changes to the service and it considers that there is now an opportunity to redesign a more viable service that meets the needs of the Community.

4.2 Land next to South pier. Following concerns expressed at the last meeting that ground next to the pier had been 'fenced off', the Secretary has spoken with Mr Hay who has made it very clear that he has no intention of restricting public access. He is keen to make good and tidy up the area previously occupied by the portacabin and building materials for his house and he intends to grass the area. Once the grass matures, the area will be available for events such as the Findhorn Fair. He has no objections to boats being placed there if the owners contact him, however he is anxious that to keep the area in front of his house in a tidy state in contrast to the ground immediately to the south where there are a number of broken boats and canoes. H.Grigor queried the extent of the ground owned by Mr Hay. P.Carroll said this was irrelevant since what was not owned by Mr Hay, was owned by Novar and that the village is benefiting by Mr Hay's efforts to improve the amenity of the area. R.Shand noted that Mr Hay had carried out a number of minor works in the harbour area at his own expense to the benefit of the village.

4.3 Broken Seat on the Loading Bank has been repaired by John Reeves at no cost. The meeting recorded its thanks to Mr Reeves who has provided similar practical help to the Community on many occasions.

4.4 Closure of Public Toilet at West Beach Car Park. Moray Council has confirmed that it is the seaward of the two toilets that will be closed and that the other will remain open. Signs will be placed directing people to the remaining facility. R.Shand said that to prevent vandalism, demolition should be considered.

4.5 Additional Dog Bins along the Dunes Road. I Hampson wrote to the Council requesting additional bins but received a reply to the effect that there is no budget, neither funds nor resources available for this.

4.6 Road Markings in Findhorn (see 2.3 above)

4.7 Broken Glass at Kinloss. The Chairman forwarded concerns to Moray Council and has responded to the complainant.

ITEM 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 Involved in Bus survey.

5.2 Member of JCC sub committee aiming to promote greater public engagement with Community Council election process later this year. A number of initiatives are under active consideration,

5.3 15 March. Attended 'Hall Tales' event at Kinloss Church.

5.4 16 March. Visited Mr Baxter to discuss issues at Newton of Struthers.

5.5 18 March. Submitted first draft of Local Community Resilience Plan.

ITEM 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

6.1 Correspondence. Flyer for fund raising Seminar Elgin 3rd & 4th April.

6.2 e-Correspondence: Training Calendar for Moray Council. E-mail about assisted living technology. Information about free IT courses at Moray College. Renewal of Community Council Insurance. Consultation on Licensing Policy.

6.3 Newsletter from Scottish Rights of Way Society.

ITEM 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

7.1 Cheque out for £75 to JCC for promotion of CC scheme.

7.2 There has been no movement on the No2 account for a year and the Bank has therefore suspended the account. It was agreed that the two accounts should be merged. (Prop P Carroll Seconded L Morgan)

ITEM 8. JCCM REPORT

8.1 Next meeting due 9th May.

ITEM 9. MORAY COUNCILLORS REPORT

9.1 Cllr Creswell has been appointed vice chair of the Health & Social Care Committee. She reported that the budget deliberations have reached the stage of area review and formulation of a 10 year plan. There has been a change in the arrangements for planning appeals and local Councillors are now permitted to sit on review body groups for cases within their own area.

9.2 Cllr Skene e-mailed that she had followed up the complaint about the poor state of the Coltfield Road. Repairs are already included in the 2013/2014 schedule but a safety inspection will be made in the near future.

ITEM 10. KINLOSS BARRACKS REPORT

10.1 Secretary of State visited recently & commented favourably on the relatively seamless RAF/Army handover. The warm welcome by the local Community has been an important factor.

10.2 Cumming Hall issues. Progress is slow. Defence Infrastructure Organisation has long standing rules regarding use of MOD owned buildings by civilian groups. It is possible that the significance of these rules may have been underestimated by the departing RAF administration. S Williams is negotiating a possible solution whereby a management committee becomes the licensee and responsible for public liability insurance. This might then satisfy DIO requirements. D Morton said that it was understandable that local people including Southside residents feel that they are being defrauded by MOD. They were under the impression that a large sum of money had been spent on what was purported to be a Community facility, but it seems that obstacles are being placed which discourage use by the civilian community. S. Williams reassured the meeting that this was far from the case and that he continues to work towards an equitable solution.

10.3 Explosive disposal of redundant wartime ordnance continues. Additional warning procedures have been put in place to keep dog walkers out of the area during firing.

10.4 D Morton said complaints have been received about footballers changing on the street before weekend matches. D Morton to forward details to S Williams. **Action D Morton.**

ITEM 11. FINDHORN FOUNDATION REPORT

11.1 'Earth Sings' Conference/workshop Easter weekend.

11.2 First residents have moved in to Dunelands Development.

ITEM 12. PLANNING

12.1 Applications since last meeting:

Kinloss: 13/00345/APP Alteration & extension at 13 North Rd Kinloss. No objection.

Findhorn Foundation: No applications.

Findhorn Village: 13/00282/APP Conservatory at 10B Broom Walk. No objections.

13/00345/APP Extension at No3 Beach Chalets Findhorn. No objections.

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

13.1 D.Morton reported that he had so far had no response to his request to DIO for the relocation of an 'Official Secrets Act' sign on the approach road to the civilian Southside estate. It was felt that it should be on the other side of the road closer to the barrack block area to which it refers.

13.3 I.Hampson said that several responses from Findhorn were included in the 'Living Longer Living Better' consultation.

13.4 P.Carroll reported that he understood that that bids for LEADER funding have been suspended until 2015. Cllr Creswell agreed to look into this.

13.5 L Morgan noted that units of 1 Scots are looking for Community Engagement projects this summer.

ITEM 14. FORTHCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Easter Sunday. Findhorn Residents association Children's Easter Egg hunt.

Fri 19 April. Illustrated Heritage Talk – 'A "virtual" walk round Findhorn' 7.30 James Milne Institute.

ITEM 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 25th April at Cumming Hall Kinloss.