**Meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2019 Fortrose Leisure Centre 1845**

Present: Iain Brown (IACB), Tom Heath (TH), Douglas Stuart (DS), Anne Phillips (AP), Archie MacLeod (AM), Lucy Tonkin(LT), Russell MacKenzie (RM), Sarah Atkin (SA)

Councillor Jennifer Barclay (THC)

THC (The Highland Council)

**Pre-Meeting Presentation on the proposed Greenside Farm Development.**

Pat Munro Homes have acquired the Greenside Farm Development from Patterson Estates. Brian Munro and Hamish Little, representing Pat Munro Homes Introduced themselves and the Company. The main points were that:

* Pat Munro Homes have acquired the Greenside Project in its entirety from Paterson Estates including the land necessary for the new road junction with the A832.
* They are planning to build the 50 homes as specified and approved in the original planning application 15/03033 homes (with confirmation to the meeting that there would be no future ‘in fill’ of houses on public spaces outlined in the current plan)
* Before construction can begin a new Road Construction Consent (RCC) and Traffic Management Plan must be applied for and granted.
* They have been requested by the Highland Council (THC) to work with interested local residents via a Liaison Group to minimise disturbance to the local community during construction.
* It was agreed that it would be beneficial if the Liaison Group met before the RCC application was submitted.
* TH agreed to facilitate the formation of the Liaison Group and to target the first meeting by the end of March 19. Ward Manager to be advised. Action TH
* Pat Munro homes are willing to schedule construction to minimise traffic disturbance at peak times.

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

**Apologies:**

Councillor Craig Fraser, Councillor Gordon Adam

**2.0 Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the February Meeting were adopted. Proposed (DS), Seconded (AP).

1. **Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)**

3.1 WMG Ltd (successor to William Gray Ltd are questioning whether there ever was a Public Car Park Sign at the Car Park at the back of the Marine). FRCC members to seek photographic evidence and contrary opinion. TH to coordinate

1. **Correspondence/ Points from the Public**
   1. An enquiry has been received enquiring whether there has been any progress on installing a speed display sign on the approach to Fortrose from Rosemarkie. FRCC has previously agreed that it would be desirable to have a display to discourage speeding on entry to Fortrose. FRCC had previously agreed that if this were to go ahead a dedicated fundraising effort for this item would be required. There has been no progress on this to date. C/F.
   2. A letter of thanks has been received from Blythswood/Highland Food Bank in respect of the 170kg of food contributed by local people to the Christmas foodbank appeal.
   3. We have been advised of a local rumour circulating that FRCC is involved in discussions with Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club to sell the golf club car park (currently owned by the Common Good Fund) to the Club. Neither members of FRCC nor the Highland Councillor present at the meeting are aware of any such discussions. It was further noted that FRCC has no authority to determine the future of Common Good assets which are the responsibility of the Trustees of the Common Good; i.e. the Highland Councillors.
   4. Representation have been made concerning the felling of a tree on East Watergates after the bend past Campbells Garage. Enquiries show that the tree was felled with the permission of the Highland Council. FRCC was not involved in this decision. decision. SA had followed this up with the Ward Manager before the meeting. Post-meeting response: this tree was on common good land. The Ward Manager wasn’t aware of any request being submitted for felling. She is chasing that up with other officials within THC to locate the ‘paper trail’ for this work. Further input from FRCC not required.
2. **Police Report (reads)**

5.1 The following are the crimes, offences and antisocial behaviour and other incidents of note dealt with between 13/02/2019 and 10/03/2019:

18/2/19 – Area of Ross Crescent, Fortrose – Adult male allegedly grabbed a youth to the ground.

24/2/19 – Damage caused to Forestry padlocks within Black Isle Forest. Vehicles gaining access to forestry tracks.

10/3/19 – Sudden death. Deceased male found washed up on Rosemarkie Beach. No suspicious circumstances.

Speed checks continue in the area when duties permit.

44 Calls were received for this area during the last month.

Any information or community issues please contact Police Dingwall on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

5.2 A response is still awaited from the Area Inspector (submitted in January) regarding an

observation for an unnamed – but known - individual in our community whose

offending/punishment/offending cycle for the same offence may suggest a different

approach is required to deal with this. The correspondence was sent in light of Police

Scotland’s involvement in the Mental Health/Community Wellbeing Group set up at

Fortrose Academy. SA to chase.

