

Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

Wednesday 5th March 2025 by Zoom

Minutes

Item		Action by
1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p><u>Committee:</u> Theo Stratton TS (Chair); Jo-Anne Pugh JP (Sec); 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>Associate Members:</u> Ann Jefferson AJ</p> <p><u>Residents:</u> Angela Verona AV; Mandy Wren MW</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Bob Latimer BL (Treasurer)</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Agreed. Proposed AP, seconded HA.</p>	
3	<p>Matters arising</p>	
3.1	<p><u>Website options:</u> TS thanked HA for her excellent website report. It was agreed to proceed with the three recommendations: a survey of what residents wanted from a website (HA to draft, for posting on Facebook, JP to circulate via the FRCC mailing list), to establish options on managed hosting, and to use a non-proprietary content management system. HA to compare costs and features of appropriate options and report back.</p>	HA/JP
3.2	<p><u>Dog-fouling:</u> AP to attend a joint meeting with a Rosemarkie Amenities Association (AAA) representative and the area dog warden on 13/3/25. MMM also has a meeting scheduled with the dog warden to discuss the issue, which is a Black Isle-wide problem. AP/MMM to report back. AP said that dogs are banned from Victoria Park in Cromarty and the sign there explains health hazards arising from dog faeces. Picture of sign to be sent to HA. HA to draft a series of postings for FRCC Facebook page highlighting the danger to human health and encouraging residents to pick up after their pets. AV, as a new resident, noted that she picks up dog mess and abandoned dog poo bags on a daily basis, although she is not currently a dog owner. LV pointed out that other locations in addition to Rosemarkie Beach were blighted, including the Railway Line path.</p>	HA
3.3	<p><u>Highland Local Development plan:</u> A webinar is being held on 13/3/25. TS has details for those able to join.</p>	AP/MMM
		AP
		HA

4	Points from the public/correspondence	
4.1	<p><u>Project suggestions:</u> Four possible projects suitable for FRCC support had been suggested by residents:</p> <p>i) A request for a donation towards Makaton training for staff at Fortrose pre-school. It was agreed that £90 would be donated, covering the cost of one person's training course. JP to write to FPS/inform FRCC treasurer.</p> <p>ii) A request from the local charity, Black Isle Need to Play Association. It was agreed that JP would contact them, and offer a free stall at St Boniface Fair to enable their own fund-raising, and also to inform them that they will be the main beneficiary from any funds raised at this year's Carols and Christmas Songs at the Cathedral.</p> <p>iii) A resident had suggested that land adjacent to the new Greenside estate in Rosemarkie could become a bike jump park for youngsters. It was agreed that research would need to be done to ensure there was provable demand, and that a sufficient number of local residents/parents would be prepared to maintain any track. HA pointed out that Pat Munro has plans for further building work on the site (application 23/05861/FUL) and that "vacant" land there is already earmarked by the company for green space/biodiversity/reinstating a pond. AP noted that there were significant drainage issues on the site and that an earlier BMX track by the caravan site had fallen into disuse.</p> <p>iv) A resident had suggested that the benches on Greengates in Fortrose were in a poor state of repair and should be replaced and refreshed. JP/HA to survey site.</p> <p>v) AJ suggested that a bench should be provided on the pavement linking the two villages, thus allowing elderly residents to rest. JP/HA to investigate if pavement wide enough for a seat and inspect "narrow" benches installed near the golf course.</p> <p>vi) AP said that donations were being sought towards a memorial sculpture for Tony Brown, an active community-minded resident, who sadly died last year. It was agreed that FRCC would donate up to £100. AP to liaise with family/RAA and FRCC treasurer.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>JP</p> <p>JP/HA</p> <p>JP/HA</p> <p>AP</p>
4.2	<p><u>Tree stability:</u> A resident had raised concerns over the stability of the area below the railway path, above the main Fortrose-Avoch road. They recommended a tree survey to identify safety issues and noted that trees, including those on privately-owned land, are not being properly managed and could present a serious hazard especially during high winds or after heavy rainfall. MMM to follow up with THC. JP to include on next FRCC mailout.</p>	<p>MMM</p>
4.3	<p><u>Cadet Force:</u> JP thanked MMM for her introduction to the local Cadet Force who, given sufficient time to carry out the necessary paperwork, are keen to assist in local projects.</p>	<p>JP</p>

