

# Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council



## Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Fortrose Leisure Centre

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** Tom Heath (TH), Iain Brown (IACB), Anne Phillips (AP), Susan Pringle (SP), Archie MacLeod (AM), Leanne MacKenzie (LM), Trish Wilson (TW)

Councillor Gordon Adam (GA-THC)

**Apologies:** Lucy Tonkin (LT), Rebecca Rawlinson (RR), Councillor Craig Fraser (CF-THC), Councillor Jennifer Barclay (JB), John Murphy (Police Scotland)

**2 Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the December 2019 meeting of FRCC were approved. (Proposed IACB / seconded AP)

### 3 Matters Arising

**3.1 B9160-Killen Road Junction.** Following the fatal accident at this junction in September last year a number of improvements to the junction have been discussed by THC but so far, no action has been taken. A special meeting has been called by THC to discuss all road junctions on the Black Isle and to set a programme of improvements. In the meantime FRCC has requested that, as a minimum, the almost invisible road markings at the fatal junction should be repainted without delay. Councillor Adam agreed to ensure that this was done. **Action GA**

**3.2 Empty Council owned Houses.** Councillor Adam advised that the council owned but long-term unused house in Bridge Street, Rosemarkie will soon be put on the market. There are currently no plans for the former Janitor's House at the Academy. **Action GA to chase**

**3.3 Feddon Hill Play Area.** There has still been no response from O'Brien (the developer of the Feddon Hill Estate) regarding the lack of maintenance of the overgrown play park. FRCC will continue to chase with the assistance of GA. **Action TH / GA**

**3.4 Student Members of FRCC:** We await a response from the Rector in respect of our proposal that two students from the Academy be nominated to serve on FRCC. **ACTION SP**

### 4 Correspondence and Points from the Public

**4.1 Pre-School Child Care:** A member of the public has expressed concern that the Nursery Extension planned for Avoch School could divert funds from other pre-school centres and child minding. FRCC took the view that as the facility was required to satisfy the Scottish Government expansion of free childcare THC had no option but to provide the facility and it was not a matter for FRCC to discuss further.

**4.2 New entrance to Fortrose Cathedral Grounds:** A suggestion has been received that a gate in the SE wall of the Cathedral grounds would create a pleasant walk from St. Andrew's Church to the town centre and that Historic Environment Scotland should be lobbied to create such an entrance. On balance, because it would create a convenient route for Academy students to access the shops and because of the existing litter problem on the routes used by Academy Pupils during break times, FRCC decided that the idea could not be supported.

## **5 Police Report**

**5.1** The text of the Police Report from this period reads:

*The following are the crimes, offences and antisocial behaviour and other incidents of note dealt with between 11/12/2019 and 05/01/2020:*

*11/12/19 – 2 persons charged with speeding offences on Canonbury Terrace, Fortrose. 18/12/19 – Road traffic accident – vehicle overturned on the A832 at Fairy Glen. Driver charged with various traffic offences.*

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

## **6 Treasurers Report.**

**6.1** Continued concern about financial viability:

At 31 December 2019, nine months completed of the 12-month year to 31 March 2020, there is a negative trading balance of £71.80 to finance the community council for the rest of the year; for three months. In fact, minus £71.80 to finance operations for five months as the grant from Highland Council 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 historic good diligence, enhanced in previous years by a now withdrawn realistic annual grant from Highland Council, there remains, (31 December), a cash-at-bank credit balance of £3,339.30

**6.2** 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.

There requires to be early implementation of the proposals on (a) fund raising and (b) voluntary donations that were made by the community council made in the two previous months.

**6.3** Take note, the community council in addition to ongoing association with St Boniface Fair, financial, agreed participation support – either or both – is to be 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.

