

Feughside Community Council Meeting
Approved Minutes
On Line
Thursday 29th April 2021

Present :

Simon Richards (Chair), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Ross Clephan (Treasurer), Cecilia Rogers, Lynsey Craig, Audrey Dykes, Nicola Loosley, Sam Wylde, Marijke Stallaert, Iain Adams. Cllr Ann Ross, Cllr Eileen Durno

General public : 4

Guests: Megan Parker, Forest Planner, Scottish Woodland.

1. Apologies : Cllr Bruce

2. Approve minutes of the previous meeting: Proposed by AD and seconded by CR.

3. Police Report: No police report received in April.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Summary of our accounts as of today:

	Balance 28/4/2021	Expected/ Committed to <u>30/6/21</u>	Look Forward Balance at Year End <u>30/6/21</u>
Unrestricted	£684.08	£301.90	£985.98
Restricted – Glendye Webcam	£946.56	-£47.85	£898.71
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	£514.92	£500.00	£1,014.92
Totals	£2,720.47	£754.05	£3,474.52
Funds available at Fred Olsen for FCC Midhill Community Benefit	£19,850.87	-£500.00	£19,350.87

5. Councillors Report:

Cllr Ross reported that

- Strachan School had been recommended for closure by full council.
- With the easing of lock down restrictions the roads teams were able to progress more quickly with road repairs.

6. Secretary's report:

All correspondence has been circulated to members as appropriate.

29.03.21- North East Adventure Tourism: Stakeholder Survey (completed by SR)

29.03.21- Membership application of AVA accepted.

30.03.21 - Response confirming participation in the public inquiry - Fetteresso Wind Farm

31.03.21- Community Council Complaint Panel 25 March 2021 Report.

07.04.21 - ANNUAL BEDDING PLANTS notification from Aberdeenshire Council

08.04.21- Banchory Climate Action Network newsletter.

08.04.21 - Harper McLeod (Lewis Hendry) - copies of the fully signed Minutes of Agreement will be registered in the Books of Council and Session (Registers of Scotland) and a registered extract of each will be forwarded once received.

14.04.21- WIN-110-1 Pre-Examination Meeting To Be Held (SR responded). Monday 24th May at 10am. Public Inquiry w/c 13th or 20th September.

20.04.21 - Gillian Christie - Projects Officer for Aberdeenshire Council, Criminal Justice Unpaid Work Team - projects required.

22.04.21- Invitation to Community Councils to attend session on Suicide Prevention. Hosted by SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) 27th May 2021 (link in email).

26.04.21- Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils Review - Full Council Report. Before full council 29/04 for approval. There is to be a four week consultation period.

29.04.21 - NESS Energy community project funding opportunities. Deadline is 31st May.

29.04.21 - Community Councils Briefing Note - Draft National Planning Framework 4 Housing Land Requirement Consultation. Submission of responses by 4th June

7. Creation of new woodland at Cairnton Blackhall.

Megan Parker from Scottish Woodland and agent for the new woodland was invited to the meeting to explain the consultation process in general and outline proposals for the new woodland at Carinton Blackhall.

She gave a brief overview of the consultation process, and how the community council, residents and other statutory bodies can participate.

- Consultation is a requirement for all forestry proposals - long term forest plans, felling applications, grant funding for restocking and new woodland. It is key to understanding site-specific sensitivities and key issues.
- Stakeholders are identified and the initial consultation starts (due diligence stage), lasting about 30 days. Stakeholders can raise key issues (social, economic, environmental) in a written response.
- Comments are evaluated and plans amended accordingly.
- Final (statutory) consultation - the proposal is considered by Scottish Forestry.
- Final plans are put on the Scottish Forestry website for public view. Members of the public and stakeholders have 28 days to comment. If there are significant objections which cannot be addressed - the plans may be rejected.
- Final consideration by Scottish Forestry.
- The proposal is then either accepted or rejected.

