

# Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

**Wednesday 8 January 2025 by Zoom**

## Minutes

Item		Action by
1	<p><b>Welcome and 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, Lucy Vaughan LV, Heather Alexander HA. Ann Jefferson (Assoc Member) AJ.</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Cllr Morven-May MacCallum MMM.</p> <p>TS conveyed MMM's apologies, and the committee offered condolences on her family bereavement.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p>Agreed. Proposed by AP, seconded HA.</p>	
3 3.1	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p><u>Carols at the Cathedral:</u> Feedback from the Christmas Eve event have been very positive. AP thanked all who had helped, especially William Mather and family, the musicians (Lorna and Brian Skinner and Isabel Patterson), the choir volunteers, Father Christmas (Douglas Simpson) and the Young Councillor elves. Aspects for improvement have been noted for next year. JP thanked AP and will thank William etc.</p> <p>It was agreed that LV would liaise with Historic Environment Scotland to improve communications and access to the Cathedral in future. BL to give the current FRCC key to LV.</p> <p>It was agreed that £20 each would be donated to St Andrew's Episcopal Church and to St Peter and St Boniface Catholic Church for access/electricity for the Christmas tree and the Cathedral event. BL to action with bank details to be supplied by AP.</p> <p>BL said that the contactless card reader was used, with some success, but connectivity may need to be addressed in Cathedral Square for St Boniface Fair eg with a TP-Link.</p> <p>BL said that £752.97 was raised, with £59.10 spent on sweets for Father Christmas distribution, resulting in £693.87 profit.</p>	JP  LV/BL  AP/BL
3.2	<p><u>Black Isle Pool land:</u> TS said that the land earmarked for the BI Pool site is partly owned by THC and partly by a private landowner, with whom ROGS has made contact.</p>	
3.3	<p><u>Developer contribution update:</u> For discussion next</p>	

	meeting.	
4	<b>Points from the public/correspondence</b>	
4.1	<u>Library/shop postboxes:</u> Content to be collected and comments emailed to the committee.	JP/AP
4.2	<u>Landslips/road damage:</u> TS noted the impact very heavy rain had on many BI roads, most notably the main road between Fortrose and Avoch. It was agreed that the damage and flooding (for example on Insch road/Knockmuir/Broomhill) was unprecedented. BL and AP said that diversion signs with alternative routes would have been helpful, not just “road closed” signs. TS to write to THC and ward councillors with concerns including the B832 (coastal stretch between Avoch and Fortrose, and the Fairy Glen). <u>Grit bin on Eathie Road:</u> Email from resident about lack of grit. Issue now resolved by THC. <u>Royal Mail collection times:</u> LV noted that all postbox collections in Fortrose are now at 0900. Formerly there was a 1600 collection outside the Post Office. JP/HA to investigate.	TS  JP/HA
5	<b>Police report</b> None received. For discussion at next meeting including an update from MMM.	
6	<b>Treasurer’s report</b> BL submitted a monthly report. In summary, at the end of Dec 2024 the balance was £8797.42, with £7,010.72 in the interest-bearing current account.	
6.1	<u>Cathedral event:</u> Recent outgoings related to Christmas activities including £100 as a thank you to the provider of telehandler for the erection/takedown of tree/lights. It was agreed that £500 from the Christmas Eve event would be donated to Highland Shopmobility. AP/BL to action. The remainder would be put towards the Christmas lights fund. It was agreed that £1000-£1500 would be earmarked for JP to purchase the final 6 new Christmas lights (and new plugs to adapt 3 old lights) to complete the Lights project.	AP/BL
6.2	<u>Chanonry Point:</u> AJ asked if money from the FRCC account might be used in future as the basis for “match-funding” for Chanonry Point developments. It was agreed that it would certainly be considered and that any initiatives should be brought to the FRCC meeting for discussion.	JP
6.3	<u>Cathedral Square info board:</u> JP highlighted the poor state of the information board at Cathedral Square and asked if money should be earmarked for that. TS said that as part of discussion surrounding repair/relocation of	

