

Feughside Community Council Meeting  
Thursday 31st March 2022  
Strachan Hall  
Approved Minutes

The meeting was recorded with agreement from those present.

**Present:**

**CC:** Simon Richards (Chair), Jill Randalls, Ross Clephan, Sam Wylde, Cecelia Rogers, Nicola Loosley, Iain Adams.

**Councillors:** Cllr Bruce & Cllr Ross

**Members of the public:** 4

1. **Apologies:** Lynsey Craig, Audrey Dykes.
2. **Approval of minutes of previous monthly meeting:** Proposed CR, seconded SW
3. **Police Report:** sent out 07/03/22
4. **Treasurer's Report:** the Treasurer circulated the following report:

	<b>Balance 29/3/2022</b>	<b>Expected/ Committed to 30/6/22</b>	<b>Look Forward Balance at 30/6/22</b>
Unrestricted	£922.78	-£88.17	£834.61
Restricted – Glendye Webcam	£906.74	£0.00	£906.74
Restricted – Midhill CB Admin	£293.00	£0.00	£293.00
Restricted - Community Action Plan (CAP)	£281.91	£0.00	£281.91
Restricted - Strachan Flowers Collection	£494.76	£0.00	£494.76
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,899.19</b>	<b>-£88.17</b>	<b>£2,811.02</b>

Funds available at Fred Olsen for FCC Midhill Community Benefit	£41,455.52	-£3,000.00	£38,455.52
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Final year accounts are being prepared.

## **5. Councillors Report:**

- Cllr Ross intends to stand again in the May council election.
- Cllr Ross reported that there are four adequate warning horse signs in the Mill of Strachan location. It is driver behaviour which is probably the problem and any incidents should be reported to the police. Aberdeenshire Council Roads Dept will assess the area around Knockburn Loch for appropriate signage after the Easter break.
- Cllr Ross has been working in partnership with Mearns Councilors on better snow gate coordination.
- The Marr Area Committee has met for the final time for this term and agreed the budget for Roads, Landscape Services etc. Work to repair potholes and reinstate white lines on the North Deeside Rd will commence soon.
- Details of Feugh Bridge repairs will be forwarded as soon as available.
- Cllr Bruce attended the Community SSEN forum. It was agreed that communication was a real unresolved problem, and that giving customers false deadlines was particularly unhelpful. Cllr Bruce will forward the slides.
- Cllr Bruce reported that the digital engagement team is in place and very willing to offer advice and support.
- Cllr Bruce urged the reporting of any road defects.
- Cllr Bruce confirmed that she is standing down at May election.

## **6. Secretary's Report :**

31/03 National Lottery Awards for All – funding up to £10,000 for a range of community led activities.

31/03 Aberdeenshire Car Park Payments – cash or digital or card payment notification.

31/03 SSEN Resilient Communities Fund – deadline extended to 13.05.22

21/03 Marr CC Forum – Scheme of Establishment of CC's via Teams Wed 27.04.22

17/03 Inspiring Aberdeenshire – nomination deadline 01.04.22

16/03 Presentation from Digital Engagement Team forwarded by Cllr. Bruce.

15/03 Aberdeenshire Council – notice of removal of Portacabin from Strachan School and associated road closure.

10/03 Request from Alexander Burnett (MSP) to send copies of the approved monthly meeting minutes.

## **7. Planning:**

- *Monthly planning applications:*
  - Grove Cottage, Blackhall – previous approvals in 2013, 2016 and 2019. Design change but still four bed property. No objections

- Upper Shampher – application for A frame property on site of existing cottage. Previous approvals in 2015 and 2018. Comment re traffic implications due to the access track through Ardlair farm but no objections.
- *Delegated powers increase proposal –*
  - IA reported that the planning service have deferred the proposed increase to the number of objections to trigger a referral to the area committee from 6 to 10 due to the opposition of all 6 area committees.
  - The proposed delegation of ‘technical’ planning applications for both major and local planning applications (ie s.42, s.75 and MSC (matters specified in conditions) was not discussed at area committee but has not been dropped. It was felt that how these applications are handled can have a big impact on our community and that the justification for change should be overwhelming. It was felt that conditions set by councillors should only be changed by councillors. Discussion under agenda item: 3.5.10 at the full council meeting 23/2/22 suggested that ‘this will be subject to the attention of specific criteria such as consultee objections’. The proposal will go to the procedures committee next and then will return to full council on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Action:** IA will email the Planning Dept stating our concerns and opposing the increased delegation powers set out in 2.3 Appendix 2 – Draft Amended Scheme of Governance Part 2C – Planning Delegations. All 3 councillors to be CC’d so that our view can be taken into consideration at full council meeting.

