**Minute of Meeting**

**Wednesday 11 September 2019. Fortrose Leisure Centre**

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:**

Douglas Stuart (DS) (in the chair), Iain Brown (IACB), Anne Phillips (AP), Archie McLeod (AM), Sarah Atkin (SA), Russell Mackenzie (RM), Lucy Tonkin (LT); PC No.199 John MacLennan

Councillor Gordon Adam (GA)

Other abbreviation: The Highland Council (THC)

**Apologies**: Tom Heath (TH), Councillor Jennifer Barclay

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the July 10th meeting were adopted. Proposed (IACB) Seconded (AP)

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

**3.1 Empty Houses.** Former Janitor’s House, Fortrose Academy & council owned house in Bridge Street, Rosemarkie. The old Janitor’s house grounds are overgrown (SA showed pictures.) GA advised that he had no further knowledge but would ask about plans for possible uses, e.g. accommodation for probationary teachers, or sale. This has been the situation for nearly 2 years. **Action: GA**

**3.2 Dumping of waste into the Craigburn**

Dumping of Waste into the Craigburn: Since the dumping was on private land the neither the Police nor Highland Council would become involved in seeking the perpetrators. A number of large items (Leather armchair, Refrigerator casing, Kitchen chair and sundry building materials have been removed by volunteers to a pickup point and removed from there by THC. Thanks to THC for helping with that removal.

**3.3 Ownership of the Orchard Rosemarkie.**

THC had still not answered re community planting and maintaining. AP has replied  to original correspondent **Action: AP**

* 1. **Consultation on bus timetables.**

AP represented FRCC at a recent meeting between Stagecoach, Councillors and community representatives. A bus user attended with AP. Stagecoach were sympathetic and are considering the issues raised. A further meeting will be held in early November. AP collecting information and feedback on new timetable.

Another bus user had independently e-mailed Stagecoach for details on the number of bus breakdowns in July. Stagecoach were evasive about detail. So far this information has not been submitted. GA suggested monitoring the situation over 6 months. Suggestion that FRCC put out posts on Facebook and notice boards to ask users to monitor or identify regular users to act as monitors. **Action: AP**

IACB queried whether THC had any authority over bus services. GA agreed as many of the services are not subsidised. Other transport options were touched on, such as a) community buses similar to Gairloch’s arrangements; b. dial-a-bus operated by Moray Council (SA noted that the dial-a-bus service is already used locally.)

* 1. **Mud on Raddery Hill Road.**

Council officials have met with those causing the problem but despite assurances to the contrary the problem persists. AM commented that there had been mud on the road for a long time prior to current reports, and that the problem was possibly overstated.

* 1. **Damage to park in Chanonry Park.**

LT reported that damage had not yet been rectified.

1. **Correspondence and Points from the Public**

**4.1 Beach Party Nuisance**

Several complaints have been received regarding regular late night noise and litter. The Police are aware of the issue and late night patrols will continue. It was noted that the age of those attending the beach parties and the drinking is from much younger teenagers. This is concerning. It’s not the ‘rights-of-passage’ event of a previous era. Residents see parents collecting their children from the parties so some must be aware of underage alcohol consumption. Discussion followed. Although this is not an ‘in-school’ issue, it was agreed that a gentle reminder from the Rector to parents of younger students (under 16s) about alcohol laws and the possible repercussions re: Police action is worth pursuing. FRCC to suggest.  **Action: AP/SA**

**4.2 Motorcycles on railway path**

Report of motorcycles using the route, accessing from Fortrose end. TH had consulted Phil Waite, THC Countryside Team leader, who undertook to erect a sign at the Fortrose end, prohibiting motorcycles, and he also confirmed that such traffic was illegal. It was felt that this was not a regular occurrence, and possibly a one-off. GA confirmed that upgrading of the surface was still being looked into (although the land is privately owned and mainly within the Avoch CC boundary.) AP suggested that funding for this might be available if the route is used for access to work or school.

**4.3 Street lighting on public footpath from Feddon Hill to Bishops Road Bridge**

The lack of lighting on this path has been brought to the attention of FRCC. FRCC is broadly sympathetic to this request, and GA was duly advised, as this is a matter for THC.

**4.4 Invitation for Community Councillors to Meet Highland Council Chief Executive**

The following invitation has been received from THC

‘Black Isle Councillors would like to invite up to 2 representatives from each BI

Community Council to meet with them and Donna Manson, Chief Executive on Tuesday

24 September 2019 between 6.00pm to 8.00 pm in the main hall, Fortrose

Academy.  This will be an opportunity to discuss community issues and priorities.’

