

Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

Wednesday 6th May 2026 by Microsoft Teams

Draft Minutes

Item		Action
1	<p>Welcome, Apologies & Declarations of Interest <u>Committee:</u> Theo Stratton (Chair) TS; Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL; Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP; Heather Alexander HA; Ann Jefferson AJ; Susan Munro SM; Anne Phillips AP; Kerry Ward KW <u>Ex-Officio:</u> Cllr Lyndsey Johnston <u>Apologies:</u> None TS welcomed those attending. No new declarations of interest.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes were approved. Proposed KW, seconded HA.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p>	
3.1	<p><u>Policies Review:</u> HA/AP are awaiting details from the Highland Council (THC) and FRCC's insurer regarding issues (eg entertainment licence requirements) for incorporation in draft policies. HA/AP to update.</p>	HA/AP
3.2	<p><u>24 High Street, Fortrose:</u> SM had made substantial progress with THC over residents' concerns about this vacant property. THC Building Standards believe that falling masonry does not currently present a risk to the general public but will monitor. Environment services had attended and confirmed that although vermin are present in the area, the property itself is not infested but is a potential risk. The Conservation team had confirmed that it is a B-listed building in a conservation area. Unapproved work has been carried out and the matter has been referred to the enforcement team with the potential for legal action. The Empty Homes officer had yet to reply. SM was thanked for her work and agreed to continue to liaise with relevant departments and residents.</p>	SM
3.3	<p><u>FRCC out-reach/pop-up stand at events:</u> It was agreed that FRCC would man a "pop-up" stall at the next Rosemarkie Community Market (Friday 5/6/26) to raise its profile, especially of Resilience work, and to recruit possible volunteers. SM and AJ to attend. AP to confirm attendance with market organiser and pass leaflets (to be amended) to AJ. JP to deliver the pop-up banner to SM.</p>	SM/AJ AP/AJ JP
3.4	<p><u>Co-op Gate Barrier:</u> KW had contacted the local "community champion" Paul McPherson over the poor position. He had acknowledged receipt of her email. KW to follow up.</p>	KW
3.5	<p><u>Bridge Street, Rosemarkie and car parks:</u> JP had spoken to local residents regarding land ownership and the possibility of a footbridge from the Fairy Glen car park across the burn to provide an alternative and much safer pedestrian route into the village (avoiding Bridge Street which is too narrow to have a pavement). Unfortunately, it seemed unlikely that the private landowner would agree to the plan and that only THC, possibly in conjunction with the Safer Routes to Schools initiation, would have the power to act. LJ to raise at next Ward meeting and with paths officer, Phil Waite. TS noted that THC had sent FRCC and other community councils draft wording for car park orders in our area. JP had responded on behalf of FRCC with</p>	LJ

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p>corrections, noting the existing ban on motorhomes in the Chanonry Point car park, and had requested motorhome restrictions, especially overnight, in other village car parks. Recent incidences of poor motorhome parking were discussed, including blocking bottlebanks in Bridge St car park, Rosemarkie. JP to send follow-up email with recent examples (committee to send photos where possible to her). LJ to raise with THC officials.</p> <p><u>SSEN works, Chanonry Point</u>: TS had contacted SSEN requesting remedial landscaping following recent work. Awaiting a response. TS to chase and discuss with Golf Club for possible joint approach.</p> <p><u>Fairy Glen former quarry</u>: JP had discussed with Cllr Sarah Atkin residents' concerns over scrap cars dumped in the layby outside the former HC quarry. Cllr Atkin had contacted traffic/parking officials and the environment team and THC notices had now been attached to the windscreens of the cars, requesting immediate action and removal by the owner(s). The meeting thanked Cllr Atkin. JP to monitor.</p>	<p>JP LJ</p> <p>TS</p> <p>JP</p>
<p>4</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.5</p>	<p>On-going Issues/Projects:</p> <p><u>Chanonry Point signage/noticeboards (inc water safety)</u>: AJ said that the three "no toilets" signs were ready for collection. TS to help her erect them. AJ had contacted paths officer Phil Waite regarding water safety signage but had yet to receive a reply. AJ to phone him. It was agreed that water safety was an important and urgent issue and that money, ideally via a funding source, should be found for RNLI-approved signage/equipment if THC was unwilling to act. Even if FRCC paid for necessary signage, THC would still need to approve its erection. AJ to send wording/proposed location by email to LJ to get agreement in principle and ideally to lobby for THC to provide. SM to send details to AJ of possible resilience-focussed funding for water safety signage.</p> <p>On signage more generally, HA said that in the course of discussing the faded information board in Cathedral Square with local resident Verity Walker, it had been suggested that a set of new signs for both villages could help direct visitor traffic away from parking hot-spots, encourage walking and cycling rather than driving, and promote spending in the local area. Well-designed and thoughtfully-sited signs could enhance the villages. It was agreed that HA should proceed with drafting a proposal which would include the removal of redundant signage and an indication of possible cost for discussion at a future meeting.</p> <p><u>Chanonry Point drones</u>: A range of views had been expressed following an FRCC post on Facebook regarding drone-flying at Chanonry Point. It was noted that due to the proximity of the airport, flying drones in one area required permission from Air Traffic Control. BL confirmed that a contact in ATC hoped to provide a sign that could be erected at the point. JP to chase and, if necessary, speak to Highlands and Islands Airport Ltd for assistance. It was also noted that even those flying small drones in areas which did not require permission should remain aware of possible disturbance to wildlife and walkers; some drone operators were very respectful, others less so. AJ to speak to Ranger for advice.</p> <p><u>Phone Box Update</u>: Black Isle Men's Shed volunteers were in the process of refurbishment, including painting and refitting door. HA to update when complete.</p> <p><u>Photo competition</u>: Many high-quality entries had been received. The winners and runners had been chosen and prizes awarded. Winning pictures now appear as banners on the website. The meeting thanked everyone who had taken part.</p> <p><u>Co-op Car Park planting</u>: FRCC and ROGS (Regenerate Our Green Space) volunteers had cleared and planted the car park verge. Many donations of plants had been gratefully received and wildflower/pollinator-friendly seeds sown. Local</p>	<p>AJ/TS</p> <p>AJ</p> <p>AJ/LJ</p> <p>SM</p> <p>HA</p> <p>JP</p> <p>AJ</p> <p>HA</p>

