

Feughdee West Community Council
Online Meeting
Approved Minutes
29th October 2020

Present: Simon Richards (Chair), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Ross Clephan (Treasurer), Marijke Stallaert (minutes), Lynsey Craig, Ian Bertram, Cecilia Rogers, Iain Adams, Sam Wylde, Katie Rumbles, John Andrew, Andy?
Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors: Cllr Bruce, Cllr Ross, Cllr Durno

Two members of the public were present at the online meeting.

1) **Apologies:** Peter Tyrrell, Ian Brockie

2) **Approve minutes** of the September meeting: proposed by Ian Bertram and seconded by Sam Wylde.

3) **Police Report:** No new report received.

4) **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer has sent out the monthly report by email.

Total funds as of/29/10/2020 = £2,675.37

Balance of unrestricted funds = £1,267.06

The Glen Dye snow gate web camera : RC updated the meeting that the master socket and router have now been replaced by Deeside Computers. The invoice for £147 was **approved for payment** by all members present. The Treasurer is in conversation with BT with regards to a refund for unused services due to the time the system was not working. RC also reported that Caleycom are willing to replace the existing system F.O.C. The replacement would include a more sophisticated camera replacement with ANPR (automatic number plate recognition). This technology has been requested on many occasions by Police Scotland. Caleycom would like some sort of recognition on the FWCC website in return. All members agreed that this was a good offer.

Action – RC to continue communications with BT, Caleycom and Police Scotland.

The available Fred Olson Funds are £24,825 minus the approved Web Cam application for £1000.

5) **Councillor's report:**

- Cllr Bruce reported on the current Covid19 situation: Aberdeenshire has been put onto level 2.
- Remembrance services are going ahead, but in a scaled back format. The poppy wreath will be delivered to Simon Richards.
- All council work is being carried out as normal. Cllr Bruce encouraged all members in the community to keep reporting potholes etc. on the website.
- 'Inspiring Aberdeenshire' is an uplifting video, which Cllr Bruce recommended. It celebrates all the great work that is being done in our communities.
- Cllr Ross added that David Culshaw from Banchory has been nominated for the IA award because of the work he and his team have done by developing local paths.
- Cllr Ross reported on the budget cuts and that Aberdeenshire Council will be unable to continue to provide the same services at the same level.
- Cllr Ross discussed the negative impact of Covid 19 on Banchory High Street, with further shops due to close.

- A Christmas fair is being organised on Scott Skinner Square with a one-way system in place.
- Cllr Durno stated that there was a new exemption card provided by the Scottish Government for people unable to wear a facemask for medical reasons.
- The current delay re. Flu vaccination was also discussed. Cllr Ross recommended patience when phoning the help line.
- The “Take charge” campaign run by the council reminds householders not to put batteries in the general rubbish, as it can cause a fire on the recycling line. Householders are reminded to use the pink battery bags and tie full bags onto the green food waste caddies.
- LC asked what the Council's budget priorities were in time of cutbacks and would the community have any voice in these decisions? Cllr Ross answered that the budget gets aligned to priorities. Only essential, core services will be delivered. Once consultation with the full Council has been completed there should be a public consultation.
- SW asked if Education and Health and Social Care would be affected. The Cllrs thought these were ring fenced to a certain extent. SW also raised the point of revisiting the expensive project of the Torry Incinerator. The Cllrs said there was nothing that could be altered as the project was now approved and the money allocated.

6) **Secretary’s Report:**

- All items and updates have been forwarded as appropriate.
- James Hewitt at Planning (Strategic Development Delivery team) was happy to include FWCC’s comments in full re the Fetteresso wind farm application.
- The Aberdeenshire bedding plants budget may not go ahead for next year.
- FWCC’s website has been hacked and bit coin ransom has been requested.

7) **Junior Councillor Report:** No junior councillors present

8) **Dissolution:**

- All items are now in place to dissolve FWCC and form two new community councils.
- The timetable for dissolution of FWCC and election of new councillors for the two new councils, including ballot time, date and venues, has been emailed to all councillors.
- Posters advertising the election can be displayed on Community noticeboards and digital media from the 2nd of November.
- Nomination forms need to be with Marr Area by 4pm on Friday 20th Nov.
- Ballot if necessary will be Saturday 28th November; the ballot count will be on Wed 2nd December,
- AGM Inchmarlo, Brathens and Glassel CC Wednesday 9th Dec.
- AGM Feughside CC Thursday 10th Dec.
- On the 26th of November a formal last meeting of FWCC will be held to formally wrap everything up.

