

Feughdee West Community Council

Online Meeting 28th May 2020

Approved Minutes

Present: Simon Richards (Chair), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Ross Clephan (Treasurer), Lynsey Craig, Marijke Stallaert, Ian Bertram, Cecilia Rogers, Peter Tyrrell, John Andrew, Iain Adams

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors: Cllr R Bruce

(No members of public present as online meeting)

1) Apologies: I Brockie, Jelle Andrew, Katy Rumbles

2) Approve minutes of the last meeting:

Proposed by John Andrews, seconded by Cecilia Rogers.

3) Police Report:

No police report received prior to the meeting, although a report had been circulated on 12/05/20.

4) Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer had sent out the monthly report by email.

Total unrestricted funds as of 28/05/20 = £1,374.01

Funds raised for Strachan Flower appeal to date : £350

The treasurer asked for suggestions for an independent verifier of the account. Several names were suggested which the Treasurer will follow up.

5) Councillor's Report:

- Cllr Bruce reported that restrictions during the pandemic are gradually being eased.
- Recycling centres are reopening with a system of booking slots, and the process appears to be working well.
- Schools will reopen on the 11th of August with transport of pupils being one of the major challenges in our rural area.

Cllr Bruce to raise the issue of grass cutting in Strachan graveyard which has been neglected due to the redeployment of council workers to other essential services.

6) Secretary's Report:

All correspondence received had been forwarded where appropriate. Members were asked to pay attention to the following:

Police Scotland Survey – the secretary reminded all to fill out the consultation regarding police response during Covid pandemic.

Fetteresso Windfarm - the secretary has distributed posters for the virtual Fetteresso drop in session on the 3rd and 4th of June 2020. The response on the additional consultation is due by the 15th of June.

There are concerns about the height of the proposed turbines requiring lights to comply with aviation regulations. It is felt that this would cause light pollution of the night skies in the area. The chair proposed we have a Zoom meeting after the drop in sessions to collate our response.

DPS & LDP consultations are available in a virtual format. Any response before 10th of July to JR.

7) Junior Councillor Report:

No junior members present.

8) Dissolution:

JR reported that she had contacted Natural Power who are still in the process of drawing up a draft legal agreement for post dissolution. The Chair asked to chase this up as this issue is now dragging.

Action: JR

A discussion was had re the holding of elections using postal voting or social distancing as most felt it important not to let dissolution drag on indeterminately. Cllr Bruce to follow up.

9) Transport roads and infrastructure:

JA said there was nothing to report.

10) Planning:

May planning applications discussed:

1. Reference: APP/2020/0907 - Riverstone House Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 5HU

Removal of Visual Splay requirement on site access.

Request to change 2019 site access visual splay application approval requirements to be consistent with previously approved 2017 site access approval (which had no requirement for a visual splay).

After discussing the history of this application, it was agreed that FWCC should object to the visual splay removal application as it is consistent with our existing objection. It was felt that a full visual splay on a busy road is a requirement.

2.Reference : APP/2020/0982 - Land At Craig Of Affrusk Wood Aberdeenshire AB31 6LD

New forestry road - turn around and stacking area.

There was a discussion about the fact that this road has already been made and the turning circle is at present in the process of being constructed. The feeling among CC members was that this construction process should not have started ahead of permission being granted and a comment will be made to Aberdeenshire to this effect.

3. Reference: APP/2020/0810 - Waulkmill Croft Strachan Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 6NS

Alterations - addition of carport. No objections raised.

The Fetteresso planning application was discussed during the Secretary's report.

11) Education and Youth:

MS reported that there was no news to share.

12) Mid Hill Community Benefit Fund:

PT reported that the next Mid Hill CB meeting would be August but that this would depend on dissolution. However it was noted that at the last annual review in July 2019 it was decided that sub committee meetings would be held in March and October of each year (allowing for the RPI to be added to the fund) with the Annual Review being held in July of each year.

RC reported that the money for App 31 (Inchmarlo Workshop extension) has been paid into their bank account.

JR has contacted Ruth Semple from Natural Power to discuss the requested report on allocated community benefit money. Fred Olson require an annual report along with individual reports from all successful applicants. It was agreed that the Mid Hill CB sub group Chair would present the report at the AGM, which would be forwarded to concerned parties.

PT informed that Audrey Dykes is preparing a spread sheet of approved applications and reports received.

JR reported that App 32 (Village Flowers) had been submitted and discussed at a Sub Group meeting on 05/05/2020. It was generally agreed by the sub group to approve the application on the proviso of efficient receipt of funds. JR had contacted FO but unfortunately there could be no guarantee on the timeliness of funding. The application had therefore been withdrawn.

LC noted that the mid year review was now due and that the Mid Hill guidelines need to be kept updated.

13) Climate and Environment:

CR informed us that Aberdeen City have declared themselves to be net zero emissions city.

There were a number of clarifications asked for on this statement, so Jeff Rogers will be asked to give a brief explanation at the next FWCC meeting.

No update on CAN.

14) Communications:

LC thanked CR for keeping the notice boards updated especially during the pandemic. She asked IB re the possibility of a communications sub group meeting to cover such items as methods to keep the noticeboards updated. IB asked for agenda items.

IB noted that the Resilience Committee is silent at present. LC suggested enquiring with the local safety group. CR noted that the Banchory Resilience Group is very active on Facebook, and they have been able to obtain flour and other surplus items. Their Facebook page is manned and requests for various items or for help can be made. JR noted that Facebook is by far a more efficient and reactive way of disseminating information and urged members to use it for accessing important information. PT will pass on the local resilience contact to IB.

15) Forestry

Following requests from local residents about clarifications on forestry management and tree felling SR had contacted John Mackay from Scottish Forestry. It was felt that it would be useful to have someone speak about forestry planning at a future meeting.

16) Community Matters:

CR reported that we are now allowed to engage in community planting activities as long as social distancing rules respected.

Funds are being raised in Strachan village for the planters. RC is coordinating funds through the FWCC bank account.

16) AOB

IB raised the issue of deer in the area. There were opinions for and against control of deer numbers.

The chair did not believe it was within FWCC remit to take any action on this but asked JR to confirm with the Councillors.

Action :JR

17) Date of next meeting –

Thursday 25th of June online at 7.30pm.