**6.0 Treasurer’s Report**

**Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council  
Treasurer’s Report as at 13 March 2019**

[1] Financial Statement  
  
 1 April 2018 Cash-at-bank **£ 2,803.25**  
  
 Net Income Highland Council Grant £ 587.75 grant down from £1,415.60 in 2017-18  
 Fund Raising £ 144.00 Ceilidh profit  
 Fund Raising £ 47.86 Car Rally Donations  
 Fund Raising £ 40.69. Plough Inn Donations  
 St Boniface Fair £ 100.00 Donation to Seniors’ Luncheon  
 Bank of Scotland £ 275.00 Complaints compensation from BofS  
  
 Sub-total **£1,195.30**   
  
 Net Expenditure Secretaries £ 200.00 expenditure ended July 2018  
 Andrewiina Junor Trust £ 220.00 late payment for 2017-18  
 Website £ 54.00 annual fees (of £30 and £24)  
 Dolphin bus leaflet £ 57.00 loss on publication  
 Grass strimmer £ 75.00 for Fortrose Volunteers  
 Safety Gloves £ 15.00 for Fortrose Volunteers   
 Christmas lamp-post lights £ 80.00 for erection & dismantling, and cable ties  
 Christmas Tree £ 110.00 metal base for tree  
 Electricity for Christmas tree £ 20.00 donation to church  
 Senior’s luncheon \*\* £ 80.00 hall rent and food supplies  
 Miscellaneous £ 29.00 including Remembrance wreath  
  
 Sub-total **£ 940.00**  
  
 13 March 2019 Cash at bank **£ 3,058.55**

[1] The February Meeting decided the £707 of donations at the gate to be distributed:   
  
 £200 to Fortrose Pre-School Ltd, a charity  
 £200 towards the 2019 costs of community lights and Christmas tree.  
 £307? Destination to be decide at March Meeting

[2] The income and expenditure of the publishers of the new book for children on Fortrose Cathedral continues   
 to be recorded as a sub-account of the community council and conducted via the council’s bank account.  
   
[3] Christmas hanging lamp-post lights: decided in February the costs of purchase, maintenance and display   
 now to be funded by donations and/or sponsorship rather than from the FRCC Highland Council grant.   
  
[3] The recovered Chain of the Provost of Royal Burgh of Fortrose may be on public display at Easter.  
  
[4] A paper is being tabled on the progress on the formation of Fortrose and Rosemarkie Development Trust.

1. **Planning/Licensing**
   1. A report of new planning applications is appended.
2. **Common Good Fund (CGF) Update**

8.1 Coastal Protection

The coastal protection works at the Rosemarkie Campsite have been completed to the specification set out by THC. There are reports of significant removal under wave action of the cobble stones protecting the new gabions. It remains to be seen how this might affect gabion performance and longevity.

8.2 Chanonry Point

Update for 2019 season (agreed – or not by THC):

* + Car Parking charges - maximum stay reduced to 3 hours for £3.00. Signs to be

changed by THC.

* + Signs on entry to villages and at Chanonry Point will be put up with clearer

information about parking charges and the prohibition of overnight stays.

* + SA has agreed to set up a web page for Chanonry Point with basic information on it & will discuss with Plexus. Permission to use Charlie Phillips photographs to be requested.
  + WDC (Wales &amp; Dolphin Conservation) in discussions to be a daily presence down

there during the summer holidays subject to conditions.

* + A leaflet promoting Chanonry Point will be produced to include local information if THC approves a small budget for printing. If not, a PDF version will be made available. SA to organise/project manage.
  + At present it is unlikely that a Shuttle Bus will run. It isn’t a commercially viable venture.

SA has submitted a proposal to David Summers, Principal Transport Officer, THC for a

smaller vehicle operating a FREE service for July/August only. (A smaller vehicle opens

the process up to a bigger number of operators as well as being able to navigate narrow

roads/corners.) SA proposed that the bus be funded by income from the parking charges. It is up to THC (and our elected Councillors) to drive this idea forward and ensure it happens.

**9 Community Issues**

9.1 Christmas Lights

As per the decision taken at the February meeting FRCC plans to erect a community tree at the flagpole in 2019 and, as in previous years, put lights on lamp standards. We would also welcome any initiative from local persons to add to the Christmas celebration by any appropriate means.

FRCC is looking for one or more volunteers to organise and co-ordinate the Community Christmas effort.