4.4	<u>Railway Line Path</u> : LV said that in conjunction with ROGS, Avoch and Killen CC, and THC ranger, and following discussion with some local property owners, a date had been set to help clear the railway line path: volunteers are encouraged to come along between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 22nd March.	
4.5	<p><u>Litter</u>: MMM said that the Lord Lieutenant had launched a scheme to encourage people to take litter home with them, rather than dropping it from their cars. Banners to that effect were going up around Ross-shire, the latest at Tore roundabout. A banner is available for our area. It was suggested that fences near the Pat Munro site in Rosemarkie might provide a high profile and easily accessible site. TS to contact Pat Munro office and liaise with MMM.</p> <p>AP said a date would be set for the next Great British Beach Clean/Marine Litter survey - end of March/early April tbc.</p> <p>LV and others noted the litter on the Avoch-Munlochy road opposite the Rosehaugh estate area, and the number of roadwork signs apparently abandoned by THC after work was completed. LV to email details to MMM.</p>	<p>TS/MMM</p> <p>AP</p> <p>LV/MMM</p>
5	<p>Police report</p> <p>TS was delighted to say that the new area commander for Police Scotland North Highland had contacted all community councils recognising historic communication problems and proposing a future programme for engagement, namely a ward-wide monthly written report via email, a quarterly meeting with representatives from area community councils, (first scheduled for March) and the option of an officer attending a particular CC meeting when there is an exceptional and specific policing issue. TS hoped the first of the monthly updates would be received in time for the next FRCC meeting and thanked MMM for her help in the matter.</p>	
6	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>In BL's absence, TS presented the monthly report. The total balance of current and deposit accounts: £7236.79.</p> <p>Annual payment to the ICO for FRCC registration was noted. FRCC thanked residents June and Owen Pugh for their kind donation towards the Christmas Lights fund - a project that is now complete. TS to contact BL regarding annual insurance renewal. Discussion of future fund-raising events eg ceilidh deferred to next meeting.</p>	TS/BL
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>MMM took no part in discussion.</p>	
7.1	Ardersier expansion: TS has responded on behalf of FRCC.	
7.2	Extension, Gollanhead Ave: no comments.	
7.3	Fairy Glen quarry: no update.	

8	Licensing No updates.	
9	Community Issues/Consultations	
9.1	<u>Community Council Consultation Scheme</u> : TS to draft response by April deadline. HA felt that FRCC's approach to Youth Membership was more flexible, practical and effective than that outlined in the consultation. TS to draft feedback on the issue with assistance from JP.	TS
9.2	<u>Coastal erosion</u> : JP/AJ had inspected the Marine Terrace footpath, between Crofters and the Golf Club, and noted the significant amount of cars "pavement parking" (which is illegal) in the gaps between double yellow lines. It was however unclear if the area apparently designated as a footpath and as an erosion barrier counts as a pavement since there is no kerb. Rock armour work towards the golf club has also churned up the verge making it hard for pedestrians to navigate. AP also pointed out the continuing lack of (promised) single yellow lines between the double and the continuing lack of signage which was leading to campervans in particular continuing to park overnight. JP to email concerns to MMM for consideration by THC traffic team.	JP/MMM
9.3	<u>Overflow car park suggestion</u> : A resident had contacted FRCC with concerns, in particular over site proximity to the golf course, wildlife/biodiversity issues and possible increase in dog-fouling elsewhere as a result. TS to respond, saying no formal plans drawn up as yet with an invitation to contribute.	TS
10	Community Groups/Meetings	
10.1	<u>Regenerate Our Green Space (ROGS)</u> : JP was pleased to report that the group has now had confirmation in writing that Tullochs intends to gift land on Ness Road to provide a community growing project/allotments/wildlife friendly garden. More information when legal arrangements are in place. The St Andrews steps project is proceeding. As agreed at the February meeting, FRCC will pay up to £150 for necessary building materials. Timber for the risers is expected to cost around £86; chippings will also be required. JP to send invoice when received to BL. Raddery Smithy has agreed to provide a replacement handrail for £720 inc VAT. JP has applied to THC Common Good fund for possible funding and the FRCC agreed in principle to top up any shortfall, within reason. JP to progress.	JP
10.2	<u>Young Councillors</u> : JP had met the group 24/2/25. They are ready to provide assistance at any seniors' summer afternoon tea event. JP to fix date with them.	JP
10.3	<u>Black Isle Community Councils (BICC)</u> : Date for next meeting tbc.	JP

10.4	<u>Common Good sub-group</u> : No response from THC regarding questions. Now a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. AP to update. <u>Rosemarkie & Fortrose Trust (RAFT)</u> : Minor repairs to the toilets underway.	AP
10.5		
11	Any Other Business <u>St Boniface Fair</u> : Will be held on Saturday 2nd August. JP has invited the Cadet Force to assist. They need a risk assessment by early June. AP has invited a rep from Fortrose Fun Day to come to a planning meeting - date and venue to follow. <u>Seniors' summer afternoon tea</u> : JP to fix date with Young Councillors (see 10.2) <u>20mph consultation</u> : KW had responded, in a private capacity, expressing concern at the speed limit up Feddon Hill and towards Broomhill. She noted corners hiding exits from properties, and concerns for pedestrian safety and school children at the bus pick-up location. FRCC members agreed. KW to email MMM with concerns, and for referral to eg Safe Routes to Schools team.	AP
11.1		
11.2		
11.3		KW
12	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 2nd April at 7pm via Zoom.	