**6.4** The community council's in its role as facilitator is able to promote the villages of Fortrose and Rosemarkie. As demonstrated most recently by the book Highland Cathedral, "stories yet to be told" will catch the imagination of the commercial world at large and as well fire the enthusiasm and participation of the residents. The Cathedral, its Chapter House and grounds (and afterwards the missing castle) are gems stones waiting to be burnished. Three propositions are in the early stage of development:

[1] The Chapter House first to be open to the public then better revealed and then returned to active use.

[2] A third entrance to the grounds from Rose Street

[3] A New Year's Eve son et Lumiere, with lights, music and dancing.

**6.5** £711.42 was donated on Christmas Eve at Carols in the Cathedral towards local community groups and charity. Two destinations proposed by the group managing the annual event are Christmas Lamppost lights (as in previous years) and the maintenance of defibrillators.

The community council may wish to suggest one or two other deserving causes.

## **7 Planning/Licensing/Consultations**

**7.1 New Planning Applications:** There have been no new applications in our area since the last meeting

**7.2 Fortrose Campsite Consultation on New Lease:** A request submitted under the Community Empowerment Act to be participants negotiations for any new lease for the Fortrose Campsite has been rejected by THC. FRCC has requested THC to reconsider this decision as it is completely contrary to the spirit and purpose of the Act and to the concept of local democracy. Councillor Adam indicated that the decision would stand. **Action TH**

## **8 Common Good.**

**8.1 Coastal Erosion.** Following the collapse of a number of sections of Gabion baskets on the Rosemarkie side of Chanonry Ness a meeting of interested parties has been organised by THC to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> January. **TH to attend.**

**8.2 Town Hall Shed:** The next stage in the provision of a replacement shed at Fortrose Town for the storage of Community owned items is to apply for funding from the Common Good Fund which would be conditional on Planning Permission (if necessary) being granted. **Action IACB**

## **9 Community Issues.**

- 9.1 Fatality at the A9/B9161Munlochy Junction.** When planning application 15/03033 (50 houses at Greenside Farm Rosemarkie) was lodged in 2015 Transport Scotland (TS) initially recommended rejection because of the dangers of this junction. Three months later, after discussions with THC, they reversed this decision and the application was passed. FRCC requested a technical justification for the change of decision at the time but no satisfactory was ever received. Given that the junction is regularly used by the majority of the residents of Fortrose and Rosemarkie and the growing danger caused by traffic from the new developments on the A832 corridor the meeting thought it appropriate that the FRCC should a) press for urgent action to improve the safety of the junction and b) that TS and THC should be asked again to provide a plausible technical justification for their earlier decision. **Action TH**
- 9.2 Access to Chapter House of Fortrose Cathedral:** A group led by Mike Marshall is running a project under the auspices of Historic Environment Scotland with the by-line "Stories Yet to be told". The objective is to make the history of Fortrose and Rosemarkie available to the public with the initial focus being to make the Chapter House of Fortrose Cathedral available for viewing and possible use as a museum. FRCC agreed to help this excellent project wherever possible. Anyone interested in helping or learning more should contact Mike Marshall on 07919 212 315 or email at [mnmm@madafish.com](mailto:mnmm@madafish.com).
- 9.3 Disbursement of Collection from Christmas Eve Community Singing:** It was agreed that £300 of the £711 collected should be set aside to support the provision and maintenance of the life saving defibrillators in our area. The Community should be consulted on the use to which the remainder should be put.
- 9.4 Proposed New Timetable for 26 Bus Route:** Following meetings between Stagecoach and the Community Councils on route 26 Stagecoach have issued a revised proposed timetable which significantly disadvantages bus users. There is a strong feeling within FRCC that those at the Consultation Meetings were misled in that complaints regarding the lateness of buses from Cromarty have been ignored and no mention of the proposed changes was made at the meetings.

## **10 AOCB:**

- 10.1 FRCC Quiz Night:** A Fundraising quiz on behalf of FRCC will be held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February in the Gordon Memorial Hall Rosemarkie

## **11 Next Meeting**

The next full meeting of FRCC will be held in Fortrose Leisure Centre on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 1900.