

# Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

## Wednesday 2nd October 2024 by Zoom Minutes

Item		Action by
1	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p><u>Committee present:</u> Theo Stratton (Chair) TS; Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL, Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP, Anne Phillips AP, Kerry Ward KW (from item 9 onwards)</p> <p><u>Ex officio:</u> Cllr Morven-May MacCallum MMM</p> <p><u>Residents:</u> Heather Alexander HA; Helen Charley HC; Ann Jefferson AJ</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Lucy Vaughan LV</p> <p>On behalf of FRCC, TS offered sincere condolences to the family of Tony Brown, who had provided invaluable and enthusiastic help at many FRCC and other community events.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b></p> <p>Proposed TS, seconded AP. Agreed.</p>	
3 3.1  3.2	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><u>Public transport:</u> TS has established that it is a legal requirement to provide seat belts on new buses in rural areas, but it is not a legal requirement to wear them. AP noted that the electric bus to Cromarty does not have seatbelts.</p> <p><u>Black Isle Swimming Pool:</u> There had been no further response from the former trustees. TS will continue to investigate which parcel of land was earmarked for the site and any future plans.</p>	TS
4 4.1	<p><b>Points from the Public/Correspondence</b></p> <p><u>St Andrew's walk/path:</u> A resident had asked (via a note in the Library postbox) if the path leading down from behind St Andrew's church could be refurbished and made more accessible to the elderly. TS to take photos of steps/handrail. MMM to establish ownership/THC responsibility. JP to ask if ROGS could help clear vegetation if necessary.</p> <p>AP/JP to compile a list of local organisations which might help with these sorts of projects in conjunction with THC.</p>	TS/ MMM/JP  AP/JP
5	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>None had been received. JP noted that Police Scotland's Chief Constable had made a public commitment via the force's recent 3-year plan to community engagement and</p>	

	improved communication. MMM to follow up the long-standing request for a pan-BICC monthly report.	MMM
6	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> BL presented the monthly account, noting partial refunds associated with the cancelled Ceilidh, and income from THC annual grant (£675) and football shirt raffle (£190). The combined balance (current and deposit accounts) stands at £7,435.06.	
7	<b>Planning</b> Demolition and replacement of extension, Greenside Ave, Rosemarkie. There were no comments.	
8	<b>Licensing</b> Liquor licence for a Quiz Night at Fortrose Tennis Club 25/10/24. No comments.	
9	<b>Community issues/consultations</b> <u>Kessock Bridge</u> : TS noted that overnight restrictions for planned repair work would be in place for the next six months. JP expressed concern over the frequency of closure due to a person in distress/police incidents on the bridge and the enormous traffic problems that resulted - twice in the last month alone. MMM said that a working group involving THC, Police Scotland and mental health charities and BI ward councillor Lyndsey Johnston were looking at the issue but there were inherent difficulties in design-based solutions for this particular bridge. JP to email Cllr Johnston to establish what options were explored. AP noted that improved signage from the A9 in both directions would help divert affected traffic away from the city centre. TS recommended residents set up a Google alert in order to avoid travel during closures.	JP
9.1		
9.2	<u>Fortrose Cafe community hub proposal</u> : Black Isle Cares are gauging the level of public interest in the purchase of the vacant cafe. It was agreed that it would be good to see a key High St building back in use and that FRCC could be interested in using it for meetings etc along with other local community groups. TS to respond to Impact Hub Inverness email.	
9.3	<u>Highland Council community council scheme review</u> : Details of THC's periodic review of community councils had been circulated, inviting views on engagement, purpose and sustainability. A response from FRCC (and from individual members if they so wish) needs to be submitted by 14/11/24. AP was clear that any attempt to	TS

