

FEUGHDEE WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting held in Inchmarlo Hall
Thursday 27th September 2018 at 7.30p.m.

Present:

Community Councillors: Simon Richards (Chair), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Sam Wylde, John Andrew, Marijke Stallaert, Jelle Andrew, Darcy Curry, Katy Rumbles, Iain Brockie, Iain Bertram, Portia Clark, Iain Adams (co-opted)

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors: Cllr Anne Ross

Members of the public: 4

Minutes:

Irene Addison

1. Apologies

Cllr. R. Bruce, Cecilia Rodgers, Lynsey Craig, Peter Tyrell.

2. Minutes of August Meeting (postponed till Wednesday 5th September)

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following additions:

12. Midhill Community Benefit line 3 to read - £20,887 (*without RPI*)
13. Communication last line to read - donation to ICW (*for running costs*)

Proposed by: Sam Wylde

Seconded by: John Andrew

3. Police Report:

A comprehensive email Police Report was received with an apology from Insp. Matt Smith for previous lack of communication due to an administrative oversight. This has now been adjusted.

It was reported that the following Marr Policing Priorities are presently: Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder. There has been no significant increase of such reports in August. Local Officers continue to engage with local licence holders by means of the 'Pub Watch' scheme.

Acquisitive crimes, such as housebreaking and thefts remain low, with continual patrols in the area to deter criminal activity and passing attention is given to various sites in the Deeside area where thefts from building yards have been experienced.

Road Safety & Road Crime

Minimal incidents have been reported relating to criminals travelling in from the City to commit crime in rural areas. Police Scotland will continue to reiterate the message, 'Lock it, or Lose it' to encourage members of the public to prioritise security.

The number of serious or fatal accidents within the area remains low. However, reports of speeding vehicles in various areas of Deeside continue. Speed-detection equipment training for local police is in force. Education of the public and enforcement at identified locations for speeding, parking violations and general anti-social driving amongst 'boy racers' is also in operation.

There are pro-active patrols by Special Constables targeting the Upper Deeside Area to prevent Wildlife Crime, when duties permit. A number of minor incidents have been dealt with. Members of the community are encouraged to report any activity deemed suspicious near to the river areas.

Other Policing Activity and information

There have been a large number of reports in relation to 'Banking Scams' recorded across the Division and in particular the Deeside and Aboyne areas. Members of the public are encouraged to remain vigilant and to seek advice from the Police Scotland and personal Banking websites. They may also contact the Police about anything with which they think they may be able to assist.

Members of the community are encouraged to report any activity that they believe to be suspicious or 'out of the ordinary'. This can be done via '101' for non-emergency incidents, or '999' if they consider it an emergency. There is also the Crime stoppers telephone number 0800 555 111 if callers wish to remain anonymous

4. Election of Treasurer

Mr Ross Clephan was unanimously voted on to FWCC as an Officer Bearer in the role of Treasurer with no voting rights.

Proposed by Mrs J Randalls

Seconded by Ms S Wylde

5. Treasurers' Report

It was reported that the Council Admin grant had been received for last year.

Secretary will apply for the 2018/19 grant now that the Minutes from the last meeting are approved, confirming the 2017/18 Accounts.

The contract with BT for the Glendye Webcam (held by Mrs A Dykes) has been extended for 24 months. She has been able to obtain a reduction in the rates from £66.12 to £59.72 per month starting September 2018.

An Invoice is pending for use of the Strachan Village Hall for seven meetings, amounting to £168. Approval for payment was agreed whilst awaiting re-imbursement from National Power and Coriolis for each of their meetings.

There was a closing Balance on 15th September 2018 of £1,026.27 (which includes £714.34 of restricted funds).

Aberdeenshire Council will automatically debit the Data Protection Registration Fee of £35.

6. Councillor's Report

Cllr. A Ross reported that the Strategic Development Plan and the Young Peoples' Charter had been approved. Members of the public can log into Aberdeenshire Council's website to view these meetings.

As members of the public are often unaware of the responsibilities carried by Aberdeenshire Councillors, she gave a brief report of a typical day and evening's work, which included attending full Council meeting, local Council meetings, Parent/Council meetings, local reviews, planning appeals, meeting with local constituents and attending to calls from constituents.

