

FEUGHDEE WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Community Council Meeting
Held in Strachan Hall on Thursday 26th July 2018 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Community Councillors: Mr S Richard (Chair), Mrs J Randalls (Secretary), Mr J Andrew, Mrs C Rogers, Ms L Craig, Ms S Wylde, Mr P Tyrell, Mr I Brockie, Mr I Bertram

Banchory & Mid Deeside Councillors: Cllr A Ross

Junior Councillors: Mr J Andrew, Miss P Clark, and Miss D Curry

Minutes: Mrs I Addison

Members of Public: 2 Members of public were present

1. Apologies and Absences

Apologies were received from Ms M Stallaert, Cllr R Bruce, Mr I Adams, Mrs K Rumbles

2. **Minutes of previous meeting 28th June 2018** Proposed: Mrs C.Roger
Seconded: Mrs J. Randalls

3. Police Report

No police were in attendance. A report stated that there had been little crime in the area. However large quantities of alcohol had been seized from minors who have been gathering to drink during the summer months. Investigations to determine where the alcohol was being purchased revealed that it had not in fact been purchased by the minors but had been supplied by their parents.

4. Election of Treasurer

It was noted that a treasurer has yet to be elected for the current term. No volunteers were forthcoming. It was noted that the Scheme of Establishment allows for the Secretary to take on the Treasurer role but most felt that this was unfair in this instance due to the current workload of the Secretary. It was also suggested that FWCC could appoint from outwith the community council. Mrs J Davies, a past Treasurer, has supplied some notes detailing what the post involves.

In the meantime it was agreed that Ms J. Randalls should apply to Community Benefit Fund for continued funding of the Glendye snow-gate web-cam (Bt line rental). It was agreed that the application would be submitted to Fred Olsen directly (11 in favour, one abstention).

Mrs Julia Davies has kindly agreed to independently verify the accounts ending 31st March 2018.

5. Councillor's Report

Cllr. A Ross reported that rural bus services are in the process of being reviewed with various routes being adjusted.

It was noted that the current bus services are not fully understood by the general public and have not been promoted in any significant way. It was felt that this issue should be looked at and addressed. Including transport in the Community Action Plan was seen as a way forward.

High speed broadband at Inchmarlo Residential Village has been installed.

Aberdeenshire Council have adopted a 'Species Champion' initiative similar to one run at national level. This initiative champions the survival of various species including fresh water mussels (which are vital to the survival of salmon) and swifts, which are also in decline.

RSPB have already made a plea for legislation to protect swifts by requiring swift blocks to be compulsory to new builds and for this to be a requirement on all future planning applications.

There was a short discussion surrounding bio-diversity.

6. Community Action Plan

Ms L Craig reported that a highly constructive C.A.P. meeting was recently held and there is to be a drop-in open meeting held in both the Strachan and Inchmarlo Community Halls.

This will take place from 11am – 1pm and from 3pm – 7pm on Friday 3rd. August. This will provide information and hopefully generate interest and galvanise community spirit.

The survey to find out where priorities lie locally is on going. It was stressed that a good, high quality plan being in place took precedence over adhering to the initial time-scale.

Posters and General Leaflets are now available with links to the questionnaire. Anyone wishing to speak directly with the consultant may do so at the drop in session on Friday 3rd Aug or by contacting secretary Mrs J Randalls in the first instance. The website will be updated with all relevant information.

There was a discussion surrounding the importance of the CAP initiative and how to generate interest and enthusiasm for it by involving the next generation. It was acknowledged that Heads of Schools will be contacted in this respect.

7. Planning

Erection of Cabin to Provide Tourist Accommodation

Land near Scolly's Hill, Glen Dye Estate.

No issues raised. Noted - plan is for two cabins.

Erection of an Anemometer Mast up to 80 metres in height without compliance to condition 1 (time) of previously approved Planning Application.

Land on Fasque and Glen Dye Estate

No issues raised.

Beech tree – Fell tree as it has Ganoderma fungal

Skene Enterprises, Inchmarlo House, Inchmarlo

No Issues raised.

It was noted that there was notice to remove a preservation order on a tree in Strachan School playground.

8. Transport, Roads & Infrastructure

Communication is still being established with councillor formerly responsible for this department.

Council was informed about a low loader carrying an armoured tank going over Cairn o' Mount on 10th July. This has been reported to Aberdeenshire Council, as the vehicle was so wide oncoming traffic had to reverse.

