

Meeting Notes

Meeting of Monday 31st October 2022 at Rafford Church Hall

FCC members present :

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

Also present:

Scott Lawrence MC (SL), Paul McBain MC PM), Kathleen Robertson MC (KR), Andy Munro (AM), A
Garrow (AG), Pat Hern (PH), Margaret Birnie (MB), Mark Abbs (MA)), Juli Salt(JS), Tom Hardie (TH),
Jude Pinner (JP – minute taker)

Apologies:

Shirley Munn (SM), John Finch (JF)

1) **Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed.

2) **Matters Arising**

a. **Community Consultation**

Links to the report have now been put on the FCC website.

b. **Edinkillie Cemetery**

AM reported that nothing had started on site. He will monitor progress. **(Action AM to monitor the situation)**

c. **List of meetings**

Confirmed that list of meetings had been distributed for display on notice boards.

d. **Passing places on Rafford-Dallas Dhu road**

SMcC sent photographs to roads dept. but has not had a response to date. It was noted that the planning dept are progressing planned sites for new passing places. **(To be monitored. SL)**

e. **Pig Farm on Damhead Road**

TP has not heard from TS re; Karro, mud/debris management and legality of quad bikes. There is still an issue with mud and flooding and a potential for blocked drains. KR is also in dialogue with MC roads and will copy TP in on email correspondence. TP will contact Karro directly when all info received. **(Action: TP, TS, KR)**

f. **Forres Academy**

SM not present. KR reported that Forres has met all criteria to qualify for funding for a new school either by 2027 or 2029 depending on whether Forres or Buckie get priority.

g. CC Policy Templates

TP and HD both have not had the time to delve into the CC Policy documents. TP and SMcC will review. **(SMcC, TP)**

h. Email protocol

HD reported that all FCC members now had access to the FCC email account and it should be used for contacting third parties.

i. Near miss at Half Davoch junction

Verges had now been cut but gorse had been left on the verges at the junction. AM to check with Moray Council (MC). **(AM)**

3) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

- **Village Entrance Signage**

Elaine Penny(EP) is to provide detailed design of the agreed signs for FCC approval. Locations and sign heights have been surveyed. **(Action: SM)**

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

FDT have agreed in principle to pay for 4no. new signs but the original spec. approved will not now be accepted by the council. In addition an annual fee of £300 has been demanded for maintenance for the 4 signs. As the signs are sealed units this calibration/maintenance charge is being queried by FCC. FDT has asked for a copy of the MC policy document on VAS to consider additional funding. HD has asked EP if the MC purchased the signs would FCC still have to pay VAT. HD has sourced a cheaper sign that may be approved. More information re: VAT and maintenance will be presented at the next meeting. KR suggested contacting Anne Skeen at Findhorn CC as they have recently purchased VA signs.

- **Footpath**

Detailed design is in progress and follow up letters to affected landowners are being sent out. **(EP)**

b) Community Broadband

JF has been working on a summary of the current situation on local broadband provision and options. HD will finalise and publish on FCC website. TH agreed to review the webpage prior to publication. **(Action: HD, TH)**

c) **Brochloch Field Development**

SMcC reported that the land on Brochloch had been purchased and architects are being assessed. HD suggested that as the recent FCC public consultation survey indicated some opposition to the scheme and proposed the following:

Possible mitigations to be discussed could range across the following:

- *Find an alternative use, rather than housing.*
- *Reduce the number of houses*
- *Reduce the visible impact by:*
 - *restricting to single storey only*
 - *maintaining a unbuilt margin between new housing and existing properties and the road*
 - *ensuring low impact street and exterior lighting*
- *Phase the development timetable over a number of years*
- *Find an alternative site in the Logie/Dunphail area which would directly support Logie School*
- *Actively seek funding for a mixed use path from Rafford to Forres, to reduce impact of increased traffic on cycling and walking.*
- *Avoid impact on current fragile broadband infra-structure until fibre is installed to Rafford.*

There was strong support from the public at the meeting for the above and concern that FDT had no mandate for purchasing the land for this project. SMcC agreed to seek an urgent meeting with FDT to discuss the concerns of the community about the apparent lack of consultation and the lack of a mandate. **(Action: SMcC)**

d) **Windfarm Developments**

Berry Burn 2

SMcC reported that the earliest it will be in production will be 2025. The developers to be approached to discuss and register FCC interest in the community benefit fund distribution.

