

## Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 25th April 2022 at Edinkillie Hall

**FCC members present :**

Tony Pinner (TP), Anna Gatward (AG), Howard Davenport (HD), Stewart McCracken (SMcC), Shirley Munn (SM)

**Also present:**

Andy Munro (AM), Roy Dennis (RD), Debra Duke (DD), George Alexander (GA), Mark Abbs (MA)

**Apologies:**

Anne Garrow, Ruth Whitfield, John Finch, Lorna Cresswell, Claire Feaver

**1) Minutes of previous meeting**

agreed

**2) Matters Arising**

**a. Unadopted road at Lyneside**

AG reported that, even though temporary repairs had been made by residents, the potholes are getting bigger again. Timber lorries removing timber from Altyre Estate are now also frequently using the road, as well as Grant Nicholson's vehicles.

GA suggested contacting Rhona Gunn at Moray Council, to query whether the Altyre Estate or timber extraction company should bear the cost of repairing the road. **(Action SMcC to contact Rhona Gunn at [RhonaGunn@Moray.gov.uk](mailto:RhonaGunn@Moray.gov.uk))**

There was also a query raised on whether Grant Nicholson's use of his land as a depot for construction vehicles and materials constituted a change of use, for which planning permission should be required. **(Action: TP to contact Planning Department)**

**b. Finderne Calendar**

HD reported that the calendar and photography workshops had been advertised in the recent FCC newsletter.

**c. Half Davoch Road Visibility**

AM had been in contact with Gary Grant of Moray Council, and was told that the whins would be cut back the next time the council was trimming hedges in the area, later in the year.

**d. Community Consultation**

The draft questionnaire to be completed, and to be circulated to members for comments and approval. **(Action: HD, JF, & SMcC)**

It was noted that FDT had recently issued surveys on use of Halls and other meeting spaces, on community transport, and broadband. It was suggested that we work more closely with FDT, to coordinate, and avoid community overload. ( **Action: SMcC to liaise with Brian Higgs**)

It was noted that FCC would not be able to afford to post out a survey with return envelopes, as had been done for the recent FDT survey, with a disappointing number of returns. DD suggested that the Community Support Officer, Mary Robertson, could help with ideas on management of survey distribution. It was also suggested that the survey could be completed face-to-face with community members at public events such as Rafford Village Hall Café, Edinkillie Hall events, and Logie School events. ( **Action: HD to contact Logie School and CSO**)

**e. Edinkillie Cemetary**

HD reported that he had contacted James Hunter at Land and Parks department to see if anything could be done to improve access. Awaiting a response. ( **Action: HD to follow up**)

**3) Current Standing Items**

**a) Traffic Safety in Rafford**

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

HD and SM reported that 4 of the households affected by the first proposal of a pavement on the West side of the village. So , together with Elaine Penny the Moray Council Roads Engineer, we are looking at the feasibility of an alternative route along the east side of the village. The properties affected seem to be in favour.

We need to arrange a further meeting with Elaine Penny to discuss next steps. ( **Action SM/HD**)

- **Village Entrance Signage**

HD reported that we had received some suggestions for layout of signage from Elaine Penny, which had been distributed to members. It was agreed that FCC members should make a decision on which type of sign we should implement. AG asking if funding was an issue in deciding type and quantity of signs ( **Action SM/HD to clarify funding with Elaine Penny, and to facilitate decision**).

- **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). It had been confirmed by EP that they should be solar powered. 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.

- **Police Speed Checks**

It was reported that there had been a Police presence in the village last month to do speed checks. Also the Council roads department had been monitoring traffic. **(Action: SM to request feedback from Police and EP.)**

b) **Community Broadband**

It was reported that several residents had requested information from Openreach engineers who had been surveying in the Rafford area. They had be told that the Fibre network would be in place within the next 6 months, and that some properties who were not on the original R100 list would get connected.

For those not covered by the R100 scheme, the FDT is co-ordinating pooling for grants to provide alternative solutions.

c) **Brochloch Field Development**

No further update.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

**Cairn Duhie**

HD reported that this development had been opposed by Highland Council and would go to Public Inquiry

**Clashgour/Rothes 3**

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

**Berry Burn 2**

Planning approved by Scottish Government. It was agreed that FCC should make an approach for some direct funding under the Community Benefit scheme. **(Action: SMcC to contact developer)**

**Lethen**

Planning Application was submitted on 17<sup>th</sup> December. FCC had submitted comments.

