

Feughside Community Council Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
On Line  
Thursday 25th March 2021

**1. Present:** Simon Richards (Chair), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Ross Clephan (Treasurer), Cecilia Rogers, Lynsey Craig, Audrey Dykes, Nicola Loosley, Iain Adams, Marijke Stallaert,

Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Cllr Ann Ross

General public: 2

**2. Apologies:** Sam Wylde

**3. Approve minutes of previous meeting:** approved by A.D and seconded by C.R.

**4. Police Report:**

The Police report dated the 7<sup>th</sup> March was forwarded to all members. The issue of dog theft in the area, including a bogus SSPCA van, was raised.

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

Summary of our accounts as of today:

	<b>Balance 23/3/2021</b>	<b>Expected/ Committed to 31/3/21</b>	<b>Look Forward Balance at Year End 31/3/21</b>
Unrestricted	£712.86	-£14.39	£698.47
Restricted – Glendye Webcam	£652.56	£294.00	£946.56
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	£271.92	£0.00	£271.92
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,212.25</b>	<b>£279.61</b>	<b>£2,491.86</b>

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Funds available at Fred Olsen for FCC Midhill Community Benefit	£19,850.87	£0.00	£19,850.87
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BT wrongly charged FCC £294 for an Openreach Engineer visit in December. A promised refund of £294 along with £50 compensation has yet to be credited to the bank account.

The Strachan Flowers group had their first 2021 meeting and are open for donations. Money can be deposited directly into FCC account with Clydesdale Bank: Feughside Community Council, 82-61-00, A/C 20270481 - please reference Strachan Flowers. If donors prefer to remain anonymous - they can put cash in an envelope to Ross Clephan at Burn of Rhoda, Strachan, AB31 6LN, again please mark the envelope "Strachan Flowers".

## 6. Councillors Report:

- Cllr Bruce reported that whilst budgets have been cut, the Scottish Government has allocated additional money in terms of Covid support - for children's services, vulnerable groups and rapid rehousing. Aberdeenshire is still on target to make £21million savings this year. Additional investment provided for an infrastructure fund, which will help with road and building repairs.
- Cllr Ross confirmed the availability of various recovery funds. She also highlighted the refurbishment of the museum and cultural centre, which is due to open sometime in the summer. Cllr Ross urged the public to keep reporting potholes on the council website. CR mentioned that she had reported on AC website that the Feugh Bridge parapet has been hit several times and is possibly a safety issue. Cllr Ross urged her to report it once more with a photo attached. She also mentioned the use of fixmystreet.com website as a secondary report site.

## 7. Secretary's report:

25.03 Aberdeenshire Council – Briefing note re Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development and Use Classes) (Scotland) Amendment Order.

24.03 Scottish Woodland – Blackhall Cairnton New Woodland Creation Proposal

23.03 Aberdeenshire Council – Polling staff required

22.03 Aberdeenshire Council – Local Governance review update

18.03 A reporters guide to planning appeals and development plans – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm hosted by Planning Democracy.

11.03 Marr Area Partnership Ward Forum on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 7pm via Zoom "Access and the Countryside".

05.03 Aberdeenshire Council Roads Maintenance Update

04.03 Aberdeenshire Council – Review of Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils – Forum on 15.03 and review closes on 14.04

## 8. Planning:

No planning applications this month.

### Castlewood Development

- I.A reported that the DPEA appeal ruling was yesterday. They have granted the application for the permanent occupation of 25 sites, but they rejected the application for further 45 additional residential sites. I.A noted this was consistent with the Aberdeenshire Council recommendations.
- There was a discussion amongst CC members as to how we proceed next.
- Cllr Bruce noted that the CC could continue to raise the issue with AC if unhappy with the outcome to see if there was any further redress.
- LC suggested that the Planning Dept. should be asked if they have a process whereby procedures are updated to ensure that similar significant errors are not made again. NL suggested that there should be some formal note to clarify that the permanent residency was a result of an error.
- It was noted by SR that since 2005 there have been 28 applications for the Castlewood site.

**Action – SR** to approach local residents to gather views and lessons learnt.

**Action –** It was decided that further communication with the Planning Dept was required to confirm that the granting of permanent residential status was entirely an error on their part and to enquire about the learning process to ensure that such an error would not be made in the future.

**Action - I.A** will circulate the DPEA document.

JR raised the concern that planning documents are removed from the planning website and are no longer available for scrutiny.

**Action –** to seek assurance from the Planning Dept. that all documents and relevant information to this site be retained.

### Fetteresso Wind farm update:

- Members of FCC had attended an online meeting earlier in the month, with Fred Olsen Renewables Ltd (FORL). The proposed development was refused permission in December 2020 by AC and Scottish Government. FORL have successfully appealed the decision, a Reporter has been appointed and a public enquiry will follow in due course.

## 9. Transport and Infrastructure

- SW was absent - no update was available.
- SR noted that on a 1 hour local cycle he counted 90 significant potholes in the road.

## 10. Mid Hill Community Benefit Fund

- RC reported that the revised signed agreement between FCC and Fred Olsen renewables Ltd (FORL) has been returned to FORL on 16.03. 21 for signing by their lawyers. The agreement between FCC, IBGCC and FORL regarding the splitting of funds has been signed by both CC's and is now back with FORL.
- LC reported that the new CBF sub group met on 10th of March.
- One application had been received for discussion. This concerned an application for funding for the Strachan flower displays. The flower group also raises money through donations from local residents (see treasurer's report).

