

Feughside Community Council Meeting
Approved Minutes
On Line
Thursday 28th January 2021

Present :

CC : Simon Richards, Jillian Randalls, Simon Richards, Ross Clephan, Cecilia Rogers, Lynsey Craig, Audrey Dykes, Nicola Loosley, Iain Adams, Marijke Stallaert
Local Councillors : Cllr Durno, Cllr Bruce, Cllr Ross
General public : 4

1. Apologies: Samantha Wylde

2. Approval of previous monthly meeting minutes: LC requested a change to the wording in item 9 of the December minutes. JR agreed to reword and circulate this by email to all members for approval. Otherwise the minutes were approved by CR and seconded by AD.

3. Police Report:

None received.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Summary of accounts:

	Balance 26/1/2021	Expected/ Committed to <u>31/3/21</u>	Look Forward Balance at <u>31/3/21</u>
Unrestricted	£727.25	-£28.78	£698.47
Restricted – Glendye Webcam	£964.21	-£37.54	£926.67
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	£171.92	£0.00	£171.92
Totals	£2,438.29	-£66.32	£2,371.97

Funds available at Fred Olsen for FCC Midhill Community Benefit			£14,771.58

In December £2,518.61 was sent back to Aberdeenshire from FWCC and in January they returned the FCC share - £1,447.07.

The final FWCC accounts were signed off by the Verifier, the Chairman and Treasurer and sent to Marr Area. A copy is available from the Treasurer.

£1,000 received from Midhill Wind Ltd in respect of App 36 for the Glendye snow gate webcam.

In May 2020 FWCC received £179.88 from the Community Resilience Grant (Marr Area) towards ZOOM Costs. This fund has now been exhausted. The Treasurer therefore requested members approval to continue reimbursing S.R the ZOOM costs (£14.39 per month) until a return to meetings in person. The Treasurer has asked Aberdeenshire Council if there is any further funding for projects of this nature. **Unanimously agreed** to continue with monthly Zoom costs until face to face meetings can recommence.

The dispute with BT Business regarding the Glendye Webcam bills has been resolved.

Caleycom have yet to reply regarding supply of broadband to the snow gate web cam with live feed and ANPR capabilities. Another CaleyCom contact has been approached.

Zurich Liability Insurance. Reminders have been sent to Insurance Aberdeenshire and to Zurich. Zurich have received the FCC Proposal Form but are awaiting the IBGCC Form. This has been passed on to the IBGCC Treasurer.

5. Councillors Report:

Cllr Durno reported that it is unlikely that the speed limit at Kirsty's Brae on Strachan-Cairn O'Mount will be reduced. A local resident commented that it is important that some action is taken to make this accident black spot less dangerous. There is ongoing discussion with council regarding installation of warning bend signs.

Aberdeenshire is giving priority to primary routes during the very icy weather. Pathways and car parks will be kept clear around vaccination centres.

Vaccinations are in the process of being rolled out, with NHS Grampian meeting all targets. The Banchory Sports Village is being used as a vaccination centre. Vaccination appointments will be sent by letter or by phone.

Aberdeenshire have launched a new discretionary fund for micro businesses who may not have qualified in the last funding round.

Scottish child payment is available (£10 per week per child aged under 6yrs) for those that meet the criteria.

Cllr Ann Ross emailed all with information on how to access the Hardship fund, where also advice can be obtained by anyone who needs help.

LC asked Cllr Durno how the Council is honouring the agreement they signed on biodiversity and conservation and what we as a local community can do to help. Cllr. Durno promised to find out more detail.

6. Secretary's Report

Email and contact details for FCC updated. All paperwork required by Marr Area completed.

Cllr Ross had asked for an amendment to the FWCC November 2020 minutes. This has been done, signed off by FWCC members and forwarded to Marr Area.

All other items have been shared by email. Items of interest include

- Friendship Line being run by Age Scotland where older people can ask for a regular phone call if they need advice or just a chat
- a community council planning aid meeting scheduled for the 22nd of February.
- A national planning framework 4 consultation closes on 19th Feb
- Consultation on draft guidance on the promotion and use of mediation in the Scottish Planning system - closes on 12th March.

The secretary, on a personal note, was saddened by the numerous negative comments left on the Aberdeenshire Council Facebook posts. She wished to highlight the numerous day-to-day activities that go on, often unnoticed behind the scenes. For example the waste collection service in some very challenging weather conditions and the collection of fly tipping in Strachan within 24 hours of being notified. Cllr Ross thanked Jill for her positive comments on Aberdeenshire Council.

7. Official Co-option.

JR proposed the co-option of Iain Adams (with responsibility for planning matters) on to FCC.

SR seconded.

8. Planning

No planning applications this month.

Feedback on Castlewood development

The first application (under the CLOPUD format) is now at the DPEA in Edinburgh for appeal. DPEA have replied back to RPS (the consultant for Castlewood) asking for an indicative site layout plan, along with other information. The appeal could continue for another month at least before a decision is reached.

The December Castlewood CLOPUD application is still with the Aberdeenshire Planning Dept. A response has been submitted on behalf of the CC which will be held on file.

We received a notice from the council regarding legislative requirements for website accessibility. This includes minimum font sizes, sentence lengths etc all of which should be relatively easy to comply with. However it looks like use of pdf's / docs may be discouraged in favour of HTML.

