

## FEUGHDEE WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Approved Minutes of Meeting held in Inchmarlo Hall On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at 7.30 pm

#### **Present:**

#### **Community Councillors:**

Mr S Richard (Chairperson), Mrs J Randalls (Secretary), Ms S Wylde,  
Mr P Tyrrell, Ms M Stallaert, Mr I Brockie, Ms L Craig

#### **Banchory & Mid Deeside Councillors**

Cllr E Durno, Cllr A Ross, Cllr R Bruce

#### **Minutes:**

Mrs. I Addison

#### **Members of Public:**

7 Members of the public were present

Prior to the general meeting of FWCC Neil Stewart (Team Manager from Planning and Building Standards) gave a short presentation to Community Councillors on the determination of planning applications, Community Council involvement and participation. He will forward the power point presentation along with notes on the Scheme of Governance. Janelle Clarke (Marr Area Manager) was also in attendance.

#### **1. Apologies.**

Mr A Neish (Treasurer), Mr W Ross, Mr I Adams

#### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

No issues raised.

Minutes Proposed by: Ms S Wylde

Seconded by: Mrs J Randalls

#### **3. Treasurers Report**

##### **Opening balance**

**£ 52305.75**

BT Web Cam DD	£ 66. 12
Strachan Youth Club	1000. 00
Inchmarlo Community Workshop	6000. 00
Strachan Hall Development	44000. 00
	£ 51066. 12

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**Closing Balance**

**£ 1239. 63**

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It was intimated that last year's accounts have been signed off. Thanks were expressed to Ms Julia Davis for work done. An application for the next administration grant will be submitted as soon as accounts have been presented at the next AGM.

The change of bank signatories is yet to be completed.

#### **4. Police Matters**

There was no Police Report available due to the report having been mistakenly sent to previous secretary. This issue will be addressed and clarified.

#### **5. Glen Dye Wind Farm**

There is a tentative CLG date set for 21st May for a full update. This is yet to be confirmed.

There was a discussion regarding the need to inform the local community about G.D.P.R. and also to share the newly completed Glen Dye Wind Farm Introductory Information Pack. Lynsey Craig will communicate with Iain Adams. A strategy for collating responses will be put in place if required.

There was a short discussion about the Fetteresso Wind Farm application which is planned for 2021 (adjacent to Mid Hill Wind Farm). A Scoping Report has been prepared. FWCC have sent comments.

#### **6. Planning Issues**

Nothing to report

#### **7. Community Action Plan**

FWCC were advised to liaise with Mary Lennox Chairperson of Banchory Community Council regarding the current CAP whilst awaiting responses from Consultants.

#### **8. Transport and Infrastructure**

Nothing to report.

#### **9. Youth and Education**

##### **Strachan Play Park**

It was reported that Strachan Play Park is now under construction. An eight-week completion is anticipated - weather dependent.

## **Strachan School**

Following a telephone conversation with a representative of Aberdeenshire Education Department the following information was established:

- No applications to attend Strachan Primary School have been received by Aberdeenshire Council.
- Applications have been received for out-of-zone requests (ie from Strachan residents wishing to send their child to a school outwith Strachan. The default school for Strachan pupils at present is Banchory Primary.
- The Council has not advertised Strachan School as open for business, but this is in line with all other schools. No other schools are advertised.
- Any parent wishing to view the school would need to make contact with the CSN co-ordinator at Banchory Academy, Roddy McLean
- The main key-holder is the head janitor at Banchory Academy
- The maximum recommended period for mothballing is 3 years. If the Council decides at any point during this time, or at the end of 3 years, to close the school, they would only do so after a full public consultation. Prospective pupils who could go on the school roll would also be contacted at this point in time.

There was a short discussion regarding the possibility of Community Acquisition or Asset Transfer. The elected Councillors advised approaching Marr Area Office.

## **10. Strachan Hall Refurbishment**

An application for 70% of funding through LEADER was rejected. An application for 50 - 60% of current application would however be considered and is currently being prepared. Strachan Hall Committee are in discussion with the Quantity Surveyor.

Work will go ahead with insulation, cladding, toilet block, storage and the apex roof.

The Midhill Community Benefit sub-committee Chairman will contact Robert Brown of Strachan Hall Committee to ask for an update on how CB funds are to be used.

Some concerns were raised regarding funds being set aside over a long period of time without being used when other projects may have benefitted from such funds. The elected Councillors present emphasised the necessity of transparency and well documented records. The Chair of the Midhill Sub Committee will write to all successful applicants and request an update on progress of application projects.

After consultation with Cllr.Ross, Aberdeen Council has agreed that FWCC can use Strachan Primary School for meetings during the refurbishment process, which is much appreciated.

### **11. FWCC Constitution 2018**

A draft copy of the Constitution 2018 had been sent to Marr Area for comment. Following advice from Kirsty Macleod two draft copies were sent to Councillors, prior to the meeting, with different wording to section 3.2 Junior Members. FWCC Councillors were asked to vote on which version should be adopted.

7 FWCC Members were present  
6 members voted for Version 7(a)  
1 member abstained

Therefore the draft Constitution 7 (a) will be sent to Marr Area for comment before a Special meeting is called for adoption of the FWCC Constitution 2018.

### **12. Main Issues Report and Local Development Plan**

There was some discussion surrounding the MIR and LDP.

Concerns were expressed that all comments regarding proposed bids for the LDP must be made by 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May at a Marr seminar to be held in Alford. It was felt that this was an unreasonable short time scale in which to engage with the local community, receive feedback and gauge response. Without engagement with the local community it would prove impossible to represent them. Concern was also raised regarding the necessity to attend during the day, which would prove impossible for those in full time employment. A letter will be sent to Piers Blaxter to express these concerns. However P.Tyrrell and S. Richards thought they would be able to attend the seminar.

Bids in the FWCC area will be uploaded to the FWCC Website, Strachan Hub and Inchmarlo Facebook pages. Any comments to be referred to FWC Secretary by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

There is an opportunity for FWC Councillors to attend a Strategic Development Plan Consultation at Alford Community Campus on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7pm.

### **13. Community Issues Strachan Graveyard**

It was reported that there had been a meeting with Bill Higham at the old graveyard. As a result, three areas have been cleared and marked out by the Council for planting with wildflowers.

A community-planting event has been planned for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Aberdeenshire Council will continue to trim and maintain the graveyard.

### **Littering**

Concerns were raised about the increasing amount of littering, particularly on the A93 and over the Cairn o' Mount. Trade vans in particular are often seen throwing litter from their vehicles, either whilst driving or in lay-bys. One lorry full of rubbish was seen driving out from the recycling centre on to the main road with unsecured rubbish flying in every direction. This will be referred to relevant department.

There have been litter-picking parties with support from the Council at Inchmarlo. Several local people have been seen picking up rubbish from road verges in different areas, either on foot or on bicycles.

It was agreed that it would be good to gauge if there is any enthusiasm locally to promote specific litter-picking days. Mr. S. Richards will look into this.

### **14. Any other business**

It was intimated that there is interest in both Strachan and Finzean in setting up a Broadband Action Group. To be followed up.

Concerns were again raised regarding the shutting of the snow gates on Cairn O'Mount. A particular problem is the lack of signage coming from the A90 towards Strachan. An email will be sent to Matt Smith requesting that signs are always put up before the gates are shut.

**Pot-hole complaints** can be fed through Aberdeenshire Council website reporting tool.

### **Overhead Projector**

It was agreed that an application to the Community Benefit Fund be made for the purchase of an overhead projector for Strachan Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 31st. May 2018 at Strachan Hall.