

Feughside Community Council Meeting

Approved Minutes 29th July 2021

Present: Audrey Dykes (Chair), Ross Clephan (Treasurer), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Sam Wylde, Nicola Loosley, Cecilia Rogers, Iain Adams.

- 1. Apologies** – S.Richards, L.Craig, M.Staellert, Cllr Bruce.
- 2. Approval of minutes of previous monthly meeting** – proposed by SW and seconded by CR.
- 3. Police Report** – email received from the Police on 09/07/21 and forwarded to all members. Items of note – vandalism at Banchory Academy. The police are encouraging members of the community to report incidences of vandalism.
Action from last meeting – Insp Garrow emailed permission to use the police report on the FCC website and the Strachan Today newsletter.
- 4. Treasurers Report:**

	Balance 27/7/2021	Expected/ Committed to 30/9/21	
Unrestricted	£640.91	£398.99	
Restricted – Glendye Webcam	£906.74	-£147.00	
Restricted – Midhill CB Admin	£293.00	£0.00	
Restricted - Community Action Plan (CAP)	£281.91	£0.00	
Restricted - Strachan Flowers Collection	£774.76	£0.00	
Totals	£2,897.32	£251.99	
Funds available at Fred Olsen for FCC Midhill Community Benefit	£19,350.87	£0.00	

Final Accounts to 31/3/21:

The end-year FCC accounts have now been signed off and sent to Aberdeenshire Council. The 2021 admin grant should be received next month.

- 5. Councillors Report:** No councillors present due to being on their annual break.

6. **Secretary's Report:** All correspondence forwarded to members. Of note are the following:

- Marr Large Grant Scheme – open for applications for projects which will help improve local communities. Grants up to £5000. Projects must be completed by 28/02/22. Closing date for applications is 31.08.21
- Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership are launching a campaign to encourage people in Aberdeenshire to take care of their mental wellbeing. They are seeking ambassadors for the campaign. Contact isla.stewart@mearns-gill.com
- Notes were issued from the recent Ward Forum which focussed on the issues of food – security, economy, environment and culture.
- Communications received from The ECU regarding Additional Information submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit relating to a peatland classification assessment, further ornithology modelling and assessment and a revised Habitat Management Plan. Closing date for responses – 17/08/21 (To be discussed under planning).

7. **Planning:**

❖ Monthly Planning applications:

- APP/2021/1650 Agricultural Building at Upper Sampher Farm, Strachan.
- APP/2021/1556 Change of use (from residential) to short term let at Tilquillie Cottage.

❖ Fetteresso Wind Farm Inquiry: RC stated that our questions/comments have been submitted to the Reporter. Due to the range of matters raised, the Reporter has decided that a Statement of Agreed Matters between Fetteresso Wind and the Community Council should be prepared. Fetteresso Wind has agreed to prepare a draft for discussion. The Reporter asked that a final Statement of Agreed Matters is submitted no later than 31 August 2021. RC to keep FCC informed of developments.

❖ Glendye Wind Farm – Section 36 Application - Additional Information 2: submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit relating to a peatland classification assessment, further ornithology modelling and assessment and a revised Habitat Management Plan. Closing date for responses – 17/08/21

NB – AD raised a conflict of interest regarding the Glendye Wind Farm Additional Information and took no part in the discussion.

It was agreed that members should read through the AI and that our response could take into account concerns raised by Aberdeenshire Council.

Action – JR to ask the ECU for an extension to the deadline response.

Action – All to read through the AI and forward comments to SR, IA and JR asap.

8. Transport Roads and Infrastructure:

- CR raised concerns regarding the junction at the Feugh Bridge with many motorists not being aware of local etiquette (ie not overtaking traffic waiting to turn right who are waiting for traffic to turn right off the bridge).
Action – SW to contact the Roads Dept.

9. **Mid Hill Community Benefit Fund:** LC had sent an update by email. The sub committee met for the annual review meeting in July. This provides an opportunity to assess and review all documentation (guidance documents, application forms and scoring sheet) associated with the windfarm community benefit funding. The documents and meeting minutes will be presented at the next FCC meeting for final agreement and sign off. No applications received at this time.

10. **Education and Youth:** nothing received.

11. Climate and Environment:

- CR reported that the list MSP Mercedes Villalba (Member of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee) had been in touch with Banchory CAN asking if she could meet with them to gain a better understanding of rural communities and biodiversity.
- CR will send a link regarding environmental projects ongoing in Huntly.

12. Communications:

- **Broadband** - NL reported that a fibre optic cable runs through Strachan but no properties in the centre of Strachan are connected to it. The postcode checker states that there is no fibre optic cable available when clearly there is. Her understanding of the Open Reach website advice is that properties within the Strachan area can apply individually to be connected but need to provide the majority of the funding (which may be in the region of £10,000).
Action – SW and NL to approach the Councillors for help and support in taking this forward with Open Reach.
- **Website** – NL had spent some time browsing other community websites with regards to links and information on current sources of funding. She also has various ideas on design and content to increase communication and interaction eg local trades, police reports etc.
Action – NL and IA to meet to discuss website design and content.

13. Community Matters:

- 2021 Tour of Britain Cycle Race The North East is preparing to host the final stage of the 2021 Tour of Britain professional cycle race <https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/race/2021-tour/> . Our stage will be on Sunday 12th September and the race will depart from Stonehaven at 10am. The Cairn O'Mount will be closed from 6pm on Saturday 11th September (i.e. the night before) but there will be access for residents. The road will reopen at 1pm on Sunday 12th September. The event brings with it a lot of media

attention and some of the best athletes in the world. There will be live TV coverage of the whole stage and a popular evening highlights show.

- Glen Dye Trails
 - Preparation works have started for replanting the clear felled areas at Bogendriep. Note rather than ploughing for the planting- excavators are digging individual holes to prevent soil run off.
 - As part of the preparation works a new track has been laid out to the South of the Bingly Burn to connect the lower riverside track with the middle track. This will be suitable for quad bike/walker/horse rider and cyclist. The Estate have kindly agreed that the track will be created as part of the prep work.
 - At the top of Galley bank a new stock fence has meant that there is no direct connection to the Pitreadie road from Galley bank without climbing over said fence. The estate have agreed to insert an additional gate in the new fence to complete the connection.
 - New cattle grids on the Pitreadie road will have side gates installed as soon as they are available.
 - A new trail has been started connecting the bottom of Galley bank back to Bogendriep.
 - A local resident is working on a sketch map of the area and the trails. It is hoped a version of this can be circulated via Strachan today and also be posted at Bogendriep to inform visitors. Discussion on this is ongoing with the estate.

With all of the above completed there will be a network of trails which will allow access to the top of the Craig of Dalfrro from both the Galley bank side and from the riverside track at Bogendriep. This will give excellent access to the existing three mtb trails off the top of Dalfrro, and encourage more trail building. A small group is forming who are keen to build further trails. This will be done in close conjunction with the estate and the Aberdeen Trails Association to ensure trails are built to a standard.

The Estate are happy to allow the ALOAF meeting take place on site at Bogendriep in September to see for themselves how a communities and estate have worked with each other for mutual benefit.

- Strachan Flowers: The flower display seems to be a success. After replacing the compost and the plants, the mystery deaths in the large planter at the B974 junction have not re-occurred. Thanks to Colin Blackhall at TLC Potatoes for the donation of compost.

14. AOB – none.

15. Date of next meeting 26th August 2021. Venue to be confirmed depending on Covid restrictions.

Meeting ended at 20.25hrs