Clashgour/Rothes 3

Planning now approved by the Scottish Government. FCC to make contact with Energising Moray re: community benefit.

Ourack

Have now submitted planning approval application.

e) **Joint Community Council**

Nothing to report. The next meeting is 10th Nov. **(Action: SM)**

f) **Resilience Planning**

FCC had a meeting to discuss progressing the plan now that the SSEN grant for generators has been received. Two volunteers are to be approached and asked to take on the preparation of a Resilience Plan and the method of storing and using the generators in a local emergency (**Action: SM to lead on this**)

g) **Forres Health Services**

Community concerns have been presented to the practice but not answered due to patient confidentiality. It was noted some issues were not patient specific. TH offered to take over from JF and form a PPG (Patient Partnership Group) as a co-opted member of FCC for this specific purpose (**Action: TH**)

h) **Pending Items**

i) **A96 Dualling**

Nothing to report

ii) **Wild Fires**

Nothing to report. We are still waiting for the Scottish Government report.

4) **Planning Report (TP)**

Two applications of relevance in the Finderne area

- Application for new dwelling with holiday chalets on the Forres to Califer road west of Easterwood. Noted this was outside any designated cluster. FCC to write to MC noting this (**TP**)
- Application to construct a replacement house at Divibrae, Dunphail. No objection.

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

- Wild flower area on the bank below Church Terrace. HD reported he has received 125kgs of daffodil bulbs from TMC. It was suggested that these were planted at the Rafford village entrances and possibly at Edinkillie hall or near Logie Primary School. AM to contact Edinkillie Hall. We are still awaiting delivery of wild flower seeds. The planting of spring bulbs and wild flower seed will take place with volunteers, date tbc.
- Wester Green Distillery. Concern was raised about water usage. HD told the meeting that Brian Higgs had raised the issue at an earlier stage with MC. The distillery will have a small production rate. The water levels of local private supplies will be monitored to ensure that they are not exhausted.
- The Zoom subscription has been cancelled now that meeting restrictions are removed.

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

Summary

- Bank balance as at 27th Oct '22 £20,324.43, comprising £20,000 SSEN Resilient Communities Fund, and £324.43 Moray Council Admin Grant balance. Please note that the £20k from SSEN came in on 28th Sept '22 and therefore falls into last year's accounts (1/10/22-30/9/23)
- We have spent 35p on zoom plus (cancellation fee) and £40 for Independent Examiner's cost for 2022 Accounts.
- Moray Council Admin Grant payment is due in and is dependent on receipt of examined accounts, which have been sent to Debra Duke today, (the examiner was only sent our accounts 6th Oct22, so has done a very quick turn-around to get examined accounts back to us for our AGM and submission to Moray Council).

Points to note

- Signatories must be confirmed. They are currently AG, SMcC and HD
- Approval for any expenditure should be in minutes.
- There should be check controls in place for payments. – This is covered by two others authorising payment to be made and referencing this in accounts, as there is only one person, AG, who makes payment. The authorisation can be made by email, so that we can make reference to it in accounts.
- Approval of appointment of Independent Examiner is needed (Angela Porter of AP Bookkeeping Services).

The meeting approved the accounts and approved the appointment of Angela Porter as the Independent Examiner.

SMcC reported the £20000 SSEN grant is allocated for the purchase of portable generators for Edinkillie and Rafford village halls. SSEN will require a report on the expenditure and FCC have until September 2025 to spend the grant.

7) AOCB

No other business was raised

8) Next meeting

Next meeting to be notified. Meeting closed at 9:05pm