

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 23rd May 2022 at Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present :

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

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Margaret Birnie(MB), Pat Hern (PH), Juli Salt(JS), Kathleen Robertson (KR)

Apologies:

Tony Pinner(TP), Scott Lawrence, Jenifer Allan,

1) Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed, with correction of the balance of funds in the Treasurers report.

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.

TP had reported he had not found any record of change of use for Grant Nicholson's plant storage area.

It had previously been suggested to contact Rhona Gunn at Moray Council, to query whether the Altyre Estate or timber extraction company should bear the cost of repairing the road. SC has contacted Rhona Gunn but no response as yet. **(Action: SMcC to follow up)**

b. Community Consultation

The draft questionnaire has been completed, and circulated to members for comments and approval. A follow-up meeting has been organised to finalise comments and agree distribution. **(Action: all FCC members)**

HD reported contact from Martin Robertson (Community Support Officer) who had suggested that his office could help with printing. HD also had contact with Logie School, who had suggested that FCC could attend the Logie School Summer Fair, on Saturday 18th June, to make further contact with parents and staff.

Post meeting note: The survey document has been agreed, with more emphasis on support for Resilience planning. Proposed distribution would be to post out to all households, inviting returns by post, at village hall drop-offs, or by responding to on-line version.

c. Edinkillie Cemetary

HD reported that he had heard back from James Hunter at Land and Parks department who was short of resources, so was in the process of getting contractor estimates for doing remedial work. **(Action: HD to follow up)**

d. Liaison with FDT

SMcC reported he is starting a conversation with Brian Higgs (FDT chairperson), in order to enhance communications between the 2 groups. SMcC is also planning to follow up on the offer of an FCC member, applying for a position as an FDT Director. All agreed this was a good idea. **(Action: SMcC)**

e. Fly Tipping Bill consultation

HD reported he has passed this consultation onto Lisa Wolff, who coordinates a local litter picking group. It was agreed we should respond in support of the proposals to strengthen the law, aimed at reducing fly tipping. **(Action: HD)**

Further, questions we asked about who should be responsible for removing an overturned car that has been lying in a ditch close to the Mundole junction with the A940 Forres/Grantown road for several weeks.

f. Minute Secretary

SMcC again noted that we are looking for a community member to assist the FCC by taking minutes at our meetings. HD has passed details to Debra Duke to advertise this opportunity through tsiMoray.

g. Dava-Lochindorb road closure

Although this road is not in Moray, SMcC reported he contacted Rhona Gunn, but has still to hear back. **(Action SMcC to follow up)**

h. Edinkillie Viaduct road drainage

AM to forward photos of the affected verge. TP to contact roads dept. *(Actions AM, TP)*

3) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

• Provision of a pavement in Upper Rafford

SM reported that Elaine Penny had contacted the last of the households affected by the alternative proposal of a pavement on the East side of the village.

KR noted that Forres CC had also been working with Moray Council to provide pavements on both sides of St Leonards Road in Forres, including an island to assist crossing the road.

- **Village Entrance Signage**

It was noted that FCC members should make a decision on which type of sign we should implement. AG has asked 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**).

HD had volunteered to contact the landowner of the field on the south west side of the village to ask permission to erect a sign there. (**Action HD**)

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

SM noted that costs for signs had been received from Elaine Penny. HD had compared these with quotes direct from suppliers, one of which seems more competitive. We need to ensure these are acceptable to Moray Council, and scope is compatible, before sending this information to FDT, who may purchase the signs. (**Action HD,SM**)

- **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 been told that the R100 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 some of those not covered by the R100 scheme, Richard Allan of External Reality has been working on extending the Altyre Fibre network to some properties in Lower Rafford. JF has made contact to ask for further information. (**Action: JF to follow up**)

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 17th 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**

SM reported that she was unable to attend the last JCC meeting, but would attend future meetings.

f) **Resilience Planning**

SM reported that an application had been made to SSEN for emergency generators for both Rafford and Edinkillie Village Halls. They would be potentially mobile units, that require a tractor p.t.o. to drive them, thus simplifying the requirements for planning and fuel storage, and maintenance.

The need for a resilience plan was agreed, following the template previously provided by Jim Patterson. At the core of this would be a communication network of community members, and an understanding of the possible help required by vulnerable people within the community. **(Action: SM to lead on this)**

g) **Pending Items**

i) **A96 Dualling**

It was noted that an "A96 Corridor Review Feedback Survey" has been launched by Transport Scotland, which closes on 10th June. To be publicised in community newsletter and on Facebook. **(Action HD/SM)**

ii) **Wild Fires**

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

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:

- NESS Energy Project is open for funding applications until 3rd June, for community projects in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray.

- A request had been received from a community member for the FCC to do something about dead crows hung up beside the road in Lower Rafford. It was agreed that this was macabre, and seemed somewhat ineffective as bird scarers. HD had reported this to Environmental Health, in a private capacity. They have now been removed.
- HD noted that a response to a request for a commitment to attend FCC meetings, had been received from some, but not all candidates in the Moray Council Elections.
- A series of draft community council policies have been received from Debra Duke. These include Social Media, Complaints Handling, and Protection of Children and Vulnerable People. It was agreed members should review these with a view to adopting them for FCC. **(Action: All members)**
- CARES funding for Net Zero Community Buildings is available. HD reported he had circulated this to Rafford Village and Church Hall, Edinkillie Hall and FDT.

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

Updated balance: £389

Recent expenditure included annual WordPress subscription for FCC website and Edinkillie Village Hall meeting fee.

7) AOCB

- **New Moray Councilors**

SMcC congratulated Kathleen Robertson on her election, and welcomed her to the meeting.

- **Forres Health Services**

PH noted that delays in answering the phone and getting appointments to see a doctor at the Forres Health Centre seem to be increasing. She wondered if the additional population generated by new housing developments around Forres were being matched by increases in Health Centre resources. **(Action: JF to contact Health Centre for more information)**

KR noted that Forres CC have a patient liaison officer.

HD noted that a number of surveys were issued by NHS to the community, and would identify these in future community newsletters.

- **Defibrillators**

AM noted that a Defibrillator had now been installed at Edinkillie Hall. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to have a unit in Lower Rafford, in addition to the one at Rafford Village Hall.

KR noted that there would be Defibrillator Training taking place at the Grant Park Jubilee Event.

8) Next meeting

Next meeting 7:00 pm - Monday 4th July 2022, at Edinkille Hall.