The timing works out quite well with the website getting a spring clean anyway but it may be time to archive everything relating to FWCC which would remove most of the pdf's too ?

9. Transport and Infrastructure

SW was absent, so no update was available.

Cllr Ross had circulated the R100 roll out information as requested.

A local resident spoke about local people working together. The more physical addresses that can be put on the roll out list, the easier it will be for Open Reach to loop specific addresses for cost estimates. The opportunity of getting connected will be greater if the community puts itself forward in a collective manner.

R C agreed that a conversation with BT Open Reach should be started on behalf of the community and will work with SW and local residents.

CR remarked that when searching the R100 website with her postcode, it appears that we are not in the programme, as connectivity is marked as high, when this is obviously not the case.

JR to pass on residents email to SW.

10. Community Benefit fund:

LC and AD had met with regards to the Mid Hill CBF sub group .

- AD has produced a poster to be displayed on the community noticeboards and in Strachan Today - stating that applications to the fund are now open and will be accepted three times a year.
 - The subgroup requires a community member volunteer to join.
 - AD and LC have changed the name of the CC in the guidance document. The community benefit section of the FCC website is also in the process of being updated to reflect recent changes.
 - An email will be sent regarding the next meeting date for the sub group.
- SR thanked LC and AD for all the work done to date.

JR confirmed Fred Olson Renewables had received all the paperwork required with regard to the Termination of Agreement with FWCC and the Minute of Agreement with FCC. No update received as yet but will continue to chase up.

11. Education :

Marijke told the meeting that an email update had been received from Cllr Bruce with regard to the closure of Strachan School.

The Education and Children's Services committee met today and unanimously approved the recommendation to close Strachan school and have the zone as a dual catchment for both Banchory and Finzean Primary schools. This will now go to the full council for the final decision. Cllr Bruce recognised that there will be people saddened at the decision, but the majority of people who responded to the consultation supported this option. There has been no further interest registered in attending the school.

JR wished to remind everyone of the need for two youth members on FCC (aged between 14 years and 16 years).

12. Climate & Environment:

CR reported that the Banchory group, who are wanting to make Banchory a wildlife friendly community, are continuing to pursue their aims, although scope during Covid is limited.

Jeff Rodgers is planning to attend the COP21 Conference.

Cllr Bruce reported that a trial to recycle polystyrene is currently running in Aberdeenshire and this material can now be put in the recycling.

13. Communications :

JR apologised for failing to organise a communications group meeting. NL has offered to be part of the group. An email asking for volunteers for the group will be sent this month.

An email from Aberdeenshire Council re. website accessibility was discussed. IA said that the guidelines will be incorporated into the revised/new FCC website in terms of making it simpler to use, easy to read, making links html rather than pdf etc. FWCC items (planning, news etc.) will be archived.

Some items for discussion/ action have come up: Friendship Line hosted by Age Concern, volunteer car service to vaccination centres etc.

LC asked for any other comments regarding the website to be sent to her a.s.a.p.

14. Community

MS proposed some suggestions for the Mid Hill Community Benefit Fund money. These included:

- Online Technology for students with lack of digital access. NL clarified that, under the Mid Hill Community Benefit guidelines, applicants have to prove community benefit, not just the helping of individuals. Cllr Bruce said that there would be a second tranche of laptops and dongles available in the near future (delays due to delivery). Aberdeenshire Council were very keen for each child to have both a suitable device and adequate internet connection for educational purposes.
- Salt and sand provisions for local residents. Cllr Ross confirmed a grit bin, grit and sand can be requested on the Council website (under 'Report it' and then 'roads'), and via the App.
- E-bike rental hub for local residents. JR thought that this could become part of the Community Action Plan and join with other local areas, forming some type of e bike trail. Cllr Ross advised linking up with Finzean and Birse CC as they are also looking at longer distance bike options within their communities. Marr Area Partnership would also be a valuable source.
- Lighting up the Falls of Feugh waterfall in winter. Cllr Ross suggested that this would involve the Roads Department and possibly Heritage and Tourism.

SR thanked MS for her ideas but wanted to see more local groups taking ownership of projects with the CC in a supporting role.

- Use of the school wild garden for a community garden. Cllr Bruce said until the school is formally closed, no decisions on this will be taken, but she advised to get in touch with the Aberdeenshire School Estate Team.

- Vaccinations and Transport. JR asked members to refer to the email sent with regards to possible FCC involvement.

Glendye Woodland : SR had received an update from Derek Cowie regarding tree felling, tree thinning and fence construction. This will be forwarded to all members. There is a request for a meeting next week to finalise the position of three of the gates on the Hill of Dalbro.

Three illegal amounts of fly tipping were reported in the Strachan area and were dealt with very promptly by Aberdeenshire Council. RC had sent a note of thanks to the Council.

15. A.O.B

The death of two local residents was noted with sadness:

Lize Strachan of Mill of Strachan, a much loved local resident.

Jim Donald, an ex-policeman who lived near Falls of Feugh and who was a regular attendant at FWCC meetings.

A letter of complaint against the FWCC was received from Mr Smith of Castlewood. A response will be sent after consultation with Marr Area. SR will update once this information is available.

16. Date and time of next meeting -Thursday 25th of February online.