9.2 Condition 16 in Care Home Planning Permission- Provision of Public Art.

THC planning department advises that:

* There is leeway to modify the conditions for the public artwork provided that there is general agreement between all interested parties.
* The proposal for the artwork must come from the developer to THC.
* There is no problem to FRCC advising the developer.
* Given that Parklands have asked FRCC to be involved we will make proposals.
* The initial thought of the meeting was that we should run a public competition in consultation with the developer.

To be coordinated by TH

9.3 Stagecoach Buses

There have been numerous complaints regarding the lack of punctuality of Stagecoach

buses, particularly the 26A service from Cromarty to Inverness. Timing discrepancies seem

to be the reason. FRCC to write to Stagecoach. Action SA/TH

9.4 Community Wellbeing/ Mental Health (Co-ordinated via Fortrose Academy)

Community Councils across the Black Isle have provided input into the work of the Fortrose

Academy led wellbeing group. We’ve discussed/identified potentially vulnerable groups;

distributed a wellbeing survey (via FB &amp; other means) and each undertake a ‘mapping’

exercise identifying what is ‘out there’ in terms of activities, groups and social spaces. SA

presented a rough draft for Fortrose and Rosemarkie to the meeting (although it’s not

exclusive). This will be worked up and made available to the public to see. A major area of

weakness in our community is the provision of activities/social opportunities for our

teenagers (15+). Action: SA

9.5 Proposed Community Orchard in Rosemarkie

An enquiry has been received asking whether the open ground known as the Orchard in Rosemarkie can be turned into a community orchard. The first step is to confirm ownership and this will be referred to THC.

* 1. Public Toilets

Under the “rules” set down by THC Community Councils are not allowed to take over the operation of the public toilets in Fortrose and Rosemarkie. We are nonetheless working hard to facilitate the continued availability of the toilets. This is proving difficult because of changing and ever more restrictive conditions being imposed by THC. A Community Development Trust is in process of establishment with the public toilets as a priority project. For administrative reasons this cannot be operational before THC deadline of 31st March and we are working to persuade THC to delay closure. It is clear that the toilets will not be self-funding and that external support will be required before any body can take over the toilets. One such source of funding might be the car park fees at Chanonry Ness.

A petition organised by Groam House and signed by more than 20 local residents required, under the terms of the Community Council Constitution that FRCC organise a public meeting to consider the closure of the Rosemarkie toilet. Action TH

* 1. Distribution of Remainder of collection from Christmas Eve Community Singing

Following the February meeting of FRCC it was decided the £307 from the collection be divided equally between the Fortrose Pre-school and the Black Isle Mountain Bike Club.

9.8 Waste Management

Information is still being gathered Action AP

1. **Operational Issues**

None

**11.0 AOCB**

11.1 Common Good Asset Register

THC has issued a draft update of the register Common Good Assets. It is important that as many people as possible check this register to ensure that no assets are lost to the community. A copy will be posted in Fortrose library and is also available on the FRCC website <http://www.fortrosemarkie.org/> If any errors or omissions are found please let a Community Councillor know so that corrections can be made.

11.2 St. Boniface Fair

The organising committee for St. Boniface Fair are stepping down this year and for this popular fair to continue volunteers are required. Anyone interested should contact Libby Brown on 01381-621181. Posters requesting volunteers will be posted in the Community. Action SA

11.3 Planning Documents

There have been a number of recent occurrences where planning documents relevant to current issues have been found to have been removed from the planning website. It was agreed that an enquiry be made to THC to ask why such documents are not left in perpetuity . Action JB, TH

11.4. Beach Clean

The annual Beach Clean will be on Saturday 6th April starting at 1000. Volunteers to assemble at the Rosemarkie Beach Café

11.5 SSE resilience Fund

SSE offer funding for resilience equipment. AP to investigate

**12.0 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th April. Location to be advised

**Fortrose and Rosemarkie Development Trust**

I have been asked to forward to you the statement below, asked by the group initiating (a) the formation and company registration of Fortrose and Rosemarkie Development Trust, a company limited by guarantee and with no share capital; (b) the application to become a Scottish charitable incorporated organisation, SCIO; (c) the opening of the bank account; and (d) and the calling of public meetings.

**On 1st March 2019** Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council and Highland Council and the Press received a statement that said:

“The principal objective of the company will be the advancement of sustainable community development within the area covered by the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council.