9.4	<p>offload THC duties onto volunteer groups, or reduce the influence/number of CCs or their funding should be resisted. JP noted that engagement would automatically suffer if the role of CCs were to be downgraded further. TS to liaise with other CCs and draft a response for comment by the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Mercat Cross</u>: TS reported that after discussion with the Archaeology officer and Environment and Community officer, a maintenance team from THC would collect the pieces with a view to restoration and relocation. Plans to involve the BBC's Repair Shop were on hold due to BBC production issues. HC said that the original location of the Cross had been within the grounds of the Cathedral and it was agreed that this could well be the best option for re-siting if Historic Environment Scotland are in agreement. Residents' views would be sought via the next FRCC mailout.</p>	TS
9.5	<p><u>Meeting room furniture</u>: BL said that the Black Isle Men's Shed (BIMS) had repaired a number of the damaged antique chairs housed in the Leisure Centre meeting room and work is expected to be completed on the remainder within the month. The next project would be the meeting table. FRCC expressed gratitude to the BIMS team - BL to pass on.</p>	JP
9.6	<p><u>Coastal Communities Fund</u>: TS had spoken to Cllr Atkin and had been told that our relatively short coastline meant that FRCC did not greatly benefit from this particular scheme. TS to establish when THC is next due to discuss the issue. TS to compile a list of funding streams that might be more lucrative for FRCC projects.</p>	BL
9.7	<p><u>Coastal erosion</u>: AJ asked to whom residents should report any damage eg to the existing gabions. MMM said that in the event of a storm, an officer is automatically sent to inspect, however, individuals are invited to report damage/concerns via THC website.</p>	TS
9.8	<p><u>Common Good</u>: AP said that the subgroup is awaiting a date for the relevant HC officer to attend a meeting. AJ and AP noted that the lease for the campsite near Rosemarkie was due for renewal next year. MMM said that the three new ward councillors are fully aware and that the issue will not be neglected when it comes up for discussion.</p>	
9.9	<p><u>Chanonry Point</u>: BL had circulated a picture of a damaged and unsafe stone table. AP shared a slide of the original landscaping plan and expressed disappointment that the work had lasted less than ten years. AP to send MMM the plan with areas of concern highlighted: dangerous structures, rotten wood, human waste etc. CPAG is due to meet next week. AJ</p>	AP/MMM

9.10	<p>expressed disappointment at improvement funding being denied in favour of other local schemes. MMM confirmed that CPAG/FRCC could bid for ward discretionary funds.</p> <p><u>Traffic and Parking</u>: A member of the public had raised concerns about vegetation obscuring vehicle and pedestrian sight lines at the Fairy Bridge. Voluntary action eg residents with strimmers can not be carried out there due to unstable ground. Since it is technically a verge, it was felt it was THC's remit JP to send MMM photos for council follow-up.</p> <p>JP asked for an update on resurfacing/relining plans for Station Road car park. MMM to check.</p> <p>AP shared concerns for pedestrian safety given the continuing tendency for visitors to park on verges/across the grass path. FRCC welcomed recent parking attendant activity but felt that physical barriers would be a solution - ie extending the line of posts, or using sleepers if cheaper, all along the front. AJ to estimate the distance lacking a barrier and pass to MMM to follow up. It was agreed that TS would liaise with MMM given the number of issues that needed chasing with THC.</p> <p>MMM said that she had had a useful meeting regarding dropped kerbs in the villages. It would however be helpful to have a clear idea of the priority locations. AP to send details of contacts. JP to seek opinions in next FRCC mailout.</p>	<p>JP/MMM</p> <p>MMM</p> <p>AJ/MMM</p> <p>TS/MMM</p> <p>AP/MMM</p> <p>JP/MMM</p>
9.11	<p><u>Public transport</u>: No update.</p>	
9.12	<p><u>Christmas Lights</u>: JP and LV had surveyed existing lamp-posts and, with the help of John Ruickbie from BIMs, had identified that most had "Lewden" style plugs (28) rather than modern "Commando" ones (12 - with council lights apparently attached all year round to 3). An audit of the 23 existing lights showed 18 had Lewden plugs, 5 commando. Christmas lights are now only supplied with commando plugs so JP proposed buying 4 immediately to fill existing vacant "commando" lamp posts; these would be £159.99 each plus postage. The spending was agreed in principle; JP to purchase.</p> <p>JP to seek possible grants/sponsorship for changing Lewden plugs to Commando on the remaining 10 lamp-posts currently without allocated lights. THC will do so, if funded, at the cost of £60-£70 per lamp-post. FRCC would then need to purchase new lights (approx £1,800-£2,000). For discussion next meeting.</p> <p>Mr Ruickbie, a qualified electrician, had PAT tested the existing lights. JP to liaise with him over testing the tree lights, and the possibility of fitting brackets to the new lights if required. In the light of the work BIMs members had carried out on this and on furniture restoration (9.5),</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>

