

# Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

**Wednesday 2nd April 2025 by Zoom**

## Minutes

Item		Action by
1	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p><u>Committee:</u> Theo Stratton TS (Chair), Jo-Anne Pugh JP (Sec), Anne Phillips AP, Kerry Ward KW, Lucy Vaughan LV</p> <p><u>Ex Officio:</u> Cllr Morven-May MacCallum (MMM)</p> <p><u>Associate Member:</u> Ann Jefferson AJ</p> <p><u>Residents:</u> Ann Wickens AW; Elena McKenzie EM</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Bob Latimer BL (Treasurer); Heather Alexander HA</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p>Agreed. Proposed KW, seconded AP.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p>	
3.1	<p><u>Website options:</u> In HA's absence, JP reported that the link to the survey asking for opinions had been circulated via Facebook and the FRCC mailing list, resulting in approx 10 responses. Update on total responses/costs/options next meeting. JP to include link in next mailout.</p>	HA/JP
3.2	<p><u>Benches project:</u> JP said that she and HA had inspected the benches on Greengates and established that one (metal) was in a fair state of repair but that three wooden ones were in a poor state. These three had plaques indicating that they had been made by pupils at the Academy and gifted to the community. JP had contacted the Rector to enquire about refurbishment by pupils if FRCC paid for the materials. She had had a positive response, and an estimate had been provided by the school (from HIS) for hardwood costing £604.78. It was agreed that FRCC would agree to pay this and also to suggest other local suppliers that the school might consider if not already purchased. JP to write to school and copy in Treasurer.</p> <p>JP/HA had inspected a possible location for a bench by the pavement midway between Rosemarkie and Fortrose. HA in contact with council over land ownership/site. Update next meeting.</p>	JP
3.3	<p><u>Dog-fouling:</u> HA had drafted FB posts as requested, alerting residents to the health hazards of dog faeces and asking owners to pick up after their pets. Two posts so far have gathered likes and shares with no negative responses. AP said that she and Rosemarkie Amenities</p>	HA

3.4	Association (RAA) had met the regional dog warden to discuss the issue. The warden covers a huge area and is also responsible for dumped cars, fly-tipping and litter issues. She has however now got access to the Beach Cafe gate code that will allow her to drive her liveried vehicle near to the beach which, it is hoped, will have a deterrent effect. The warden has confirmed that to report an incident of dog-fouling requires two witnesses. If that is the case, residents can report it via THC website and the dog's owner may face an £80 fixed penalty. JP to include guidance on next mailout with link to THC site.	JP
3.5	<u>Litter Banner</u> : AP suggested that the large anti-litter banner offered to the CC could perhaps be displayed on the railings by Crofters at the Marine Terrace/Hawkhill Road junction. MMM to investigate.	MMM
	<u>Tree stability</u> : MMM said THC was in the process of appointing an officer and that once in post, she would raise concerns regarding old trees above the Fortrose-Avoch main road.	MMM
4	<b>Planning</b> (originally scheduled for later) Cllr MMM exited the meeting for this section.	
4.1	<u>Comers Croft Planning</u> : TS invited resident AW to address the meeting. AW expressed concerns over the developer's plans for 8 homes (reduced from an original 12) and the time it is taking to grant planning permission. The original planning application had been heard in July 2024. She indicated that the size and style of houses proposed does not meet the needs of a growing section of the local population - ie a demand for smaller bungalows which are accessible to older/downsizing residents. AP agreed that several surveys had identified the need for one/two bedroom properties (see Planning and Local Democracy presentation 2015 on Documents section of FRCC website). She also noted that "staggered" developments with applications for a small number of houses, and then, later, an additional small number on the same site effectively avoid the requirement for any developer to provide affordable housing. AW suggested that BICCs should develop a planning strategy that would guide all responses when planning applications were made. TS noted that this, in effect, was included in the recently-developed Place Plan (Section 6 Affordable Homes for All). It was agreed that THC's attention should be drawn to this when approving developments. TS to liaise with planning officer over Comers Croft.	
4.2	<u>Holiday cabin, Pleasant Point Cottage</u> : Permission had been granted.	TS
4.3	<u>Battery storage site, Invergordon/Evanton</u> : No comments.	

4.4	<u>House site, garden Bellavista, Marine Terrace, Rosemarkie</u> : No specific house plan. No comments at this stage.	
4.5	<u>Eco-house, Wards Farm road</u> : On site of former property. No comments.	
5	<b>Points from the Public/Correspondence</b>	
5.1	<u>Traffic/Speeding/Roads</u> : AW had concerns over traffic issues on Fortrose High Street, in particular access for emergency vehicles etc. She suggested side streets be designated one way and parking encourage there rather than on the High Street itself. EM raised concerns, which were seconded by LV and KW, regarding speeding on Feddon Hill, especially at night. AP suggested organising speed gun monitoring by volunteers to collect necessary data. JP said traffic would increase there with local road diversions this month. TS to contact police and seek advice via Safer Routes to schools. LV noted that a key drainage ditch on Feddon Hill road was still blocked and thus the risk of flooding downhill in Fortrose was increased. LV to send pictures to MMM to raise with THC.	TS  LV/MMM
5.2	<u>SEPA floodmap</u> : The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency had produced an updated floodmap of interest to residents. JP to include link on mailout and website.	JP
5.3	<u>Ward Discretionary Fund</u> : AJ sought to establish how much was available and which organisations had successfully applied. She hoped that perhaps a bid for an information board at Chanonry Point might get funding. TS has requested details for 2023-24 when available. MMM said that a wide variety of BI organisations had received grants with a limit of £1,000 per application which is assessed on merit in terms of benefit to the community. She encouraged applications when the next round of funding opens. JP to send forms to AJ.	JP
6	<b>Police Report</b> TS was pleased to announce that FRCC had received the first monthly pan-Black Isle report, covering 1/2/25-28/2/25. Offences recorded included speeding, careless/drink driving, driving without insurance/MOT, isolated vandalism incidents, two housebreaking incidents leading to arrests, some drug/county lines activity, and a counter-terrorism (anti-extremism) programme for schools.	
7	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> In BL's absence, TS presented the monthly report. The £300 donation from Dickson for the Feddon Hill playpark had been banked. JP has sent thanks. Expenditure included £155.88 for the zoom account. The balance of	