MP then gave a brief summary of the proposed development at Blackhall to date. The proposed development, commenced in 2019, was for the establishment of productive woodland on private land. FWCC had submitted a response to the agents at that time - Bell Ingram. Scottish Woodland have now taken over as agents. There has been little progression on the proposal, which is still being drafted. FCC are able to input into the proposal at this time.

Key issues

MP summarized the 5 key issues identified by FWCC in 2020

- ✓ A productive plantation would change the character of the area.
- ✓ This plantation would not integrate with the natural environment surrounding it.
- ✓ Proximity to the river Dee, which has protected status.
- ✓ A move generally in forestry is towards a more diverse woodland, rather than Sitka spruce monoculture.
- ✓ The impact on wildlife is of concern (from open habitat to closed forest habitat).

MP confirmed that all the above points are being considered. Scottish Forestry will also add recommendations. She also confirmed correspondence with Forestry Land Scotland (agents for the neighbouring woodland at Blackhall Forest), in order to ensure that final species design and mixture complements the long-term restructuring plan.

The revised plans show the forest edge moved back from the boundary, and a riparian strip of native woodlands to buffer the woodland from the river. A 10 meter corridor of open ground around all existing broadleaf trees and an area of open grassland on the western end.

M P asked for FCC to confirm in writing that the response of FWCC 2020 is still standing or to submit a new response.

Members of the public were then given the opportunity to ask questions/ make comments. These are summarized as follows:

- The private Blackhall road ('Backstreet') has been used during construction of a parking/ loading area at the woodland site, prior to the granting of planning approval. The private road is being damaged on an ongoing basis and the developer is refusing to engage with residents about repairs.
- MP clarified that with regards to the current use of the private road - this was outside her remit as Forest Developer as the proposed plans had yet to be submitted or approved.
- Issues regarding access to the woodland for planting, logging/ biomass removal. MP confirmed that she was fully aware of the access issues.
- Management of the broadleaf and buffer zones.
- MP confirmed that 'productive woodland' includes biomass and timber and would be similar species to that on land managed by Forestry Land Scotland (Blackhall/ Scolty). Species would probably include Douglas Fir, Spruce (Norway and Sitka) intermixed with native elements.
- Butt rot is prevalent in adjacent areas, which has implications for choice of species and felling.

MP was thanked for attendance and then left the meeting.

A discussion followed re a response from FCC.

Residents were very concerned about the following

- ❖ use of heavy commercial equipment for the removal of biomass along the privately owned, privately maintained single track road (Back Street) designed originally for the fishing beat.
- ❖ that the owner of the proposed woodland would not engage with them about future use of the road and payment for damage done.
- ❖ that aspen and willow both native species, would be more suitable for biomass pellet production.
- ❖ soil quality and run off into the river Dee may negatively impact the nearby protected freshwater mussels and the aquatic environment.

Local residents of Blackhall/ Cairnton were invited by the Chair to email comments to FCC to aid with our response.

ACTION – IA to submit response on behalf of FCC.

8. Planning Applications

- Removal of Existing 15m Tower and Erection of Replacement 30m Tower and Installation of Antenna and Dishes, Installation of Cabin/ Cabinet, Standby Generator and VSAT Dish
Site To The South West Of Scollys Cross Glen Dye Banchory

Aberdeenshire

Ref. No: APP/2021/0692 | Received: Thu 25 Mar 2021 | Validated: Fri 26 Mar 2021 | Status: Awaiting decision

Comment : This mast will be used by emergency services. No objections raised.

- Prior Notification for Farm-related Building Works (Non-residential).
Pilmuir Steading Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 6LD
Ref. No: APP/2021/0681 | Received: Wed 24 Mar 2021 | Validated: Wed 24 Mar 2021 | Status: Decided. No comments made

- Erection of Dwellinghouse and Detached Garage (Change of House Type and Plot Layout to Planning Permission APP/2020/2066)
Land To West Of Bucharn Farmhouse Strachan Banchory AB31 6NQ
Ref. No: APP/2021/0613 | Received: Thu 18 Mar 2021 | Validated: Tue 23 Mar 2021 | Status: Awaiting decision

Comments: There have been five approved planning applications for a house on this site, which have all lapsed. The new plans are a slightly

amended design to the previous applications. There are two written comments by residents, regarding the soakaway and the height of the building.