Another extremely large HGV was seen on 19th July, this time with an escort vehicle stopping oncoming traffic. As permission would have been applied for in the first instance, this will be brought to the attention of the Police for comment.

9. Education and Youth

The Play park is almost complete with the grass establishing and fencing to be completed. An official opening date of 25th August is proposed.

10 Windfarms

A letter has been sent to the Energy Consents Unit, with local MSPs copied in, regarding the inconsistency in Section 36 planning applications. This being that connection to the grid is not dealt with in a Section 36 application but in a separate Section 37 application after permission has been granted. The office of Alexander Burnett has replied indicating that they are planning to write to Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning asking why the legislation is as described.

No further updates from Coriolis.

A letter has been sent to Craig Potter, Natural Power, re the lack of community benefit associated with the proposed extension to Midhill Wind farm (Fetteresso).

11. Community Benefit Fund

Mr P. Tyrell submitted CBF report as follows:

Current Fund Balance is £3637. Next Meeting is 16th August 2018. Closing date for applications is 1st August 2018. Next Fred Olsen funding is due in September and will be approx. £22500

There is currently one application which is for Strachan Youth Group for £1000, plus an application for Inchmarlo Hall Car Park resurfacing which was approved in principle last year but had to be delayed due to shortage of funds. Estimate will be approx. £18,000.

Following a request to previous beneficiaries, for info on how funds had been utilised, only three replies had been received. A form has been sent to outstanding recipients asking for info on current progress and outcomes.

CAP Expenses

It was agreed that Mrs J Randalls should apply for the sum of £1000 for potential C.A.P. Expenses. Any funds surplus to requirements would be refunded.

Broadband

It was proposed that internet access be made available for the two Community Halls at Inchmarlo and Strachan. Ms S. Wylde had contacted BT for approx costs. It was unanimously agreed to apply to Community Benefit for funding. Various other potential sources will also be investigated.

Mrs J Randalls will submit application forms for the projector and community notice boards, previously agreed at FWCC meetings.

It was agreed that the Community Benefit Fund application form should be available on the FWCC Website.

It was also agreed that there should be an official acknowledgement from recipients of CBF cheques to the Treasurer.

12. Community Safety

It was reported that an email had been received requesting that a member of FWCC attend the next Safety Group meeting. Mr I. Bertram has kindly offered to attend meetings on behalf of FWCC.

There have been safety issues regarding parking outside schools. There is currently a police campaign to help address this issue.

It was acknowledged that there are also potential safety issues for crossing the road to the newly refurbished Strachan Play Park. A member of the public has been in touch with Aberdeenshire Council and she has been asked to forward any correspondence to FWCC for their help in this matter.

It was agreed to include Community Safety on the FWCC agenda in future.

13. Community Councillors' Emails

There was a discussion regarding the proposal to separate FWCC and personal email addresses. This would

keep all FWCC correspondence under one umbrella.

Some of the pros and cons were discussed and further research will be carried out before a final decision is made. The cost is estimated at approximately £120 per annum although it was believed that this cost could be significantly reduced.

14. Banchory Forest Consultation

There was a discussion regarding Forest Enterprise Scotland's land management plan for Banchory Woods. It was generally felt that their document was unclear and difficult to understand due to its length and unfamiliar terminology. Councillors were encouraged to read the document through and submit comments to secretary Mrs J. Randalls by 16th Aug. 2018.

It was suggested that a précis of the document be made available for the CAP drop-in sessions on 3rd August. Mr S. Richards will make contact to request informational material and a possible simplified version of the document in question.

15. Any Other Business

- It was reported that some unstable headstones are evident at the old graveyard. Aberdeenshire Council is currently addressing this issue and a warning notice has been placed at the gate.
- The wild flowers sown earlier in the year are in bloom.
- The memorial bench for the late Frank Sheridan, which is to be installed in the new Play Park, was discussed briefly.
- News has been received that access to Blackhall Forest has been accelerated to avoid crossing farmland.
- There will be a 'Supporting Communities Event' on Saturday 15th September, 2018 from 9am to 3.30pm at Woodhill House, Aberdeen with a half hour break for lunch. Further information available marr@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
- A Rural Broadband Forum is to be held in the Victory Hall Aboyne on Thursday 2nd August at 7.30pm where the provision of superfast broadband to rural communities will be discussed

16. Date of next meeting

Thursday 30th August at 7.30p.m. Inchmarlo Hall

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.