TH & SA to attend.

**4.5 Classic Car Rally – Request for raffle prizes**

SA has made a donation on behalf of FRCC.

**4.6 Community Market – move away from Town Hall**

A resident feels the move away from the Town Hall is impacted negatively on the community ‘buzz’ of being in the Town Hall. FRCC members expressed some sympathy for this but also appreciated the safety issues regarding overcrowding that led the organisers to seek a move. SA replied to resident respecting her view, explaining the reasons for the move and saying FRCC were not involved in the decision-making and aren’t involved with organising the markets.

**4.7 Highland Cathedral Book Launch**

See treasurer’s report – item 4

**4.8 Bus stop at the new Care Home – suggestion from resident**

Agreed that this would be a very useful addition. As the care home is on a bus route it would be easy to install and operate. It was suggested that it could be a ‘request’ stop. **Action: TH**

**4.9 Wheelchair access from Alexander Court, Fortrose**

Owing to the arrangement of ramps it is necessary for wheelchair users to travel on the roadway, for a distance of 40m. This is made extremely difficult if not impossible because of the number of potholes. THC to be made aware so that remedial action can be taken. GA agreed to pursue. **Action: GA**

**4.10 Discarded car tyres on Deans Road, Fortrose**

A quantity of used tyres have been dumped on the road. RM will arrange for removal.

**Action: RM**

**4.11 Community Council elections.** Nominations are open from 23 September - 8 October. If an election is required it will take place on 11 October, at which date retiring members will withdraw. THC has produced a leaflet, a poster, and a FAQs document, which can be accessed at:

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/21128/community_council_faqs> .

**4.12 St Andrews Walk bin**

A local resident had enquired whether a bin could be sited at some point on St Andrews Walk. The response from Katrina taylor of THC was that there was no space available. A suggestion was that Chanonry sailing Club could be approached to find out if they had any space available

**4.13 Obstructive parking on Rosemarkie High Street.**

A local resident had complained that access was being prevented owing to vehicles parked across the entrance. FRCC is sympathetic but has no authority over this issue. There are badly faded double yellow lines on Rosemarkie High Street and THC will be notified of this. **Action TH**

There are badly faded double yellow lines on Rosemarkie High Street but as far as I know parking restriction still in force but this is now council matter. Obstruction is police matter

Shared pavement usage still not clear.

1. **Police Report:**

**5.1** Community Engagement report for August 2019

The following are the crimes, offences and antisocial behaviour and other incidents of note dealt with between 12/08/2019 and 06/09/2019:

Patrols carried out of Rosemarkie Beach in hours of darkness.

Speed checks continue in the area when duties permit.

41 Calls were received for this area between the dates specified above (12/08/19 – 06/09/19).

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

**5.2** PC 199 John MacLennan spoke to his Community Engagement Form

**5.3** Regarding Beach parties, he advised that the Police have no powers unless an offence has been committed. The police encourage members of the public to continue to report any incidents direct to them.

**5.4** Speeding vehicles on Ness Road are most prevalent during the hours of 8-9pm, and focus will be given to this problem

**5.5** Police are shortly to be issued with mobile phones which will enable them to carry out admin tasks remotely from the police station, thereby enhancing police presence within the community. This innovation represents a new way of working for Police Scotland and is a significant efficiency measure. FRCC suggested putting this aspect of the Police Report out on Facebook and on the notice boards so people are made aware. PC MacLennan agreed. **Action: SA**

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

**6.1** Treasurer’s report as at 11 September appended.

**6.2** item 1 – Financial viability of FRCC – to be discussed at next meeting. It was suggested that members submit fundraising ideas for discussion before the meeting.

**6.3** Regarding item 4, FRCC approval was granted for support to the additional print run of the Highland Cathedral book.