Logging equipment had been stolen between Ballogie and Finzean and Police were appealing for any information that would help their enquiries.

There had been a meeting of Aberdeenshire Council, which included local Councillors, Bridges, Structures and Roads Managers, along with Kincardine and Marr representatives. This was regarding the recent closure of the Cairn O'Mount road whilst repairs were made to the Spittal Bridge. It has been acknowledged by all concerned that the repeated closure of this road has a significant impact on communities on both side of the Cairn.

It was noted that the most recent repair to Spittal Bridge had been carried out quickly and efficiently and allowed the road to be opened two weeks ahead of schedule. A letter of appreciation is to be written to Aberdeenshire Council and its officers thanking them.

There have been calls from local constituents for HGV's to be banned from using the route over the Cairn. However it transpires that most of the damage has in actual fact been caused by normal traffic and vans.

There was considerable discussion re the use of HGVs on the Cairn O'Mount. It was pointed out that a total ban would be counter-productive due to the effects it would have on the farming community, logging trucks and also to coaches as this route is deemed a gateway for the Tourist Industry. However resolution is being sought from both sides of the Cairn with various options being considered, including improved signs, cameras which would provide accountability, requesting HGVs to refrain from unnecessarily using the route, weight restrictions and for the upgrading of sat navs - which is often the reason unsuspecting drivers end up using this route.

Cllr. Ross also reported that she had been advised that the Cairn O'Mount webcam was faulty. This has in fact already been addressed with IT and should be fixed in the very near future. Mrs A Dykes will be contacted in this respect in order to expedite the process. FWCC was advised to report any such future faults on both Facebook pages and on Aberdeenshire Council's Website.

There was a short discussion about the closure of the gates and the inconvenience caused when the gates are closed before the signs go up. It was agreed that this should be addressed before winter sets in and that better signage should be looked into to make sure commuters are informed from every direction before reaching a closed gate.

Cllr Ross had to leave 8p.m.

7. Secretary's Report

Application to become a member of Aberdeenshire Voluntary Association will go before the board in October.

The September Marr Ward Forum was cancelled due to high winds and power cut to the venue. Rescheduled for 1st Oct at Finzean Church Hall.

The next Marr Ward Forum will be in November and will discuss the Strategic Development Plan and how it fits together with the Local Development Plan.

An email from Piers Blaxter has been forwarded to all councillors detailing the timeline for response to the Main Issues Report. All were encouraged to read.

8. Transport, Roads & Infrastructure

The majority of Mr J Andrew's report was previously covered by Cllr A Ross.

An email has been sent from FWCC to relevant parties regarding issues surrounding Cairn O'Mount. There was a helpful and encouraging response from the Structure and Bridges Manager, Donald MacPherson. He reported that Aberdeenshire Council is in the process of arranging a traffic count at the Spittal Bridge with an integrated camera to assess the nature of traffic that currently uses the Cairn O'Mount road in a typical week.

A member of the public raised the possibility of including a warning of restrictions over the Cairn on Sat Nav systems. This will be passed to Aberdeenshire Council as initiatives continue.

9. Education and Youth

It was reported that there had been a meeting on 26th September, arranged by Aberdeenshire Council, regarding Strachan School.

Jill, Sam, Simon and Marijke attended as FWCC representatives. Around 20 members of the public attended.

It was reported that there was only the potential of four children starting school this academic year but no applications have been received so far. This is the second year that no applications have been received. Therefore, Aberdeenshire Council are consulting with the community to determine the future of the school.

Maxine Booth (QAO for Aberdeenshire Council) confirmed that there would be a mail shot to every household in the catchment area re the school.

At the meeting, members of the public were encouraged to submit comments. These will be fed back to the community at a second meeting in November.

It was agreed to request the information displayed at the meeting (i.e. catchment area, predicted school roll etc.) on the FWCC Website - 'Strachan School'.

10. Planning

Aden Tor, Auchattie

This is a re-submission of a previous application, which had received some objections. The public record of these comments had been emailed to FWCC Councillors prior to tonight's meeting. It was noted that the objections seem to be mainly in relation to access.

There have been some adjustments made to the access. However, it was agreed that even though there were no concerns raised by the Roads Department, FWCC would submit a comment regarding the access route and proximity to a neighbouring property.