**Ourack**

Planning application not yet submitted. An updated layout is expected to be presented at an online Public Exhibition scheduled for "this Spring".

**Energising Moray**

It was agreed that FCC should ask for regular updates of their activities. **( Action SMcC/TP)**

e) **Joint Community Council**

This item has been added to the agenda, to provide a report back on recent JCC meetings. Next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May. **(Action:SM)**

f) **Resilience Planning**

Following the presentation from Jim Patterson in our last meeting, SM suggested setting up a subcommittee, with participation from community members, to manage this initiative. We already had one volunteer. It was agreed to publicise the initiative and the need for volunteers in the newsletter and at any events we attend.

SM reported that the deadline for SSEN funding had been extended to 13<sup>th</sup> May. She had already contacted electrical contractors for a costs for emergency generators for the village halls. She would circulate a final application to FCC members for approval. **(Action: SM)**

g) **Pending Items**

i) **A96 Dualling**

Still under review by Scottish Government

ii) **Wild Fires**

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

FCC had been copied in on an email from Mike Crutch to the Green Party MSP, on the subject of policies to minimise the risk of wildfires spreading through wind farm sites.

**4) Planning Report (TP)**

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

**5) Secretary's Report (HD)**

HD reported correspondence received by email:

- A request to publicise a regenerative beef farming enterprise in Finderne. It was agreed that we should not cross over into the area of publicising/endorsing businesses.
- Vandalism of a car parked by the Dava Way bridge in Lower Rafford had been reported.
- Following a request to FDT for updates ahead of FCC meetings, the FDT had said that they were not in a position to do this, but that they would communicate any key items ahead of going out to the community. They also identified that a person nominated by the FCC could apply to become a director of the FDT. **(Action: SMcC to follow up)**
- The parish of Edinkillie is to be split up between Grantown and Nairn. FCC had received a request for data on location of households in the area, which FCC had provided.
- A link to a consultation on Scottish Parliament bill on fly tipping had received. It was suggested that we forward this to Lisa Wolff. **(Action: HD)**
- FCC have received an invitation to a Forres Area Community Trust presentation on 28<sup>th</sup> April. **(Action: SMcC to attend)**
- JCC Fuel Poverty and Community Energy Group being formed. Initial meeting later this week.

- A community member reported that the council had taken care to mow around the wild flower area at Church Terrace Rafford.
- An email from a community member highlighted problems with implementation of a domestic smart meter, presumably due to poor broadband connectivity.
- Active Travel Strategy Consultation. HD had submitted a response of behalf of FCC, stressing the importance of separation of foot and cycling traffic.

## 6) Treasurers Report (AG)

Updated balances: £651

Breakdown:

- £511 Moray Council Admin Grant balance
- £140 SSEN Grant Fund for Covid support of vulnerable people

Bank details still required from Edinkillie Hall for distribution of final SSEN Grant money. **(Action: AG)**

## 7) AOCB

### • **Outgoing Moray Council Members**

The chairperson thanked George Alexander who is not standing for re-election, for all his excellent contributions to the Finderne Community Council over the years.

HD reported that he had also thanked Lorna Creswell and Claire Feaver, for their contributions to the work of the FCC.

### • **Minute Secretary**

HD suggested that we split the Secretary role into Minute Secretary and Correspondence Secretary, as had been the case some years ago. The Minute Secretary need not be an FCC member. It was agreed to publicise this opportunity, and was noted that a modest honorarium could be available. **(Action HD)**

### • **Dava-Lochindorb Road**

RD reported that the Dava – Lochindorb road had been closed for months due to bridge repairs. Although the bridge concerned is not in Finderne, this is adversely affecting Finderne residents and businesses. It was agreed to contact Rhona Gunn at Moray Council. **(Action: SMcC)**

### • **Edinkillie Viaduct Road**

AM reported a problem with a drainage ditch on the road under the viaduct. It had not been draining properly leading to a significant icy patch which had caused problems in the winter weather. It would be better to sort this out now. **(Action: TO to contact Roads Department)**

## 8) Next meeting

Post Meeting Note:

Next meeting 7:00 pm - Monday 23rd May 2022, at Rafford Church Hall, to be confirmed.