1. **Planning / Licensing /Consultations**

**7.1** planning applications report dated 14 August 2019 appended

**7.2** planning applications report dated 11 September 2019 appended

**7.3** an update on applications to which FRCC have objected is appended

**7.4** proposed Highland Tourist tax – FRCC members to respond individually to the survey – not appropriate to have CC cororate view

**7.5** Removal of BT phone boxes – none to be removed in FRCC area

**7.6** proposed 20mph speed limit in certain Inverness streets and implications for Rosemarkie – noted and developments will be monitored

1. **Common Good**

**8.1 Town Hall Shed:** awaiting further information from Scouts. **Action: IACB**

**8.2 Fortrose and Rosemarkie Campsite leases/rental:** TH has written to THC chief executive, Donna Manson, expressing FRCC concerns and its wish to ensure commercially appropriate rental can be levied, and also to seek justification for agreement to a 30 year lease at the Fortrose Campsite, with comparative examples. Discussion followed. GA stressed forcibly that the community council has nothing to do with negotiations on the campsite leases (which FRCC members interpreted as us having no say on Common Good matters.) GA advised that Property Services are currently considering the matter, and have Common Good interests at heart. Both sites are to be treated equally, with security of tenure paramount. He added that FRCC do not have the full picture because of rules on commercial confidentiality. FRCC stressed (in case there is a misunderstanding within the community), that the issue is not personal to individual tenants. This is about the wider issue of transparency and how common good assets are managed for maximum community return/benefit. FRCC members felt that it was their duty to represent the views of the community, and that Common Good Trustees should be mindful of these views.

**8.3 Chanonry Point:**

Shuttle Bus 2019: D & E did not log usage on the service. However, SA did not receive any of the parking complaints and congestion reports of previous summers. SA to request a ‘review/ways forward’ meeting with THC before a new community council is in situ. **Action: SA**

1. **Community Issues**

**9.1 Review of Local Development Plan**. (Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan – IMFLDP) DS advised that he and TH had attended a briefing meeting with planning officials. Proposed development sites were to be included on the HC website at the end of August. Any objections to proposals within the draft plan can be submitted only after a draft has been published at the end of 2019. This will be monitored for future discussion if required. Meanwhile DS is to prepare a summary of the points covered at the briefing meeting.

**9.2 Public Toilets.** New community group that will take over the toilets in Rosemarkie and Fortrose near to being fully established.Planning have accepted the proposal to allocate funds intended for art work at the Care Home to be transferred to the group for upgrade/decoration of the toilets (where the funds allow.) Phil Menzies, Parklands’ Project manager is standing by to pass over funds.

**9.3 Proposals for Skate Park.** Initiative from the community/pupils for a skate park in Rosemarkie.CC fully supportive.Information from THC is awaited to determine which personnel is/are responsible for dealing with this. Those behind the project to present at next CC meeting.

1. **AOCB:** 
   1. **Path above Rosemarkie beach.** Phil Waite, THC has looked at the path which is in need of an upgrade/renovation, and asked if funds from the community could be made available.
   2. **Black Isle Gathering (BIG)** to take place on Saturday 5 October. TH and SA to man the FRCC stand.  **Action: SA/TH**
   3. **Wild camping** Concern was expressed that too many think they can camp anywhere. Not within the remit of CC to do anything. THC aware of issues.
   4. **Great British Beach Clean** 20 September Rosemarkie; 21 September Fortrose
   5. **Provost’s Chain** Groam House are still to advise, but unlikely it will be on display
   6. **Annual Senior’s Lunch** 29 January 2020. **Action: AP**
2. **Next Meeting:** 9 October 2019, **Leisure Centre Fortrose**

**APPENDICES**

**Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council  
Treasurer’s Report as at 11 September 2019**

1] Concern about financial viability:

At 31 August, five months into the 12- month year to 31 March 2020, there is a remaining trading balance of   
 £219 to finance the community council for the rest of the year; for a minimum period of seven months although   
 likely to be nine months as the grant is paid on 1 July..

In the previous 12-month period, when Highland Council first reduced their annual operating grant from £1,502   
 to a meagre £676, there was a trading surplus for the year, a surplus made possible by £275 in compensation   
 from the bank of and a net £343 from active fund-raising.

Through good diligence which was enhanced in previous years by a – then - realistic annual operating grant   
 from Highland Council, there remains, (31 August), a cash-at-bank credit balance of £3,629

Although this retained surplus may fund losses for a few years, in order that the community council can continue   
 to represent and to assist the community it serves, it is essential,

(1) to engage in fund raising activities and

(2) to encourage voluntary donations. Suggestions for both are sought.

In recent years, the community council in addition to its ongoing association with St Boniface Fair, financial and   
 participation support is given to promoting Chanonry Point and its Dolphin Bus; lamppost hanging floral baskets;   
 Christmas lights and decorated tree; British Legion Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Service; Tidy Our Royal   
 Burgh volunteers and the Senior Citizens’ luncheon.