The existing bank account raises some practical issues, which need to be resolved within the constraints of the current scheme of establishment. RC raised the important topic of the

requirement to have access to funds so payments to the BT webcam can continue uninterrupted.

Action - RC to contact Marr Area to get this resolved.

9) **Transport roads and infrastructure.**

JA said there were on going discussions about the 5 recent car accidents in Inchmarlo.

Update on the snow gate webcam – See Treasurers Report.

LC highlighted concerns about the lack of signage on the S bends at Kirsty's Brae towards the Cairn O'Mount. The signage is good upon leaving the village, but non-existent in the opposite direction.

Cllr Ross recommended contacting Angela Funk, Senior Road Engineer Aberdeenshire, for advice. Cllr Durno offered to speak to Angela Funk and asked if she could be provided with some photographic evidence.

10) **Mid Hill Community Benefit:**

It was agreed the Mid Hill fund would be frozen and that all applications should be stalled until dissolution is complete. The two new councils will be able to deal with applications from the 9th and 10th December. This was **agreed unanimously**.

Action – IA to post notice to this effect on the FWCC website.

The need to create two different websites was discussed. KR suggested that the FWCC should be changed to Feughside and that Inchmarlo would set up their own website with help from IA if needed.

11) **Planning:**

APP/2020/2066 Land adjacent to Bucharn Farmhouse, Strachan, Banchory. Erection of dwelling house and detached garage.

As this concerns a re-application of an older granted application, but with a smaller footprint, no objections were raised.

On going Planning issues:

1. ***Castlewood***

The Chair confirmed that FWCC is still in discussion with the planning department regarding the granting of residential status on 25 approved caravan plots. A copy of the letter has been shared with our local MSP. A formal complaint to the Ombudsman is being considered. The developer has appealed the Councils decision on the 75 residential caravans which is now with the Scottish Government.

2. ***Fetteresso***

Marr Area committee recommended refusal of this planning application.

The application will next be discussed by the Infrastructure Services Committee on the 26th of November.

3. ***New Woodland at Blackhall***

A complaint has now been sent to the planning department for failure to apply for planning permission for a car park of 30x30m. The woodland consultation by the agents appears to have been just a box ticking exercise with no real intention to talk to the local community or to take any comments on board.

Action - SR to contact John Mackie re the planting of sitka spruce.

11) **Education and Youth:** Nothing to report (MS).

13) **Climate and Environment:**

CR gave a brief update on local actions to make Banchory a wildlife friendly village. Electric cars and waste shops and refill points in Banchory were discussed.

14) **Glen Dye Forest Management** (deer fencing/ tree harvesting)

Two local residents have been in direct discussion with Glen Dye regarding the fence, as there are concerns about impacting their water supply and also local road safety. Glendye have proposed some adjustments to ensure leisure access to the forest is still possible.

JR said we should engage with the local community to ask for input with regard to access. The fencing process needs to be slowed down, so as to allow time for a proper discussion and solutions based on meaningful community consultation. Detailed engagement on the location, type of gate is required.

Action - SR to ask the Glen Dye agent for clarification on types of gate to be installed across the tracks (i.e. disability and equine friendly) locked/unlocked, and to ask to wait for outcome of proper community consultation. **JR** to post on Strachan Hub, Strachan Today and the community notice boards asking for comments ASAP.

15) **Community matters:**

i) Remembrance service: A much scaled down event this year due to Covid19 restrictions. The CC will be laying the wreath on 11/11/20 at 11 am by the War Memorial. The Birse and Feughside service will be on Sunday 8th November at 10.45 via Zoom.

Action - JR to publish event details on Strachan Hub and Strachan Today.

ii) SR asked about previous plans to landscape the area around the war memorial. Cllr. Bruce to check with landscape services.

iii) Christmas: JR asked for ideas to make the villages more festive during the pandemic ie asking houses to have outdoor lights or trees and having a village switch on.

Simon, Ross and Audrey agreed to organise the village tree.

Action - JR to put note on social media. **AD** to approach Glen Dye, **SR and RC** to erect and sort lights.

iv) Village Flowers: An informal Strachan Flowers Group is now active, led by Fiona Stirling, Sarah Richards and Ross Clephan. Bulb planting is currently being discussed. The group would also like to reach out to Tilquhillie and Auchattie. They want to include the outlying areas of the village.

Action - CR to put a notice re this group on the notice board.

16) **Any other business :**

Change of law to smoke detection in both existing and new build houses coming into effect in Feb 2021.

17) **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 26th November 2020 via zoom.

The meeting closed at 21.05.