6.4	the Mercat Cross, an information board in Cathedral Square was suggested, provided by THC and/or HES. TS to continue to liaise.	TS
6.5	<u>Future projects/local causes:</u> It was agreed that JP would draft an email to FRCC's mailing list to solicit suggestions for possible recipients of future grants for local causes and/or ideas for future projects - bearing in mind the small income raised each year by the FRCC. JP also to draft a notice for the village noticeboards. <u>FRCC Website:</u> Annual payment to host the FRCC website due. JP/BL to action. HA/BL to investigate better, possibly cheaper, alternatives for the future.	JP JP/BL HA/BL
7 7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4	<b>Planning</b> <u>Solar panels:</u> Property in Academy St. Noted. <u>Off-shore windfarm off Wick:</u> FRCC statutory consultee. <u>Camping pods, Fairy Glen quarry:</u> TS to watch/update. <u>Rosemarkie Church alterations:</u> Concern had been expressed by local residents, including congregation members, of changes planned by the Church of Scotland, particularly removing pews with the intention of turning the church into a "community hub." There was concern at the loss of an increasingly-rare traditional church interior and the loss of a church that can seat high numbers for funerals etc. It was felt that Rosemarkie already had a well-used "community hub", namely the Gordon Memorial Hall. TS to respond to THC.	TS    TS
8	<b>Licensing</b> No update.	
9 9.1  9.2	<b>Community issues/consultations</b> <u>Public consultation visitor levy:</u> TS to circulate THC draft proposals, which he noted lacked detail, for discussion at the next meeting. The consultation ends 31/3/25. The FRCC needs to respond and encourage individuals to do so. JP to include in next FRCC mailout. <u>Roads/Traffic:</u> See also 4.2. <u>THC 20mph consultation:</u> TS highlighted plans to make permanent the existing trial arrangements. HA noted that it was hard to understand which roads were being described. TS has asked for maps. It was agreed that the approach into Fortrose from Avoch, which involves a 60mph to 20 mph with no graduation, was unsatisfactory. Similarly there is confusion in Rosemarkie regarding 20/30 mph areas. TS to send FRCC response by 10/2/25. JP to encourage individual residents to respond via next mailout. <u>Marine Terrace parking:</u> AJ drew attention to the continuing problems of parked cars damaging the	TS JP      TS JP

9.3	<p>verge/footpath. TS said that he, LV and MMM were in discussion with THC regarding an overflow car park, disabled access to the beach and general landscaping, which would include improving the footpath. Talks were at an initial stage but TS was optimistic and thanked MMM for her input. TS to provide details to RAA.</p> <p><u>Station Road car park, Fortrose</u>: No update on FRCC's resurfacing and relining request.</p> <p><u>ROGS</u>: JP said that the group hoped to work with FRCC on improving the steps at St Andrew's Walk and she would liaise. She also said that "tidy up" days were planned to remove weeds in Cathedral Square (10am-noon Saturday 25th January) and on the Feddon Hill path (10-12 noon Saturday 22 February). Regarding other paths, LV to update FRCC re railway line at next meeting. ROGS is still hopeful that it will acquire land for community growing at Ness Gap.</p>	TS
9.4	<p><u>Coastal erosion</u>: AJ said that the Golf Club was planning to continue defensive work in February. FRCC congratulated the Club on its impressive fund-raising. HA said that heavy rain has redistributed the landslip in the Fairy Glen, and moved the large tree that had fallen across the burn. HA to inspect further and contact the RSPB/THC to establish footbridge/footpath plans.</p>	LV
9.5	<p><u>Common Good</u>: THC had yet to respond to emails sent by the working group.</p>	HA
9.6	<p><u>Chanonry Point</u>: AP has emailed THC regarding damaged furniture etc but has yet to receive a reply. (See also 6.2.)</p>	
9.7	<p><u>Public transport</u>: TS had emailed regarding bus timetable website/app errors. BL to check if now correct.</p>	BL
9.8	<p><u>Christmas lights</u>: See 6.1. JP to action.</p>	JP
9.9	<p><u>RAFT</u>: No update.</p>	
9.10	<p><u>Young Councillors</u>: Next meeting 20/1/25.</p>	
9.11	<p><u>Meeting Room furniture</u>: Update next meeting. BL/TS to discuss with BIMS (who are working on the furniture), if they would consider fixing George V playfields shed door.</p>	BL/TS
10	<p><b>Community meetings</b> No December updates.</p>	
11 11.1	<p><b>Any other business</b> <u>Rosemarkie Amenities Association</u>: FRCC noted and congratulated RAA on its silver jubilee. AP said that around £20,000 had been raised so far to improve the Prom. It was suggested that RAA might be added to future agendas to recognise and improve the close relationship between the groups.</p>	
12	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b>: 7pm Weds 5/2/25 via Zoom</p>	