The application is for £500 match funding. The applications was supported unanimously by the sub committee.

**Agreed unanimously to support this application.** (RC did not vote due to conflict of interest).

- LC indicated that further changes may need to be made to the guidance document after looking through it in detail. These changes will take place at the AGM in July.
- Nicola was able to add background knowledge on how we can put more emphasis on the community benefits all applications should bring to the area.
- A further member for the CBF subcommittee is being sought, who is nor a member of FCC.
- JR had been informed by Fred Olsen that the paper copies of applications can be destroyed once payment received.

## 11. Education

MR - no further update on Strachan school.

## 12. Climate & Environment

- CR reported that the Wildlife Friendly Initiative in Banchory are in the process of planning a public event.
- Jeff Rogers will attend the COP26 Conference. He has agreed to give a short presentation to FCC at a future meeting.
- Climate action week is in progress in Aberdeen.
- On the 21st of April 7.30-9.00 pm the local Deeside Climate Action Network are holding an online climate hustings with all 5 political parties taking part. This will be opened up to the wider public.
- CR noted that a recent article in the P&J stated that Scotland has the worst recycling rate in the UK. The article commentated that the building of further incinerators was a retrograde step. LC agreed that a broader range of recycling could be offered.

## 13. Communications

- NL outlined her vision for the new Communications group.
- She stressed the importance of connecting with the wider community. We should make ourselves be known by placing our logo on projects we have supported (like the flower tubs, the playground, the hall), so we become 'a friendly face' and get known as a force for good in the community. Need to advertise ourselves as a group that is reaching out and is willing to improve the community through its support of worthwhile projects. This vision will be fed in through the website.
- AD, JR and LC have offered their help with the Strachan Today newsletter and the communications group.
- NL is investigating an easy access electronic archive where all important documentation can be stored and retrieved by anyone interested.
- NL also asked help with designing a new logo for FCC. This will need to be done by using a vector creator app, so the image can be reused with ease.
- The FCC website update was discussed. Some changes have already been made in Phase 1. Phase 2 – accessibility, archiving and GDPR need to be addressed in the future.
- JR confirmed that copies of approved minutes are lodged with Aberdeenshire Council.

## 14. Community Matters

- Strachan Hall Car Park -  
Robert Brown (Trustee and member of the Hall Committee) spoke on behalf of the Hall Committee. He acknowledged the support the CC had given the hall in recent years during various improvement projects, which have now been completed on time and within budget.  
The lack of car parking at the Hall continues to be a serious issue, with those attending functions (i.e. funerals) having no alternative but to park on the road, often leading to congestion. The lack of land remains a constraint, so an alternative is to construct a large lay-by (approx. 120m long) on the opposite side of the road, which could accommodate approx. 20 cars. The landowner has been approached and has no objection in principle (as long as it does not encroach on the field) and Aberdeenshire Council Roads Dept. are supportive of the concept. The Council had adopted the embankment in the past.

Next steps will be for the Hall to fund Civil Engineers to design the project and obtain approval by Aberdeenshire Council. Utilities will need to be left in place or diverted. There can then be submission of a planning application along with a Section 56 Roads Consent application. The Hall has funds required to draw up the initial plans by a civil engineer. There are also some Developer Obligation monies allocated to the Hall that can be used for this project.

Once the approvals are in place there will be a community consultation and fundraising will begin. The Hall committee propose to seek match funding from Mid Hill Community Benefit Fund. The estimated cost of the project is £50,000. The Hall would intend to apply for around £20,000 Mid Hill CBF money.

If BT cabling needs to be rerouted the project will not proceed, as the cost will be prohibitive.

- Blackhall Cairnton New Woodland Creation  
The planning application for this proposal needs to be resubmitted to Scottish Forestry. Scottish Woodland are now the agents. They have produced a new plan, which had been sent to all members and displayed on the Community Noticeboards. Megan Parker, Forest Planner, has agreed to attend a future meeting to discuss the consultation process from an agent's point of view. John Mackie from Scottish Forestry will be contacted to be invited to attend a future meeting.  
**Action** – **JR** to contact ScottishWoodland. **SR** to contact John Mackie.

## 15. A.O.B

- In response to a letter of complaint by Mr W. Smith, the Chair and Secretary attended the informal meeting of the Complaints Panel earlier today. The outcome is due in the next week.  
LC thanked SR and JR for their preparation and participation on behalf of the CC.
- AD highlighted that in September 2021 the Tour of Britain will pass over the Cairn O'Mount. The road will be closed. AD and SR is to meet with Scottish Cycling. SR to investigate the experience of Yorkshire villages who have

hosted similar events in the past. This item will be discussed at a future meeting. **Action – AD and SR**

- JR stressed the importance of avoiding unacceptable amounts of parking on local beauty spots and to always take home all litter. AD commented that litter is an increasing problem at Glen Dye, especially fast food packaging. The topic of litter along the road is to be discussed at a future meeting but members were keen to thank Stirling Johnson- Marshall for his continued efforts in litter picking within the community.

#### **16. Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 29th of April online at 7.30pm.  
The meeting closed at 9.10pm.