9.13	<p>it was agreed that a donation of £100 should be made.</p> <p><u>Ceilidh</u>: JP said that it was a source of great disappointment that the fund-raising ceilidh had had to be cancelled due to poor advanced ticket sales (around 20 - needing 40 to work as a ceilidh, and 50 to break even). Thanks to BL, the band had refunded payment (less £100 deposit) and the Gordon Memorial Hall had given a full refund. A £10 donation from a resident meant that the loss amounted to £90. It was hard to establish why the project had failed when two previous ceilidhs had succeeded. It was noted that it was scheduled during local schools' long weekend and many people were away. It clashed with other events that weekend which had not been anticipated. It was agreed that other forms of fund-raising would be explored.</p>	BL
9.14	<p><u>Christmas carols at the Cathedral</u>: AP said that, as usual, an event would be held on Christmas Eve at Fortrose Cathedral. HES was aware and had given permission. Volunteer organisers are needed and an initial planning meeting would be arranged in the near future.</p>	AP
9.15	<p><u>Rosemarkie &amp; Fortrose Trust (RAFT)</u>: No update.</p> <p><u>Young Councillors</u>: JP had met 7 of the 8 young councillors plus 1 associate young councillors on 30/9/24. One was keen to run a project as part of a DofE award and has been asked to arrange a litter pick in Fortrose with assistance from the Academy and FRCC. There had also been a request for more recycling bins rather than just general waste bins for street litter. JP to link young councillors with MMM/THC to pursue. One young councillor reported complaints about potholes on the Feddon Hill estate. Once again, they reported a widespread desire by pupils for an all-weather/hockey pitch at the school. JP had advised they approach the Parent Council in the first instance.</p>	JP
9.16	<p><u>Regenerate Our Green Space (ROGS)/Playpark</u>: No update on negotiations with Tullochs/Springfield regarding land at Ness Gap. KW reported that good progress was being made on tidying up Feddon Hill playpark.</p>	
9.17	<p><u>Beach clean/Rosemarkie Beach access day</u>: AP said that a beach clean between the caves and the golf club had taken place, and a beach survey completed. The total weight of litter collected was 5lbs - remarkably little, and a tribute to those who pick up anything they find each day. There was not a high turn out for the Access Day at Rosemarkie beach, possibly because of the Kessock Bridge closure but also because of the very cold weather. It was however, a useful dry run in terms of laying out mats etc and thanks should go to volunteers including the trishaw team. A date next year will be scheduled when</p>	

	better weather can reasonably be expected.	
10	<b>Community Meetings</b>	
10.1	<u>Place Plan</u> : The area Place Plan has now gone to THC for registration.	
10.2	<u>Black Isle Community Councils</u> : AP and TS had attended a meeting hosted by Cromarty last week. TS put forward his nomination for one of the 5 director seats allocated to CC members on the Place Plan board. In addition, 3 independent representatives (not CC members) are sought - if advertising wording is agreed before the next FRCC mailout, it will be included. An independent chair is also required. Update expected later this month with a confirmation meeting 11/11/24. Discussion of the Place Plan has absorbed a great deal of BICC time and it was hoped that other issues of common interest would be identified and discussed at future meetings.	
10.3	<u>Black Isle Tourism group</u> : No update.	
10.4	<u>Black Isle Partnership</u> : An EGM had been held to deal with constitutional issues arising from the Place Plan. No date for AGM atow.	
11	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
11.1	<u>Remembrance Sunday</u> : The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty is invited to attend in Fortrose this year on Sunday 10/11/24.	
12	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Wednesday 6th November 2024 via zoom.	