

Feughdee West Community Council

Approved Minutes of Meeting held in Strachan School

Wednesday 5th September 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present :

Community Councillors :

Simon Richards (Chair), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Peter Tyrrell, Sam Wylde, Lynsey Craig, John Andrew, Marijke Stallaert, Jell Andrew, Darcy Curry.

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors:

Cllr. Eileen Durno, Cllr Anne Ross

Aberdeenshire Education Dept.

Rachael Goldring, Maxine Booth

Members of the public: 2

Minutes : Marijke Stallaert.

1. Apologies : Ian Bertram, Katy Rumbles, Iain Adams, Cecilia Rodgers, Ian Brockie, Irene Addison, Cllr Rosemary Bruce and Portia Clark.

2. Approval of the minutes from the meeting 26th July 2018: Proposed by Sam Wylde and seconded by John Andrew.

3. Police Report: No police report had been received and no police were in attendance.

4. Youth and Education:

The future of Strachan school

The two officers of Aberdeenshire council introduced themselves - Maxine Booth, Quality Improvement Manager (resources and performance) and Rachael Goldring, Learning Estates Team Leader (who deals with school roll forecasting). The officers explained that they were attending in order to discuss the future of Strachan School. They clarified that engagement regarding this topic had started in May and that they were keen to start a dialogue with the community, especially with families of school age children, about the long-term future of the school.

Strachan School has now been mothballed for 2 sessions, as there are no pupils on the school roll, and no applications have been received in the past 2 years. In both 2018 and 2019 there are 4 children (total 8) who would be eligible to start at Strachan School. If these pupils do not choose to enroll, then there needs to be a resolution as to the future of the school. This could include permanent closure and using the building for other purposes e.g. nursery, community café, etc. The officers stated that closure or change of use would be subject to rigorous statutory consultation and a series of public meetings. In order for an alternate use the school would first have to formally close. If the school closed, this would affect the free transport of children in the village to Banchory Schools.

Clarification was sought on the process of setting up an after school club, as a means to attracting future parents. Maxine Booth said FDWCC would have to invite a different officer from Aberdeenshire Council to explain the procedure, if the community were interested in setting up

and running such a venture. Zone re-arrangement was also discussed as a means to attract more pupils to Strachan School.

Sam Wylde raised the point that there was still a lot of pain within the community at the way the closure had happened and the way it had been handled by Aberdeenshire Council.

The Chairperson, concluded that some kind of open meeting with the community is needed to discuss the future of Strachan School, in particular with parents and prospective parents. The officers confirmed that they were trying to reach out to prospective parents through posters in nurseries and health centers. It was agreed to try and run the first initial meeting at the same time as the proposed Community Action Plan meeting, probably at the end of September. Simon Richards to finalise dates with Aberdeenshire Council once he has heard back from the Community Action Plan team.

5. Treasurer's Report

The annual accounts for the year to 28th February 2018 were prepared by the previous treasurer Andrew Neish and modified when verified by Julia Davies. Marr Area officer was consulted. As a result of the new constitution this year's accounts will run from 1st of March 2018 until 31st of March 2019 i.e. 13 months. From then onwards the accounting year will start on the 1st of April. After the account modifications were explained, the new accounts were formally proposed by Jill Randalls and seconded by Sam Wylde. These accounts will now be sent to Aberdeenshire Council and this years admin grant applied for.

The bank statement in July 2018 was £1,392.11. After deductions for Strachan and Inchmarlo hall hire and the restricted funds for wind farm admin, only £426.11 remains in the FWCC account. At the end of August we were also £300 in deficit for the webcam. The Webcam contract is due for renewal in November.

A new treasurer is urgently needed. The Secretary, Jill Randalls, said she would take on the role with reluctance if no other treasurer could be found. The Chair asked if he could be allowed time to find a solution.

6. Councillor Reports

Cllr. Durno reported that she had received complaints from constituents concerning HGVs using the Cairn o' Mount road. Cllr. Durno informed the meeting that Aberdeenshire Council is considering a review of their procedures to prevent the continual damage of the road and bridges. She urged residents to take photos (when safe to do so) of any HGV loads and will pass to the relevant officers at Aberdeenshire Council. It is important from an economic point of view to get this ongoing issue sorted. John Andrew said he had contacted Police Scotland, but was told that at present there are enforcement fines. Cllr Ross advised that FWCC could write to Angela Funck (roads) and Donald McPherson (bridges). John Andrews agreed to look into this.

There was also an appeal from Cllr Ross for parents to drop off their children in the designated areas at Banchory Primary and Secondary Schools, and to not use School Lane.

There is currently a public consultation regarding waste and recycling. Details have been forwarded to councilors. It will essentially mean a third bin, and fewer collections. The consultation runs online until the 28th of September.

The superfast broadband for the Inchmarlo Retirement Community is in progress.

7. Secretary's Report

The Community Councillor handbook has been forwarded to all FWCCs.

The Secretary reminded everyone to not pass on email addresses in any forwarded correspondence.

Correspondence regarding the Marr Area Bus Forum and the Scottish Resilience Conference has been forwarded to all members.