11. Community Action Plan

Arrangements are to be made for feedback from Community Enterprises to the steering group before the next public meeting.

The CAP will be in the form of a simple fold out brochure suitable for public display and easy understanding. There will also be the formal report covering the survey and public consultation exercises.

12. Wind Farms

The anticipated Planning Application for the proposed Glendye Wind Farm has not been received to date but anticipated beginning of October.

Planning Aid Scotland has been approached and it is understood that once the Planning Application has been submitted, it will be possible to request extra time in which to respond.

The questionnaire, devised by Community Enterprise, is still to be finalised and it was agreed that this should be sent out as soon as possible.

PAS praised the FWCC Website, compiled by Mr I Adams, as well as the Information pack prepared by Lynsey Craig and Sam Wylde.

A meeting specific to the Glendye Application is to be held with consideration being given to the hiring of a mediator to facilitate discussions. Sam will look into this.

There has been no response regarding lack of community benefit from Fettereso Windfarm.

13. Midhill Community Benefit Applications

No applications could be approved at this meeting as the anomaly of funds available (as highlighted at the previous meeting) persists. Communication with Fred Olson gave an available fund of £19,887 without RPI. Total of applications submitted for approval is £26,343. RPI will be added to the fund at the end of October but Fred Olsen were unable to comment on the amount.

Mr P Tyrrell (Chair of the Midhill Community Benefit fund subgroup) was not present at this meeting. Although the MCBA spread sheet (provided by the Secretary of the subgroup) was available for scrutiny, it did not clarify the situation.

The Inchmarlo Hall Chairperson asked for the matter to be looked into as a matter of urgency as the Hall committee were hoping to commence work on the car park before the winter. It was pointed out that the period of time between applying for community benefit and receiving funds could take up to six months.

It was agreed that the sub committee should discuss the applications again and that the scoring system be used to enable prioritisation.

14. Safety

Mr I. Bertram attended the Safety Group Meeting, 16th August, on behalf of FWCC, notes of which have been sent to FWC Councillors. These highlight road safety, speed limits and speed monitoring initiatives and traffic surveys.

The information gained from the traffic count at the Spittal Bridge (as detailed in Section 8) will be collated and reported back to the Safety Committee.

15. Communication

It was agreed that much better communication needs to be established with the local community as there still appears to be much ignorance surrounding even the existence of FWCC, how it functions and how it benefits the local community. It was suggested

that a work-group be established in order to workout better means of engaging with the local community in this respect. It was agreed that this should be raised with Community Enterprises and included on the CAP.

There was some concern expressed regarding the lateness of start lead times on important events. It was agreed to discuss calendars with both Aberdeenshire Council and Marr area as attendance at important meetings are sometimes impossible due to lack of information ahead of time.

16. LEARNING

It was suggested that there may be an appetite for support and understanding in the fundamentals of mobile phones, computers and use of social media amongst our community. Again, it was suggested that this would fit well into our Community Action Plan.

17. YOUTH MEMBER VACANCY

Jelle Andrew has had to stand down as a Youth member due to reaching his 16th Birthday. He was thanked for his work whilst on the Community Council. Jelle asked if it would be possible to continue as an Associate Member of FWCC. His enthusiasm to continue was appreciated and this possibility will be investigated. The Secretary will report back on this issue. Email advertising the Inchmarlo Youth Member vacancy will be distributed to the Inchmarlo contacts and Hall.

Jelle put forward an excellent proposal for a Youth Movie night to be held monthly, alternating between Strachan and Inchmarlo Halls. There followed some discussion surrounding the practicalities of communication with local youth, use of halls, licencing, costs involved, refreshments, use of projectors, supervision and accountability etc. The proposal was met with an encouraging response from those present and Jelle was encouraged to revert with a more detailed proposal covering all aspects.

18. AOB

The bedding plants have been organised and extra plants ordered by Mr I Brockie. He will also organise the Remembrance Day wreaths for November, which are supplied by Aberdeenshire Council. Appreciation was expressed for his valuable help.

The meeting concluded at 9.38pm

Next meeting: 25th of October 2018 at Inchmarlo Hall 7.30pm