

# Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

**Wednesday 4 October 2023 by Zoom**

## Minutes

Item		Action by
1	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p><u>Present:</u> Anne Phillips (Chair) AP, Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP, Kerry Ward KW, Ann Jefferson AJ, Theodore Stratton TS, David Guthrie DG, Cllr Morven-May MacCallum MMM.</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL, Lucy Vaughan LV, Lucy Tonkin LT, Gareth Davies GD.</p> <p>AP thanked those who were now leaving the Community Council for all that they had contributed, and welcomed new members and members of the public.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b></p> <p>Proposed DG, seconded AJ. Agreed.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p>	
3.1	<p><u>Rosemarkie Church Chimes:</u> DG to make contact with Keith Lorraine/Gail Paterson.</p>	DG
3.2	<p><u>Empty properties:</u> Mill Cottage is now on the market. MMM confirmed serious structural work was required hence the decision by THC to sell. AP noted that it had been left for some time to deteriorate. MMM to provide AP with details of THC official in charge of empty properties (including privately owned ones) and able to update on the Fortrose Janitor's House.</p>	MMM/AP
3.3	<p><u>Co-op request:</u> No update. AJ asked if there were details of the planned closure for refurbishment and any provision for elderly residents during that period. AP to enquire.</p>	AP
4	<p><b>Points from the Public</b></p>	
4.1	<p><u>Pavements and Paths:</u> Avoch and Killen CC had made contact regarding dangerous trees beside the Railway Path, most of which is within the AKCC's area. They are intending to walk the path with a qualified volunteer and report to THC. AP has asked them to keep the FRCC informed with a view to an FRCC representative joining the walk. AP to update. KW asked about funds to upgrade the Railway path which was often overgrown and muddy from bodies such as "Paths for All". AP said identifying ownership had proved a stumbling block in the past. AP to pass on relevant information to KW to investigate.</p>	AP
4.2	<p><u>Memorial benches:</u> AP thanked MMM for supplying the name of THC official to deal with future enquiries.</p>	AP/KW

4.3	<u>Feddon Hill playpark</u> : JP has contacted the local resident Louise Anderson who raised concerns.	AP
4.4	<u>Brown bins</u> : Concern from a resident regarding overflowing brown bins (garden waste) used by volunteers who weed in Rosemarkie (2 bins) and Fortrose (1 bin). AP has emailed THC.	
4.5	<u>Pizza van at Chanonry Point</u> : Mike Campbell addressed the meeting regarding a possible business venture. THC has a space available for tender for an ice cream van at the Point which is currently not used. He sought early contact with the CC to hear views on running a pizza oven to provide hot food for those hoping to see dolphins. AJ said that it was already hard to manage numbers at what is a wildlife location and noted the potential for more litter. JP said the CC had discussed concerns regarding the lack of toilets at the point and the increasing problem of human waste. DG summarised initial concerns: increased footfall and traffic, litter, discarded food (that would attract herring gulls) and the lack of toilets. AJ suggested Mike consulted the Chanonry Point Action Group (CPAG) for further feedback.	
4.6	<u>Over-tourism report</u> : AJ reported that a letter from FRCC should appear in the Ross-Shire Journal this week asking for residents' views. There had been one contact via email unhappy with the proposal regarding a camper van levy (note: the report proposed this for visitors not residents) and suggesting creating more French-style "aires". AJ said that introducing local by-laws for example prohibiting overnight camping in specific locations, as has been done in Perth, would be helpful, however enforcement would be important. AJ to provide MMM with details. JP expressed disappointment that more residents had not offered views and suggested soliciting comments again via Facebook. JP to ask LT. AP to raise with Black Isle Community Council group (BICC).	
5	<b>Police Report</b> No report has been received this month. MMM to supply a new police contact name to AP.	AP AJ/MMM JP/LT AP
6	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
6.1	<u>Expenditure</u> : £100 deposit has been paid to the band for a Burns Ceilidh on Saturday 20/1/24. (Gordon Memorial Hall Rosemarkie booked).	
6.2	<u>Funds for Chanonry Point improvement</u> : AP said that applying for funding for equipment to enable volunteers to make improvements was proving difficult via the Nature Regeneration Fund because of specific criteria that has to be met.	
7	<b>Planning</b>	

	<p>Consultation notice THC 23/04045/FUL. This was a second retrospective application. The CC agreed it had no concerns specifically on the application but did have concerns over procedure - ie repeated retrospective applications.</p> <p>In Fortrose, the CC noted that plans for a housing development at Dr Fraser's field appeared to have been reworked to address concerns over access.</p>	
8	<p><b>Licensing</b></p> <p>No matters arising.</p>	
9	<p><b>Common Good</b></p> <p>The new sub-committee was due to meet shortly. AP to liaise including identifying who at THC is handling Common Good issues. MMM to advise. The committee will inspect the Common Good land (the picnic/parking area off Academy Street, Fortrose) which has been used as a carpark for recent revetment work and ensure that it is left in an appropriate condition.</p>	MMM/AP
10	<p><b>Community issues/consultations</b></p> <p>Consultations on Play/Playparks and on proposed election boundary changes have been received and are now on the FRCC website.</p>	AJ/MMM
10.1	<p><u>Chanonry Point</u>: Pizza van discussed 4.5 above. AP thanked MMM for a constructive meeting with her on behalf of CPAG at which issues affecting the point including signage and parking were discussed.</p>	
10.2	<p><u>TTRO/20mph/Road safety/safe routes to schools</u>: AJ had sought clarification regarding marked white parking bays on Marine Terrace: they are unrestricted bays for general parking. AP noted that signs limiting waiting time on Rosemarkie High Street were still missing. MMM to establish how the consultation period for the traffic orders worked - how feedback should be supplied and by when. AP to supply previous email exchanges with THC to MMM. MMM had raised the poor state/lack of markings in Fortrose Station Road car park with THC and was working on improvement. A volunteer to liaise with Avoch PS/Fortrose Academy is needed to access improvements via the Safer Routes to Schools scheme.</p>	
10.3	<p><u>Gulls</u>: DG reported that although non-payers had been chased up, there had been a poor response - only two more payments had been received leaving seven outstanding thus the FRCC was in deficit by £260.70. North East Pest Management had agreed to bear the shortfall and take on responsibility for chasing payments. It was agreed non-payer details would be passed to them. Although nest and egg removal was clearly having an effect - 70 nests were removed from the Academy on one occasion - and it was clearly a</p>	