“The objectives of the Trust will only be realised when individual projects satisfy two essential criteria. First, they must address a priority which enjoys the active support of the community and, second, they must withstand a rigorous scrutiny of their feasibility and financial sustainability.

“On the completion of the process of registration, the proposers will call a public meeting to seek community support for the venture; to invite applications for membership of the company which will be limited by guarantee; and to recruit by public vote members to the board.

“Prior to the meeting and the subsequent outcome of public demand and the scrutiny of feasibility and financial sustainability no commitment can be made to any specific project and none should be inferred.”

Despite the clarity in the 1st March statement, the company was still seen as the salvation to the closure on 1st April of public conveniences in Fortrose and Rosemarkie.

Consequently, **on 6th March,** with regard to the **continued provision of toilets**, Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council and Highland Council received a statement that said:

To save money Highland Council announced the public toilets in Fortrose and Rosemarkie will close for good on 1 April if by 31 March no one had signed a lease to take over the management and liability. The 1 March Trust statement said, “*Once established, the Trust will consider the matter of the public conveniences as a first priority. If agreed, the Trust will meet with the relevant stakeholders to establish the extent of active support and likely participation.”*

Concerned by the near impossibility to achieve the deadline of 31 March and by the certain need for public toilets in the villages, the group examined the terms and conditions of lease imposed by Highland Council and concluded:

1. There is a clear and pressing need for both toilets to stay open in an area of significant and increasing pressure from tourism and with a sizable elderly population.
2. The financial arrangements proposed by Highland Council are unsustainable.
3. It is not possible for the company to sign a lease by 31 March.
4. If the terms and conditions of the proposed lease are not changed by Highland Council, then it will not ever be possible to sign the lease.

**The 6th March** statement ended by asking for a closed meeting in March of the three local councillors with the group of residents initiating the company a request saying the group believes the toilets in Fortrose and Rosemarkie should and could remain open.

**But without the councillors’ intervention the toilets are likely to be lost.**

**In summary the company’s involvement in the saving of the toilets can be summarised**

On the expectation that “public toilets to remain open” is adopted as project by the future membership of the company, it is essential the initiating group’s research into feasibility and sustainability continues.

No decision can be taken on what projects, toilets or otherwise, are to be adopted can be taken until after

(1) public meetings;

(2) paid-up membership (a minimum of 20);

(3) up to ten company directors elected;

(4) finance in place;

(5) projects proposed;

(6) projects examined for feasibility and financial sustainability and then adopted.

**13 March 2019**

**Iain A C Brown**

**FORTROSE AND ROSEMARKIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

DATE: 13 MARCH 2019

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE**  **VALIDATED** | **PLANNING**  **REFERENCE** | **APPLICANT** | **DESCRIPTION** | **LOCATION** | **COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION** |
| 26/02/19 | 18/05266/PIP | MS APRIL STEVENSON | ERECTION OF HOUSE (PIP) | 30M NW OF 18 CANONBURY TERRACE, FORTROSE | The site lies between St Anne’s and the former railway line, separated from St Anne’s by a wide strip of land. Vehicular access is an existing shared driveway from Canonbury Terrace. The site is somewhat restricted, but would have minimal impact on neighbouring properties. Planning officials will apply policies in making a decision, and there would be no reason to disagree with their view, whatever that is.  **Action by FRCC**: none |
| 22/02/19 | 19/00815/PIP | MR MAURICE MACRAE | ERECTION OF 3 HOUSES (PIP) | 45M NW OF 11 ANDERSON DRIVE, FORTROSE | This site is an area of former woodland accessed off East Watergate. In the past, planning permission in principle had been granted for two houses, but was not implemented. An application by the then land owner for renewal of the permission would have been granted but for developer contributions demanded by the council, which caused withdrawal of the application. The principle of development is therefore not in question. However, any permission granted should be conditional upon agreement on developer contributions towards road improvements, and also conditions regarding tree planting proposals. The applicant withdrew an earlier application when it was made clear to him that he could not continue with tree felling whilst in the planning process. He then proceeded to cynically fell almost all of the trees on the site, exploiting fully the standard allowance of 5 cu.m. of felling in any calendar quarter. This was stretched to the limit. The new application shows no proposals to reinstate any of the planting.  **Action by FRCC:** request that any permission granted should include robust conditions on both counts |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |