

# Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

## Wednesday 5th February 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, Heather Alexander HA, Anne Phillips AP, Lucy Vaughan LV, Kerry Ward KW.</p> <p><u>Ex Officio:</u> Cllr Morven-May MacCallum MMM</p> <p><u>Assoc Members:</u> Ann Jefferson AJ</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> None</p> <p>AP praised Beth, a school pupil in Rosemarkie, who has resolved to litter-pick every day this year. The Community Council thanked all residents who routinely pick up litter when they see it and agreed it made a huge difference to our villages.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p>Agreed. Proposed AP, seconded KW.</p>	
3 3.1 3.2	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p><u>Carols at the Cathedral:</u> JP has delivered flowers (costing £16 in total) as a thank you to the musicians, as agreed.</p> <p><u>Postal collections:</u> JP/LV have established that post in boxes in Fortrose and Rosemarkie is scheduled to be collected at 0900. There is a later collection (4pm) at Avoch. JP to check Cromarty. Advisory note to be included on next FRCC mailing list update.</p>	JP JP
4 4.1	<p><b>Points from the public/correspondence</b></p> <p><u>Dog-fouling:</u> TS said there had been a number of complaints relating to this at Rosemarkie Beach, King George V playing fields, the Rosemarkie playpark, and other locations. Rosemarkie Amenities Association is also concerned. AP noted that “poo bags” are available at Rosemarkie Beach Cafe, and there are adequate bins, so owners have little excuse not to pick up on the beach. BL drew attention to the human health hazard posed by dog waste. JP and TS noted that other UK beaches ban dogs for part of the year, or entirely, for this reason; it would be upsetting if thoughtless owners led to similar measures being considered here. AP said that Avoch has a serious problem of dog mess on its football pitch. She felt that a pan-Black Isle approach would be effective and the matter should be discussed at the next BICC meeting. MMM said</p>	

4.2	that she would talk to the other ward councillors and investigate action including better enforcement of existing legislation such as fines, via THC dog warden. <u>2024 FRCC Review</u> : Thanks given to LV for compiling the review of FRCC activities which has been emailed out to subscribers, and will appear on village notice-boards. JP to get copies to KW and AP. There was discussion about distributing leaflets to households. JP to investigate.	MMM  JP/KW/AP JP
4.3	<u>Merger of Nairn community councils</u> : TS said that Nairn's two CCs had requested a letter of support from other community councils to oppose a forced merger. TS to reply emphasising the need for democratic, locally-elected bodies to act as efficient community advocates.	TS
4.4	<u>Fortrose Library comments box</u> : Notes included a request for a Black Isle swimming pool, and for a larger, more affordable supermarket in Fortrose.	
4.5	<u>Training</u> : TS has details of online training available (12/2/25) on Highland place plan involvement for those wishing to take part.	
4.6	<u>Visitor Levy Scheme</u> : THC is hosting a webinar for CCs and members of the public on 6/2/25. TS has details.	
4.7	<u>Beaully overhead powerlines</u> : TS noted that FRCC had been invited to an event to discuss the scheme.	
4.8	<u>North Highland Initiative</u> : TS noted that grants are now available via the scheme. LV recommended it. TS to investigate and report back.	TS
4.9	<u>Railway Line path update</u> : LV has spoken to the THC path warden, the landowner and ROGS and is liaising with Avoch and Killen CC to improve the path. Volunteers likely to be needed for light manual labour - date tbc.	
5	<b>Police report</b> None received. MMM said that Police Scotland had confirmed that there were discrepancies and that a new system, aiming for "continuity and consistency" in reports for BI community councils is to be rolled out. Date tbc.	
6	<b>Treasurer's report</b> BL said that total funds stood at £7598.58. Outgoings included £1122.93 for seven new Christmas lights. JP confirmed that these would be delivered in September. Other outgoings included Christmas event expenditure and website payment (see also 11). A donation to Highland Mobility had been made, as agreed. Donations to the two churches who assisted to be actioned. BL said that as we approached the end of the financial year he would work on an end of year financial report and approach an independent examiner as required by THC.	BL  BL

7	<b>Planning</b> MMM took no part in this section. 7.1 <u>Co-op</u> : A revised plan had been submitted (5/12/24) to extend the existing site to the rear. Noted. 7.2 <u>Ardersier port expansion</u> : Deadline for comments is 18/2/25. Plans include dredging and are thus likely to impact on our coastline. LV said that environmental impact assessments must be undertaken with impact modelling on the Fortrose/Rosemarkie coastline. Concern was expressed regarding the welfare of the resident dolphin population. CPAG to be alerted to the proposal. TS to collect comments and respond.	TS
8	<b>Licensing</b> No applications.	
9	<b>Community issues/consultations</b> 9.1 <u>Coastal erosion</u> : It was noted that the Golf Club had commenced work installing rock armour. It was currently unclear if disabled access would feature in the scheme. JP said that a local resident had emailed with concerns about the state of the coastal footpath in that area. JP to take advice from AJ and reply. 9.2 <u>Highland local development plan consultation</u> : Open until 31.3/25. TS to circulate details. 9.3 <u>Community Council consultation scheme</u> : Details circulated. Deadline 9/4/25. TS to draft a response for discussion at the next meeting. 9.4 <u>20mph zones</u> : Deadline 10/2/25. TS to send a response as per discussion at January meeting. 9.5 <u>New overflow carpark</u> : TS and MMM met RAA and RAFT members to gauge reaction to a proposal to use scrubland owned by Scottish Water as an overflow car park to relieve pressure in the villages and on the beach front. Generally positive feedback. TS to take forward. 9.6 <u>Fairy Glen footpath/bridge</u> : Email correspondence with THC paths warden and the RSPB was shared by HA. It confirmed that the existing bridge would likely be made accessible again, though there is no timescale. HA to continue to liaise. 9.7 9.8 <u>Signage to Chanonry Point</u> : TS has contacted THC following an email from a resident pointing out problems with the solar-powered traffic sign to the Point.	JP TS TS TS TS TS HA
10	<b>Community groups/meetings</b> 10.1 <u>BICC/Place Plan</u> : AP had circulated details of the BICC membership proposal for the new Black Isle Place Place organisation (Opportunity Black Isle). . A representative of FRCC is included as a nomination. There were no	

10.2	<p>objections.</p> <p>The minutes of the last BICC meeting had been circulated.</p> <p><u>RAFT</u>: LV reported that repairs to address leaks (which had led to Rosemarkie toilets being repeatedly shut) have now been completed.</p>	
10.3	<p><u>ROGS</u>: JP reported that the group has been given permission to plant wild flowers and to improve the steps beside St Andrews' Episcopal church in Fortrose. (NB an elderly resident had contacted FRCC on two occasions asking for the steps to be made safe.) The steps will be repaired by volunteers from Black Isle Mens' Shed and JP requested an FRCC donation in principle of up to £150 for material. This was agreed. JP said that on behalf of ROGS, she was investigating the cost of a replacement metal handrail for the lower half of the steps which would assist elderly residents when using the steps.</p> <p>She also noted that ROGS had successfully organised a clean up/weed clear in Cathedral Square earlier this month and that despite very cold weather, around a dozen volunteers turned up. The next tidy up is the Feddon Hill path on 22/2/25. Volunteers welcome.</p> <p>JP noted that FRCC had submitted a letter of support, along with ROGS, to RAA in a plan to buy a rotavator attachment for existing equipment which will assist in wildflower planting and maintenance here and in other BICC that had already expressed an interest in borrowing it.</p>	
10.4	<p><u>Young Councillors</u>: JP had held a meeting 20/1/25. They will think about local projects that might need FRCC support.</p>	
11	<b>Any other business</b>	
11.1	<p><u>FRCC Website</u>: HA has investigated our current website arrangement. In summary, the FRCC is currently paying for domain name registration (fortrosemarkie.org), a computer host, a content management system and a security certificate (which appears to be missing), amounting to almost £95 pa for a rather old-fashioned site. HA will investigate alternatives and circulate options.</p>	HA
11.2	<p><u>Leisure Centre Burgh furniture</u>: Work continues on refurbishing antique FRCC furniture in the Leisure Centre committee room. FRCC thanked BIMS volunteers.</p>	
12	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday 5th March at 7pm via zoom.</p> <p>BL to generate new meeting code and send to all.</p>	BL