- *Any other planning matters*

NL had written to Aberdeenshire Planning dept. regarding the recent award of 6 licenses for offshore wind energy and the impact on planning policy in respect of onshore wind farm applications. The response stated that the license regime was entirely separate to the planning process. However, the draft National Planning Framework 4 Policy 19 propose that support in principle will be given for all development proposals for all forms of renewable energy and low carbon fuels, together with enabling works such as transmission and distribution infrastructure, and energy storage (e.g. battery storage). The NPF4 will be part of the next Development Plan to be adopted in 2027 and it may be the case that the Scottish Government will oblige local authorities to support onshore wind development when applications are lodged.

The councillors confirmed that each application would continue to be judged on its own merit.

## 8. Midhill Community Wind Farm:

Subcommittee met 2 weeks ago and discussed the two applications submitted -.

**Application 1:** Platinum Jubilee: £750 to enable the celebration with 2 events in Strachan: a family picnic in the park and a cream tea in the Hall – food will be bought in and commemorative coins purchased as keepsakes for the children.

**Outcome:** Application was unanimously agreed (RC declared an interest and did not vote).

**Application 2:** Strachan Hall Committee: £2,250 to purchase 48 place settings of Crockery, Cutlery and Glasses in order to host large events. £750 received for this project from Marr Area Partnership.

**Outcome:** Application was unanimously agreed (RC declared an interest and did not vote).

- Date of next Midhill subcommittee meeting: July.
- Community Benefit Fund to be more widely advertised on noticeboards, social media etc.

## 9. Resilience Planning –

Three main streams of action

### ➤ Communication

- a warden system is proposed. Postcodes have been divided into 9 areas with a warden identified for each area. Vulnerable individuals in particular to be contacted with regards to any support they may need.
- Contact made with the Digital Engagement Team who were very efficient and helpful in their response. Measures to ensure that the Hall could be used as a communication hub are being explored e.g. satellite phones.

### ➤ Use of Hall

- Quotes being obtained for installation of a generator
  - Exploration of converting cooking facilities to gas along with overhead heaters, thereby enabling the use of a smaller generator to supply electricity for lighting, charging devices etc
- Vulnerable members of the community – identification and establishing what type of support is needed.

An application will be submitted to SSEN resilience fund: deadline 13<sup>th</sup> May. RC emphasised that the Hall will need to play a major part in this proposal. Thanks given to RC who has done a huge amount of work on this issue.

## 10. Transport, roads and infrastructure

- Car parking at Scolty: An email had been sent by a member of the public concerning the difficulties experienced by Auchattie residents due to the closure of Scolty Car Park. Visitors are often very inconsiderate and park cars along the narrow road causing a real inconvenience to local people along with safety issues. Cllr pointed out that it is a Police matter to take measures to enforce closure and blockage of the road. Cllr Ross suggested residents could take the car reg number and report to police.

**Action:** SR to write to Forestry Land Scotland to establish timetable for clearing and reopening forest trails.

**Action:** Cllr Ross to request police assistance to make visitors aware of hazard of parking inconsiderately.

- Substantial pothole beside Falls of Feugh Restaurant.

**Action:** SR to report

#### **11. Climate and Environment:**

- Banchory group has not yet received the correct permission to plant the planned mini forest.
- Recycling: Recycling information is very complicated because it does not follow a national protocol. CR has requested clearer guidance on local recycling procedures. Cllr Ross is aware and is working on this issue with the council and Cllr Bruce intimated that information would be provided with all new bins.

#### **12. Communication:**

- NL reported that Finzean are looking at a mast for emergency mobile signal.
- NL had attended a workshop run by AVA on web site development and organization image. It was suggested that any logo for the CC would be best to include people.
- IA and NL had met to discuss the FCC website to make it more interactive.

#### **13. Community Matters**

- Queens Jubilee – events planned for Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers needed.
- School Garden – a group has been created to investigate the purchase or lease of the ‘wild garden’. Feughside Community Trust have submitted a note of interest.
- Pizza Evening at the Hall – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Past events have been very successful.
- Inspiring Aberdeenshire Awards – due in Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- Use of Strachan School for Ukrainian refugees – a discussion was had about what could be offered i.e. a facility in the centre of the village to house several refugee families. Aberdeenshire Council had stated that they were not in a position to support this due to the fabric of the building and it being remote from essential services. Several community councillors also expressed doubts that such a plan would be viable. Any project involving community use of the school would need the community to take out a community asset transfer. Aberdeenshire Council have a refugee officer and a tried and tested process of resettlement in place. Cllr Ross will send details.
- Feedback from Village Hall meeting 24/3/22 – discussions included improved booking facility, a dedicated website, the resilience plan was well received.

14. **AOB** – The concept of a community printer was discussed in order to print out copies of Strachan Today, posters for community noticeboards etc. Money from the community action plan fund could be released.

**Action:** JR to look into possibilities and costs.

**Date of next meeting – 28.04.2022**