	valued service by some residents, the issue of non-payment along with the level of volunteer time and effort raised doubts about continuing. It was agreed that those who benefited from the service would be approached to see if they would be prepared to help next year, JP to liaise with DG/GD. A resident had raised the possibility of using the services of a hawker to deter nesting which might negate the need for some paperwork. JP to investigate practicality and cost.	JP/DG GD  JP
10.4	<u>School links</u> : JP said that the Young Councillors had fed back local concerns over the new one-way system and poor driving from camper van visitors. They recommended a Sunday afternoon for a community litter pick to maximise attendance.	JP
10.5	<u>Community growing/planting</u> : JP said that ROGS was still awaiting suitable land to become available for purchase. ROGS was liaising with Historic Scotland over plans to plant two wildflower meadows in the Cathedral grounds. The Jubilee hedge was growing well with only six saplings lost over the summer. JP to arrange a short community weeding session.	
10.6	<u>Verges/parking</u> : AJ has been liaising with THC regarding drivers parking their vehicles straddling the yellow lines on Marine Terrace. Fines have been issued.	
10.7	<u>Cathedral activities</u> : AP reported that although LT is leaving the Community Council committee, she is happy to be involved in running the carol service. AP to liaise with her and other volunteers.	
10.8	<u>Volunteers and sub-committee</u> : Covered elsewhere.	AP/LT
10.9	<u>Xmas lights</u> : DG confirmed that THC has no budget to pay for new lamp post fittings nor provide new lights. THC would however install fittings if provided by FRCC at the cost of £220 per post. He confirmed that new lights cost in the region of £250 each. Letters asking for sponsorship had been sent to Parklands Care Home, the Co-op and Pat Munro, the developers at Greenside. DG/JP to chase. DG hopes to source a donated Christmas tree for Fortrose.	
10.10	<u>Fortrose Community Market</u> : No update.	
10.11	<u>Litter</u> : AP reported that 2lbs of litter had been collected at the recent beach clear. Village Tidies to be organised this autumn - JP to fix a date/devise publicity.	
10.12	<u>Marine environment</u> : No specific update. DG felt it was important to keep this an agenda item and would assess ways to take forward.	JP  DG
10.13	<u>Asset transfers</u> : AP said that Raddery House Ltd has asked for a letter of support for its application for a CAT. JP said that although she wholeheartedly agreed with the objective, having visited the open day and viewed the business plan she felt she required more information. In particular, in the event of costs rising and the project failing following a CAT, what would	

10.14	<p>happen to the property and the land? MMM said the ward councillors had received similar enquiries and that she would circulate THC's response.</p> <p><u>Visitor Levy</u>: The Scottish Govt consultation closed in September. FRCC still seeking views see 4.4.</p>	MMM
11 11.1 11.2 11.3 11.4	<p><b>Community Meetings</b></p> <p><u>Black Isle Community Councils</u>: No September meeting.</p> <p><u>Black Isle Tourism</u>: No date set.</p> <p><u>Black Isle Partnership</u>: No further update.</p> <p><u>Place Plan</u>: JP had emailed the Place Plan team with FRCC's concerns over short-term holiday lets and the reduction in housing stock for permanent residents, referencing the experience of attempting to put a burden on THC's sale of Mill Cottage. Nick Wright said they would incorporate comments when they met THC's housing officers. JP said she had noted that THC had just granted £30,000 for "first phase implementation" of the Place Plan project. By her estimate that would mean £66,000 was to be spent. She expressed surprise at the amount and noted that it was the biggest single grant to the Black Isle from the Community Regeneration Fund. MMM said that the three ward councillors had concerns about the amount that was granted, given the short amount of money available for the wider community. JP asked to whom queries regarding the decision should be addressed at THC. MMM to advise. AP noted that as members of the BIP (the Place Plan's backers), the FRCC had neither been consulted in advance nor informed of the decision regarding additional money.</p>	MM/JP
1.5	<p><u>Freeport</u>: No further information has been received. MMM to contact the Freeport team regarding the necessity of community engagement.</p>	MMM
12	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>AJ proposed a vote of thanks, backed by other CC members present, to AP for her dedication to the FRCC as Chair. AJ also thanked MMM for her constructive engagement and advice, and to Richard MacLennan, the ranger, for his invaluable help regarding our area.</p>	
13	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Five people have volunteered for the FRCC thus the new FRCC forms without the need for an election. The next meeting, hosted by a THC representative, will formalise the new committee. It is anticipated that this will be at the next regular meeting, ie Wednesday 1 November. JP to contact the acting ward manager to confirm.</p>	JP