	both accounts stood at £7378.00. It was agreed that discussion of future fund-raising events would be moved to a future meeting when BL was in attendance.	
8	<b>Licensing</b> Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club application to change licence to allow a vehicle to sell alcoholic beverages to members (only) on the course, plus a change of hours to 1000-0100. No objections.	
9 9.1	<b>Community issues/consultations</b> <u>Road closures:</u> The Fairy Glen road will be closed for much-needed repair work from 7th-18th April inclusive, part of which (from the old quarry to Rosemarkie) will be a complete closure including emergency vehicles. Information re buses on Stagecoach website. FRCC had received queries regarding access for residents living on the Eathie Road. JP to send details of vulnerable residents to MMM to raise with THC. Details of provision for resident access to be put on FRCC Facebook (HA) and website, and JP to reply to individual queries. JP said she was disappointed that THC had not contacted individual properties affected, as was routine when electricity or water supplies were suspended.	JP JP/HA
9.2	<u>Highland local development plan:</u> Deadline extended to 2/5/25.	
9.3	<u>Community Councils consultation:</u> Deadline 9/4/25. TS has drafted a response which he will circulate.	TS
9.4	<u>Ardersier port dredging:</u> Operations will commence this month around the clock for a number of weeks. AJ noted Rosemarkie residents' complaints over repetitive industrial noise and concerns over quality of life/marine wildlife disturbance. TS to respond noting noise and other concerns.	TS
9.5	<u>Coastal erosion:</u> MMM said that she was pursuing THC over footpath/pavement parking on Marine Terrace and the continuing lack of yellow lines and signage. A meeting with the acting officer has been scheduled. AJ said that sea defence work near the Golf Club/caravan site now appeared to be complete but the site had not been restored to its former condition, as promised. AJ to send picture(s) to MMM for follow-up.	AJ/MMM
10 10.1	<b>Community groups/meetings</b> <u>Regenerate Our Green Space (ROGS):</u> JP said that around 20 volunteers plus THC ranger had helped at a railway path tidy up day, organised with ROGS and Avoch and Killen CC. A particularly muddy stretch had been tackled and the improvement noticeable. Feedback on FB etc had been very positive. Another volunteer day would	

10.2	<p>be held in the autumn. HA had suggested that Community Payback could be involved. JP to investigate that and SSE volunteer day/Cadet Force involvement.</p> <p><u>Rosemarkie &amp; Fortrose Trust (RAFT)</u>: LV said that George, who cleans the toilets, will now be doing six days a week rather than seven due to the poor Sunday bus service from Avoch. RAFT to monitor impact. Repairs to ceilings and electrics due to frozen pipe damage will take place shortly. The toilets will remain open.</p>	JP
10.3	<p><u>Chanonry Point Action Group</u>: KW said it was unclear who had repaired the damaged stone table but it was most welcome. She had concerns about the danger posed by the large flagstone that was now propped up nearby. KW to brief MMM with a view to informing THC/ranger service.</p>	KW/MMM
10.4	<p><u>Fortrose Fun Day</u>: AP said that this would be held on Saturday 6/9/25 and she had agreed with the organisers that FRCC would help with their set up in return for assistance at the St Boniface Fair on 2/8/25.</p>	
10.5	<p><u>Black Isle Community Councils (BICC)</u>: April meeting tba.</p>	
10.6	<p><u>FRCC Seniors' Afternoon Tea</u>: Date to be set once Gordon Memorial Hall availability checked. Probably June. Young Councillors/Academy/local volunteers to be alerted.</p>	AP/JP
10.7	<p><u>St Boniface Fair</u>: Planning meeting on 17/4/25. Volunteers welcome, especially for craft-making stall as an FRCC fund-raiser. JP to include in mailout.</p>	JP
10.8	<p><u>Common Good</u>: AP to circulate email from THC responding to questions from the sub-group (which would meet this month). Further questions had arisen over the sale of land adjacent to the Boat House, and ownership of the George V playing fields.</p>	AP
11	<p><b>Any other business</b></p>	
11.1	<p>It was with regret that LV said she was stepping down from FRCC due to other commitments. She intended to continue to provide specific project support and regular RAFT updates. TS thanked her for all her work on behalf of the entire community council.</p>	
11.2	<p><u>Fortrose Burgh Chain of Office</u>: THC official had enquired about access to take an official photograph. AP explained that although the Chain itself was only worth around £200, paying to keep it in bank storage was very expensive and it been agreed by a previous FRCC that a member would take it for safe-keeping. AP to arrange access. Discussion of where it should be kept in future - for example, on public display - would be discussed at the next meeting. JP to put on agenda.</p>	AP JP
12	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> 7pm on 7th May via zoom. Date and location of AGM (to be held by end of June) for discussion at next meeting.</p>	