ACTION - IA to look back at previous applications and review local residents comments.

JR said that she would forward all planning notifications direct to all FCC members for consideration.

NL suggested that the communication group look at ways to communicate with local residents with regards to planning applications.

- Fetteresso Wind Farm

The proposal is to go to a Public Inquiry. FCC are to attend and have submitted confirmation of comments previously submitted. A pre-examination meeting is to be held on 24th of May at 10 am. Ross Clephan agreed to attend on behalf of FCC.

The Public Inquiry will be held Oct/Nov 2021.

9. Transport and Infrastructure:

SW praised Aberdeenshire Council for its efforts in fixing significant potholes on the B976.

SW explained that due to work commitments, action on internet and broadband connections will not be possible until after exams are concluded.

10. Community Benefit fund:

LC asked for completed scoring sheets to be passed to the Mid Hill secretary. A member of the public is required for the subcommittee. Please ask neighbours.

11. Education:

Cllr Ross reported that Aberdeenshire Council voted recently to close Strachan School. This proposal will now go the Scottish Government for determination. This process usually takes up to 8 weeks. Aberdeenshire Council also agreed that school transport to Finzean and Banchory Primary will be approved; a voucher scheme will be in place for Hill of Banchory Primary. Dual zoning to both Aboyne and Banchory is being considered for those in the Strachan catchment area.

12. Climate & Environment:

Nothing to report.

13. Communications:

A meeting is planned in the near future with JR and LC

NL suggested that Neighbourhood Watch Scheme may be a way forward to forging closer links within the local communities.

14. Community Matters:

- + Litter - Aberdeenshire Council Projects Officer Criminal Justice Unpaid Work Team were looking for community projects. It was suggested that the main routes through the village, along the Cairn O'Mount and the road to Knockburn Loch, would be worthwhile sites to visit.

ACTION - JR to communicate with PO.

ACTION - SR to approach Knockburn Loch to discuss issues with littering.

Installing signs to discourage litter dropping was discussed, however the majority were against further signage in the village.

- + Fly Tipping is an ongoing issue. SW asked if the booking system at the recycling centres was compounding the problem. Cllr Ross confirmed that fly tipping was increasing. Cllr Durno confirmed that changes had been made to the use of trailers and horseboxes.

CR reported that despite the booking system, there are still queues at the recycling centre.

Cllr Ross stated that the Council would again collect large items.

- + Cycle race: Tour of Great Britain will be passing through Strachan on the 11/12th of September. It was agreed to make the most of this event for our local community.

ACTION - RC to contact Strong Water company re tent hire and refreshments.

SW to notify the Hall Committee

SR to write a summary for Strachan Today.

Other possible ideas included inviting the pizza van, entertainment for children.

- + Glen Dye deer fencing program. SR has written to Glen Dye re various issues with access points.

- + NHS Banchory : NHS Grampian have set up Out Patient Hubs in Stonehaven, Aboyne and Inverurie requiring patients to travel out with our local area for blood tests (not routine blood tests but out patient bloods needed for changes in cancer medications for

example). It was agreed that the size of population in Banchory (including Inchmarlo) warranted its own out patient hub.

ACTION - JR

- ✚ Strachan Flowers: RC reported that some donations have been received. Awaiting Community Benefit wind farm money and better weather to get started with planting up containers in the village.

15. A.O.B

LC - remarked that no signage has appeared on Kirsty's Brae. Cllr Durno promised to chase this up with Ian Peacock.

SR - reported that a response has been sent to Aberdeenshire Council re the complaint panel recommendations.

JR - reported fly tipping at Mulloch Wood, which has now been cleaned up.

JR - reported that Strachan Today has been resurrected by four members of the community (AD, LC, JR and Mrs Clephan) A request to spend £100 of unused Community Action Plan monies to cover printing costs for newsletters which are delivered by hand. **Agreed unanimously.**

16. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 27th of May online. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.