* Confirmation sought that all these ventures should be continued
* Are there other activities that might be considered?

[2] Tidy Our Royal Burgh, TORB: Request received to provide £50.00 towards the cost of machinery to clear   
 over-grown verges Approval sought

[3] Ward Discretionary Fund: As agreed, the £750 award from Highland Council to pay the print cost of 200 copies   
 of a booklet on the Seaforth Portraits in the Town Hall was returned to Highland Council.

[4] Highland Cathedral:

The income and expenditure of the publication of Highland Cathedral, a book for children on Fortrose   
 Cathedral continues to be recorded by the Community Council.

The Community Council has been asked to support an additional print run of 500 copies; of the initial print   
 of 500 some 450 have been sold. In addition to direct sales, six or more local outlets have agreed to sell at a   
 trader’s discount, two Inverness/national bookshops have agreed to stock at discount; and the book is an   
 Amazon title. Approval sought.

(5) Senior Citizen’s Luncheon: a donation of £150 received from the St Boniface Fair Committee.

**Iain A C Brown  
Treasurer  
11 September 2019**

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

DATE: 14 August 2019

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE**  **VALIDATED** | **PLANNING**  **REFERENCE** | **APPLICANT** | **DESCRIPTION** | **LOCATION** | **COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION** |
| 04/07/2019 | 19/02624/MSC | Mr & Mrs E Smith  44 West View Road, Sutton Coldfield , B75 6AY | Erection of house and garage | Land 90M NE Of Hopefield Cottage, Flowerburn, Rosemarkie, | **Application Type** Matters Specified in Conditions  Planning permission in principle reference 18/05804 already exists. The present application seeks permission for detailed design proposals – typical 1.5 storey house with 45 degree pitched roof. This satisfies planning design guidelines.  Action by FRCC - none |
| 23/07/2019 | 19/03357/FUL | Mr Jamie McGregor  Copper Leaa, Belton Wood, Munlochy, Ross-shire, IV8 8PF | Replacement of gabion baskets with rock armour (retrospective) | Land 40M SW Of Shorelands, Canonbury Terrace, Fortrose, | The application seeks to regularise the position, whereby the rock armour was put in place without formal approval. The applicant’s agent describes a consultation process which was undertaken with various authorities, leading to the belief that no consent was required. It appears however that the planning authority was not consulted. Having received a complaint that the work was unauthorised, the planning authority have required that retrospective permission is required.  Action by FRCC - none |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Weekly notifications of new applications are received every Tuesday from Highland Council

No applications in FRCC area were received on the following date(s): 23 July, 6 August, 13 August

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

DATE: 11 September 2019

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE**  **VALIDATED** | **PLANNING**  **REFERENCE** | **APPLICANT** | **DESCRIPTION** | **LOCATION** | **COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION** |
| 31/08/2019 | 19/03683/FUL | Dr Christopher Dall | Painting of exterior of property and pipe work, installation of solar panels on roof, solar battery,  airsource heat pumps, replacement of velux windows, installation of extractor fans, repairs to  pointing and repairs to roof | 1 Cathedral Square, Fortrose, IV10 8TB, | The details and documents included in the HC Planning website do not include the original application form, and the information available is incomplete. The following information is not available or clear:   1. Where the air source heat pumps are to be located 2. The paint colours for the external walls and the rainwater downpipes 3. The dimensions and exact locations of the solar PV panels   Given the sensitive location of the property within the conservation area and the proximity of the historic Fortrose Cathedral, it is not possible for FRCC to support this application until these matters have been clarified. Consequently, FRCC currently objects to the application. |
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Weekly notifications of new applications are received on or about every Tuesday from Highland Council

**No** applications in FRCC area were received on the following date(s):

August 6,14,20,27 September 3

**FORTROSE AND ROSEMARKIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS – UPDATES**

Applications to which FRCC objected. Information extracted from Highland Council website

DATE: 11 September 2019

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **REFERENCE** | **SUBJECT** | **CURRENT STATUS** |
| 18/04060/FUL | Retail unit, Ness Road, Fortrose | Under consideration |
| 18/03570/PIP | 12 House Development, Matheson Drive | Awaiting decision |
| 19/00815/PIP | 3 Houses, East Watergate, Fortrose  Amended to 2 houses | An appeal against refusal has been submitted to the HC Review Panel |
| 19/01286/RCC | Greenside Farm Development, Rosemarkie  Road Construction consent | Under consideration |
|  |  |  |