

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 24th January 2022 by Zoom

FCC members present

Stewart McCracken (SMcC), Anna Gatward (AG), Howard Davenport (HD),
John Finch (JF), Shirley Munn (SM)

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Pat Hern (PH), Ruth Whitfield (RW), Lorna Creswell (LC), Claire Feaver (CF),
George Alexander (GA), Nick Gibbons (NG) – part time.

Apologies:

Tony Pinner (TP)

1) Minutes of previous meeting

agreed

2) Matters Arising

a. Unadopted road at Lyneside

RW and AG reported that Grant Nicholson and a neighbour had made some interim repairs to the potholes with road planings, but this was not lasting.

LC volunteered to follow up on the response from the letter from Douglas Ross, in which Springfield were to re-instate the road. **(Action: LC)**

b. Resilience Plans

In the light of recent storms, SM suggested that FCC should put together Resilience Plans, to support local households in case of emergency. Hopeman and Cummington CC have already to put together a resilience plan and would be willing to help. It was suggested that they be invited to attend our next meeting **(Action: SM)**

c. Finderne Calendar

NG gave a run down of the progress so far on the proposed 2023 Finderne Calendar.

- RW had contacted a group in Hertfordshire who had produced a community calendar, and got tips on how to organise, get volunteers and commercialise a calendar
- NG & RW had organised a survey to establish the level of interest, in both a calendar and greetings cards.
- Cut-off for artwork would be September 2022.
- NG has organised field trips to encourage potential photographers, and provide hints and tips. He has also set up a digital gallery for photographers to submit images. NG will also run a workshop on photo editing.
- The calendar would also feature a compilation of many photos.
- Funding has been made available from the Auchernack Trust, which will be used for purchase of a camera, tripod, lenses, etc.
- RW is contacting local businesses for sponsorships to cover production costs.

- It was suggested that a communication soliciting contributions could be circulated by FCC. NG to put together a flyer to aid publicity. **(Action: NG/HD)**
- RW to arrange contact with Logie Primary School.
- It was suggested that for inclusivity, it would be good to involve elderly folk who can't easily get outside. It was suggested that this could be another project aligned to capturing local history and folk knowledge.

d. Half Davoch Road Visibility

LC put the roads department in contact with AM in order to provide more detail of the visibility issues at the Half Davoch road junction. AM had not received the info, so LC will re-send. **(Action LC)**

e. Community Consultation

SMcC, JF, and HD are in the process of developing a survey document, with some input from Megan Abbs.

3) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

- **Provision of a pavement in Upper Rafford**

SM reported that Moray Council Roads Engineer, Elaine Penny (EP), has drafted a follow-up letter to be sent to the affected residents who have not yet responded.

- **Village Entrance Signage**

Elaine Penny had offered to produce some ideas for village signage, in January.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

HD has asked for some updated costs from suppliers of speed signs. HD suggested that FCC review these costs and decide which type of signs we need and how many (should this include Lower and Upper Rafford). We need to check if they should be mains or solar powered. SMcC also suggested signs that record traffic speed would be a good idea. Elaine Penny was to ask the Council Procurement department to provide costing. **(Action: SM to follow up with EP)**

- **Traffic Calming Measures/Twenty's Plenty**

Further action on these items is on hold. HD reported that we had received a response to our letter to Graham Leadbitter, Leader of Moray Council, but it did not address policy issues. **(Action - HD to send follow up)**

- **Police Speed Checks**

We would need to contact the Police for more regular speed checks in the village.

b) Community Broadband

JF reported that Findlay McCulloch of FDT had provided the date they had received for Scottish Government on R100 rollout. HD had circulated an analysis of this data, which we will publish on the FCC website.