Registration with the Information Commission is in hand.

8. Community Action Plan

Simon Richards reported that the attendance total for both halls last month was 40 people. There was useful engagement with those who did attend. Other stakeholders, including young families were engaged with. A draft report is due for the end of September. Actual dates are not yet fixed, but it is hoped that the CAP will be shared with the community in early October, and that a final Community Action Plan will be ready end of October.

9. Planning

Nothing for FWCC to comment on.

Simon Richards remarked that an update for the Marr Area Local Development Plan is expected on the 2nd of October.

10. Transport and Roads

John Andrew revisited the issues re. HGV vehicles on the Cairn o'Mount already minuted under 'Councillors reports'. John Andrew reported that he had driven along the road and noticed that the sign saying 'Unsuitable for HGV' is partly obscured by trees. Cllr. Durno advised to report to Aberdeenshire council/ Angela Funck. John Andrew to follow up. Cllr. Durno also encouraged residents to use the Aberdeenshire website to report any road or refuse collection issue.

11. Windfarms

Glendye windfarm

Sam Wylde reported that she had attended the September Coriolis Community Liaison meeting. Coriolis have confirmed intension to submit planning application the first week of October. There will be two compulsory notices in the press. After the publication of the second notice anyone wishing to comment, including FWCC, will have 4 weeks to do so.

Sam Wylde suggested contacting Planning Aid Scotland to ask advice on this particular planning application.

Sam Wylde also reported that as a result of FWCC writing to the ECU, MPs and MSP's re the irregularity of having two separate planning applications, (one for the actual windfarm and a second one for the connection to the grid), there had been interest at ministerial level. Stephen McFadden of ECU, informed FWCC that he has had governmental request that this anomaly is looked into.

Coriolis have informed FWCC that there will be two copies available of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment). One will be in the Library, Banchory, the other will be held by Chairperson Simon Richards, as the hall is currently closed for renovation. There will also be one CD available and the EIA should be available online once the application gets submitted.

Jill Randalls as Secretary will receive the hard copy of the planning application.

The question of how FWCC ascertain community views and how these views are represented was raised. It was acknowledged that Community Enterprise (C.E) are still tasked with finding out what the community thinks as part of the Community Action Plan remit. Lynsey Craig suggested a simple Yes/No question plus a reason. The Chair to discuss with C.E.

The detailed questions asked by FWCC several months ago with Coriolis regarding Shared Ownership have still to be answered.

Fetteresso Windfarm

FWCC has still not received a reply to the Secretary's letter enquiring about the lack of community benefit.

12. Midhill Community Benefit Applications

Peter Tyrrell informed the meeting that 6 applications have been received and applications for £27,343 have been recommended for acceptance.

Fred Olsen had informed the Secretary that there was currently £20,887 available (excluding RPI). After discussion it was agreed that Peter Tyrrell would investigate the reason for this discrepancy in the amount of funds thought to be available and actually available. It was agreed to go back to the sub group and prioritise the applications. Jell Andrews said he is looking into the possibility of starting a film club for young people in Inchmarlo hall and may look to MWFF for assistance in the future.

Simon Richards stated that an application form should always accompany applications to the Midhill Community Benefit fund. Jill Randalls confirmed that this had been the case for the Glendye Snow Gate webcam application on behalf of FWCC. It was also confirmed that the application had been sent to the Midhill Community Benefit Fund sub group Secretary.

13. Communication

Domain emails are still being investigated.

Notice Boards

FWCC have applied to Midhill Community Benefit fund for the cost of 3 community notice boards.

Peter Tyrrell explained that the Inchmarlo Community Workshop have offered to build the boards charging costs and materials only. The boards would be shatter and vandal proof, alluminium backed, hold 12 A4 sheets, sit on 2 posts and be fitted and maintained by the ICW with a 5-year guarantee. £2,000 would cover the cost of materials and fittings as well as ground fixtures, plus a donation to ICW for running costs. Sam Wylde offered to be the contact.

14. Strachan Hall

Work has started and will hopefully be concluded by the end of December 2018. The renovation work will include roof, cladding, new double glazed windows, new toilets, the old disabled toilet to become storage and new fire doors. The contactor is Stan England.

4. Youth continued.

Marijke Stallaert said she had nothing additional to report on Strachan School, but confirmed that the Play Park was now operational and had a very successful and well attended opening day on the 2nd of September. Photos of the day have been shared with the FWCCs and Strachan Today. Many members of the public expressed their appreciation and approval of FWCC in this project.

15. AOB

Oil club : a bulk oil buying and cost saving initiative which L. Craig investigate further.

The memorial bench for Frank Sheridan is now in Strachan Park. Simon Richards to organise the brass plaque and wording. Thanks to Bill Higham of Aberdeenshire Council for his assistance with this.

Bedding plants: applications for community bedding plants have to be received by the end of September. Ian Brockie has arranged this excellently for many years. Simon Richards to check with Ian to see if he wishes to continue.

Next meeting : 27th of September in Inchmarlo Hall.