6	Treasurer's Report	
6.1	<u>Report</u> : BL reported that the balance of all accounts on 30/4/26 was £7074.61, minus a payment to Zurich insurance that would be paid shortly. A donation of £151.80 from the sale of Cathedral books had been gratefully received. BL to thank Michael Marshall on behalf of FRCC. It was noted that this year's THC grant would be £350 higher than 2025/26.	BL
6.2	<u>THC electrical work invoice</u> : An invoice for £948 had been received from THC for fitting "commando" sockets to a number of council lamp-posts so that new-style Christmas street lights could be purchased and attached. (Agreed by FRCC at the time, with money set aside to cover the cost). However, BL who had put up and taken down the lights for a number of years and is a trained electrician expressed deep concern about the quality of the Council's fittings, which he described as flimsy and unlikely to last. He believed they present a safety risk. He had emailed THC lighting manager but had yet to receive a response. It is understood that other local CCs are in the process of requesting socket fittings and it was agreed that JP should contact them, copying in Bob, to alert them to quality issues and to establish if others shared FRCC's concerns. It was agreed that payment of the invoice should be paused pending further discussion.	JP
6.3	<u>Insurance cover</u> : Following concerns over inadequate cover, SM had contacted Zurich seeking quotes to include the King George V shed plus contents (stalls and Christmas lights). Following discussion on likely replacement costs, it was agreed that SM would speak to Zurich again. In the meantime, BL to pay this year's premium asap.	SM BL
7	Community Issues/Consultations	
7.1	<u>Fortrose Academy redevelopment stakeholders' meeting</u> : JP unable to attend next meeting on 12/5/26. SM to represent FRCC. JP to send details/notes.	JP/SM
7.2	<u>Gordon Memorial Hall trustees</u> : It was agreed that in the absence of a Vice-Chair, the two FRCC representatives as trustees should, in future be listed as the Chair and the Secretary. AP to inform the GM Hall committee.	AP
8	Planning	
8.1	<u>House, Above 18 Canonbury Terrace, Fortrose</u> : It was noted that this planning in principle is the latest renewal application of a number.	
8.2	<u>Garage/home office, Rosemarkie</u> : No comments.	
9	Licensing No applications.	
10	Police Report TS summarised the March report, the most recent received: Dangerous/drunk/drug driving, and speeding on the A9. An assault in Fortrose High Street (9/3/26) has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal and enquiries continued into a reported theft of a motor vehicle in Fortrose (15/3/26).	
11	Sub-Committees/Community Groups/Meetings	
11.1	<u>Sub-committee remits</u> : Following work with AP, HA had circulated draft remits for Common Good and Events sub-committees. Following suggested improvements relating to permits and insurance at events, both remits were agreed. HA to circulate and upload to the FRCC website.	HA
11.2	<u>Resilience group</u> : SM said fortnightly meetings and work continued. On completion of the outstanding flood section, the draft plan will be assessed by the	

<p>11.3</p> <p>11.4</p>	<p>Highland Climate Hub and brought to the FRCC. The next step would be to recruit local volunteers. It was agreed that a flyer explaining FRCC’s resilience planning should be drafted by SM and AJ and submitted for approval at the next meeting. Other elements, such as listing FRCC general contact details/signposting to the FRCC mailing list could also be included. Post Office delivery in the IV10 8 area would be the most effective means of distribution but is costly. SM/AJ to investigate if “resilience-related” funding can be found to cover this - report at next meeting. AP has requested that “resilience” is an item on the next BICC agenda (meeting date tbc). SM said that FRCC’s planning was well advanced compared to many other Community Councils. There was a danger that FRCC volunteers may be expected to act as unpaid consultants to other organisations including local government agencies which, it was agreed, would be unreasonable.</p> <p><u>Opportunity Black Isle</u>: TS and BL had attended the introductory meeting in April. Although at an early stage, they felt it would prove to be a positive forum. TS to confirm with the OBI Chair that Black Isle ward councillors will be invited to future meetings.</p> <p><u>Seniors’ Afternoon Tea</u>: Will be held in Gordon Memorial Hall, Rosemarkie on Wednesday 17th June. AP to send planning notes to JP. JP to co-ordinate.</p>	<p>SM/AJ</p> <p>SM/AJ</p> <p>TS</p> <p>AP/JP</p>
<p>12</p> <p>12.1</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Mount Eagle/Culbokie road works</u>: LJ said that although listed for three weeks, it was hoped work might be completed on this key route ahead of time.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting/AGM</p> <p>The June meeting will be held via Teams at 7pm on Wednesday 3rd June. It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting (which must take place before July) would be held separately due to Committee availability and would take place on Thursday 18th June at 7pm in the Black Isle Leisure Centre, Fortrose. JP to move room booking. HA to update FRCC website.</p>	<p>JP/HA</p>