Status	Properties	SBVS
R100 Contract late 2022	270	Interim Voucher - £400
R100 Contract 2023	170	Interim Voucher - £400
R100 Contract 2024	35	Interim Voucher - £400
No R100 Contract	132	Main Voucher - £5000

HD suggested we ask for an update from FDT on their plans to help those who may miss out on the R100 rollout. **(Action: JF to follow-up)**

HD had been in contact with Brian Higgs, who suggested FCC support a letter they had sent to Richard Lochhead asking for the deadline for Interim Voucher applications to be extended past 31st March 2022. It was agreed HD should send letters to Lochhead and D Ross on behalf of FCC. **(Action: HD)**

c) Brochloch Field Development

The FDT funding application for purchasing the field has been successful. HD reported that FDT have commissioned a heating feasibility study. PH asked if FDT would be providing a leaflet to the local community so they are informed about the progress of the proposed development.

d) Windfarm Developments

Cairn Duhie

No further information

Clashgour/Rothes 3

Still awaiting a decision on the Public Inquiry from Scottish Ministers.

Berry Burn 2

Planning approved.

Lethen

Planning Application was submitted on 17th December. Deadline for Representations is 19th February. HD to submit a letter stressing linking windfarm tracks and existing paths and the need to avoid permanent lighting.

Next CLG meeting scheduled for 26th January.

Ourack

Online exhibition is open, with an online survey to be completed by 11th February.

Community Energy Moray

HD noted that Energising Moray had change its name to the above. It was agreed that FCC should ask for regular updates of their activities. **(Action SMcK/TP)**

e) **Pending Items**

i) **A96 Dualling**

GA forwarded a letter from Graham Dey, Scottish Government Transport Minister, indicated that they were committed to improving the A96 transport corridor, and that although the current plan is to dual the A96, a review was underway to report by end of 2022.

CF added that the Strategic Transport Projects Review for the next 20 years has come out, and it identifies 45 road improvement project, but does not mention A96 or A9 dualling plans. CF suggested it may be worth another letter to our MSP's to request clarification. **(Action CF: to forward review)**

ii) **Core Paths Consultation**

As the Inquiry report has been accepted and approved, deleting one of the proposed paths from Lower Rafford to the Lyneside Road, it was agreed this topic is now closed

iii) **Wild Fires**

We are waiting for the Scottish Government report on improvements to current practices.

iv) **Loch of Blairs**

It was noted that the classroom at the stables is now available for bookings.

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP had reported that no further applications in Finderne had been raised.

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

HD reported correspondence received by email:

- A number of invitations to take part in consultations:
 - Town Centre improvement plans – closing 14th March
 - Community Safety and Anti-social behaviour – open to anyone to join by MS Teams
 - Active Travel Strategy Consultation – closing mid March. HD suggesting it is important for FCC (& FDT) to respond to this. All agreed that a shared use path from Rafford to Forres would be an excellent asset for the community, but funding would be a problem.
 - Spirit of Community Discussion, Forres – next meeting 31st January
- Moray Local Access Forum is looking for new members
- Moray Wellbeing Hub has invited Community Councils to contact them so they can promote their activities in supporting mental health for all across Moray.
- Next JCC meeting scheduled for 10th February. **(Action: SM to attend)**
- Request to support a letter asking Moray Council to abandon plans to charge for events in public parks. It had been agreed to add FCC name to this letter.
- A community member had contacted FCC for support in improving the access road and carpark at Edinkillie Cemetery. HD had responded offering to publicise any fundraising initiatives. LC suggested contacting James Hunter at Moray Council Land and Parks Department.
(Action: HD)

HD noted that the FCC constitution was to be signed by 2 members, and forwarded to Debra Duke, CCLO.
(Action HD & SMcK).

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

Updated balances: £831

Breakdown:

- £551 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £280 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

AG to contact Brian Higgs to identify what the SSEN grant can be used for. (Action: AG)

7) AOCB

- **SSEN Resilience Fund**

SM noted that a survey had been received to ask opinions on how next round of money should be awarded, to be returned by 2nd February. It was agreed that SM should formulate a response and circulate for approval. (Action: SM)

- **Aviva Community Fund**

SM also noted that this fund is open for applications. She has a number of ideas for things we could apply for, including support for village halls. (Action SM to circulate ideas for discussion.)

- **Rafford Village Cafe**

RW noted that Rafford Hall Village Cafes would be resuming, with the 1st event for 2022 being on 2nd April.

- **Rafford Village Hall Parent, Babies and Toddlers group**

RW reported that this group was looking for some support to help open up the hall. 2 volunteers needed once per week.

8) Next meeting

Next meeting Monday 7th March, face to face in Edinkillie Hall, subject to Covid situation at the time.