

Feughside Community Council Meeting

Thursday 27th January 2022.

Approved Minutes

The meeting was held over Zoom.

The meeting was recorded with agreement from those present.

Present :

CC : Jill Randalls, Ross Clephan, Sam Wylde, Cecilia Rogers, Lynsey Craig, Audrey Dykes, Nicola Loosley

Councillors: Ann Ross, Rosemary Bruce

Members of the Public : 2

Meeting chaired by: Lynsey Craig

1. Apologies: Simon Richards

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved with minor amendment.
Proposed: Sam Wylde Seconded: Ross Clephan

3. Police Report: None received. Cllr. Bruce advised of the appointment of a new, temporary Inspector who she would contact to ascertain whether reports would henceforth be monthly or bi-monthly.

4. Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer provided the following summary of the FCC Accounts and comments for January:

	Balance 25/1/2022	Expected/ Committed to 31/3/22	Look Forward Balance at End Financial Year 31/3/22
Unrestricted	£980.95	-£43.17	£937.78
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
Totals	£2,957.36	-£43.17	£2,914.19

Funds available at Fred Olsen for FCC Midhill Community Benefit	£35,977.96	£5,480	£41,450
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Additionally, in December:

Fiona MacKenzie was re-imbursed £280 for the purchase of 8 x half whisky barrel planters.

A cheque for £100 was received as compensation from BT relating to the complaint over service provisions. This was donated to the Friends of the Amal Project for support to Afghan refugees.

Midhill Community Benefit:

It was noted in particular that a further tranche of funding is expected in February, therefore giving a total availability of £41,450 with the deadline for the next round of funding applications being 1st of March.

5. Councillor's Report

All communications have been forwarded as appropriate.

From Cllr. Ross

The Council is currently working on the Budget to be set in February. Cuts of £90 million are expected to be made over the next five years. The Banchory skate park has received the award that had been applied for. The works on the road in Strachan were completed in record time

SSEN have launched an additional £500,000 contribution to their Resilient Communities fund. This will take the 22 communities fund to £1,000,000 for the North of Scotland, with the funding round being brought forward to 7th February. A Consultation is currently open for stakeholders: the closing date is Feb. 2nd.

Banchory Singers are looking for people to join them.

From Cllr. Bruce.

There are still some funds available from the Marr Area budget if communities are looking for a quick fix in relation to the aftermath of storm Arwen.

Councillors were asked about proposed changes to waste collection. Cllr. Ross confirmed that change to a three-bin system would be taking place in May and would be phased in throughout the different areas.

Councillors were not aware of any change to planning policy in relation to on-shore windfarm planning policy following the recent announcement of the licensing of major off-shore wind installations.

ACTION: NL to write to P.Macari for clarification.

6. Secretary's report

JR advised that Marike Staellert had stepped down from the Community Council and extended formal thanks to her on behalf of FCC for her invaluable contribution as a member of both FWCC and FCC.

JR highlighted in particular:-

- Consideration by CC members needs to be given to distribution of lateral flow tests in Strachan.
- ALOAF is looking for new members.
- Aberdeenshire Council Roads Policy Consultation has a return date of 6th February.
- Phase 2 of Communities Health and Well-being fund is now open for applications, closing on 15th March and with awards up to £50,000.
- Details of the arrangements for the Queens Platinum Jubilee and Green Canopy are available on the Council's website.
- The MAP consultation on Storm Arwen and Local Development Plan survey had been responded to.
- Aberdeenshire Bridge Prioritization programme had been circulated.
- Jack Rigby has been appointed Digital Stakeholder lead officer by Aberdeenshire Council.

7. Planning:

Iain Adams reported that there were no local planning applications in December or in January.

A discussion took place on proposed changes to planning delegation. Of particular concern is the proposed increase to 10 of the number of household objections required for a referral to Committee. Cllr. Bruce advised that these proposals had been discussed already by Marr Area Committee at the December meeting.

It was suggested by Cllr. Bruce and Cllr. Ross that the FCC express their concerns in writing.

ACTION- IA to write to Janelle Clarke and Paul Macari with copies to Cllrs Bruce and Ross.

JR advised that a previously discussed meeting with Scottish Forestry was still planned and that SR would make contact with John Mackie to arrange.

JR advised that inadvertently Scottish Woodlands had not copied FCC into correspondence relating to the sale of Glendye but that either David Roberston or

Neil Cruikstone of Scottish Woodlands would attend the next CC meeting to provide an update.

8. Transport/ Roads:

A discussion took place regarding road signage in relation to horses on the road between Mill of Strachan and the turn to Castle Hill. The question of what could be done to improve signage and visibility was raised by a member of the public, prompted by a recent incident between a rider and a car on the bend. Cllr. Ross offered her assistance in progressing this matter and requested details by email.

Cllr Bruce emphasised the need for education to make people far more aware of possible dangers to horse riders on rural roads.

Cllr Ross advised that horse riders should report incidents online to the BHS who are collating information.

NL raised concerns over the planned U52K road closure for a month by a private contractor to connect water to two new-build properties at Affrusk. She thought that a month was a particularly long time and that it should be possible for other works planned for this road to take place simultaneously to avoid closing the road twice.

Cllr. Bruce advised that access should be possible but subject to delay depending on the position of plant and offered to take up the question of pot-hole filling during the period of closure with the roads team. Works on the road in Strachan had been completed in record time and this could well be the case here.

JR had written to Marr Area Office questioning why the planned closure of the B974 overlapped the planned closure of the U52K by a week, thereby making access to Banchory very difficult for a number of residents. She had received the response that the Council did not consider access to Banchory restricted. She requested that consideration be given to not closing several roads in the same area at the same time and questioned whether the contractor on the U52K could be given an incentive to complete works more quickly.

Cllr. Bruce would write to the roads team in connection with the above.

9. Climate and Environment:

CR advised that Climate Action are going to respond to Planning Framework.

10. Education and Youth:

JR had circulated the response to her email to Janelle Clark regarding a Community Assets Transfer and she emphasized the need to come up with a plan for the school, perhaps holding a meeting in the near future. Clarification of who owns the wild garden area remains outstanding.

11. Communications:

NL still outstanding to meet with Iain about website input. There had been no progress on a logo.

NL to consider how CC input into surveys and Consultations may be better recorded.

LC asked that NL pull together some bullet points regarding a communications plan for the FCC. This will help provide an agreed framework of key items to progress.

ACTION: NL to put something together for the newsletter regarding logo, consider organization of survey responses and identify suitable communication channels for interaction with the community.

12. Community matters:

Strachan church update:- SR had spoken with the owner and work has restarted.

Community resilience:- A discussion took place about the difficulties encountered as a result of the loss of power resulting from storm Arwen and how to proceed with community resilience planning in the event of future occurrences.

In particular:-

- Communications relating to restoration of power and regarding help and resources being made available locally were particularly ineffective. The Council had received no more information from SSEN than the general public.
- The use of Strachan hall as a focal point for communication was raised.
- The degree of assistance with resilience planning available to communities from Aberdeenshire Council was queried. Cllr. Ross suggested writing to Janelle Clark regarding matters in which we believed the Council could provide more advice and guidance.
- Cllr. Bruce proposed suggesting a Ward Forum to specifically cover resilience planning.
- The SSEN Consultation closes on 2nd February with application for funding opening later in the month.
- Cllr. Ross suggested that Finzean CC and Banchory CC could be contacted about generator acquisition and resilience plans.

13. Matters Arising: No matters raised

14. AOB: JR advised that the local community bid for Auchattie woods had been unsuccessful.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 24th February at 7.30pm.