

Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

Wednesday 7th May 2025 via Zoom

Minutes

| Item | | Action by |
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| 1 | <p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p><u>Committee:</u> Theo Stratton (Chair) TS; Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP; Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL, Kerry Ward KW, Heather Alexander HA, Anne Phillips AP.</p> <p><u>Ex-Officio:</u> Cllr Morven-May MacCallum MMM; Daniel Simpson (Co-op)</p> <p><u>Residents:</u> Pamela Masden PM, Matthew Locke ML.</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Ann Jefferson AJ</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Agreed. Proposed AP, seconded KW.</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss Agenda item 4 next.</p> | |
| 3 3.1 | <p>Planning</p> <p>Cllr Morven-May took no part in these discussions.</p> <p><u>Co-op presentation</u> DS introduced himself as the Operations Manager for the Co-op in the Highlands and Islands. He hoped to reach out and engage members of the community and the surrounding vicinity regarding plans. He explained that the current retail unit has limited space leading to a limited range, and equipment such as chillers and checkouts require replacement. He said an extension was pivotal to investment. Plans are now lodged with THC to extend the building at the back which would improve customer and colleague experience. Initial plans had been revised in the light of comments. TS confirmed that FRCC had expressed local concerns, especially safety, regarding pedestrians and access for delivery vehicles. DS said that the Co-op had risk-assessed the plans and is taking mitigation steps such as avoiding peak customer/school/traffic times for deliveries. DS said other options, such as re-siting near the care home, were not currently being considered. He noted the interest in providing Post Office counter services following the closure of Fortrose Post Office but said that space even in an extended existing building would pose a problem. It was hoped that, with Council approval, work would commence in September and that complete closure would be kept to a minimum of approximately two weeks. The Co-op was open to</p> | |

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| 3.2 | <p>providing a “pop-up” shop supplying key staple items during this period but finding a suitable location for the large portakabin-type building was proving difficult. DS to supply details to MMM.</p> <p><u>House proposal, Fortrose</u></p> <p>ML introduced himself as a regular visitor, F&R golf club member and the new owner of the steep triangular plot bordered by the High Street and Canonbury Terrace. The site is currently being kept tidy with a view to building a house for permanent occupancy for himself and his wife. As a retired architect, he shared his plans for a two-bedroom house. He is in touch with THC conservation officer, is aware of the requirement to provide safe access and of the need to ensure minimum traffic disruption during construction. Plans are being submitted to THC. TS thanked him for his engagement. DS and ML left the meeting.</p> | DS/MMM |
| 3.3 | <p><u>Applications: Co-op:</u> TS noted that revised plans from the Co-op had now been submitted. No comments</p> <p><u>2 High Street Rosemarkie:</u> Extension/heat pump/solar panels. No comments.</p> | |
| 4 | Minutes: Matters Arising | |
| 4.1 | <u>Anti-Litter banner:</u> MMM in contact with THC roads dept to find a suitable location. | |
| 4.2 | <u>Mailout:</u> As requested, the last FRCC email contained information regarding dog fouling, SEPA flood map and a call for volunteers. | |
| 4.3 | <u>Marine Terrace traffic:</u> In AJ’s absence, JP said that photographs, a video and information regarding parking on Marine Terrace had been sent to MMM. MMM thanked AJ and said that she and THC officials had found it extremely useful. She is following up on yellow lines and signage and, with a separate officer, the possibility of extending posts to prevent kerb parking. AP said that the bank holiday had seen “utter chaos” on the seafront, including ‘no entry’ signs being ignored, despite the presence of a parking attendant. FRCC thanked THC for providing an attendant and hoped for more visits on key dates and during fine weather. There was recognition that a new road layout may take time to bed-in and it was suggested that a temporary road sign on the approach to Rosemarkie might alert visitors. MMM to investigate with THC. | |
| 4.4 | <u>Website:</u> HA had circulated an assessment of the relative merits of Wordpress v Spanglefish with a view to upgrading the FRCC website. Somewhat surprisingly, she said, she recommended staying with Spanglefish and upgrading the service, which would be cheaper, | MMM |

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| 4.5 | <p>would allow a re-design and for material to be migrated. HA was thanked for her research and it was agreed to proceed with her suggestion.</p> <p><u>Benches project:</u> JP was awaiting an update, and invoice for material, from the Academy for the refurbishment of benches on Green Gates by pupils. HA was continuing to investigate land ownership with a view to installing a bench along the Rosemarkie/Fortrose road.</p> | HA JP |
| 4.6 | <p><u>Seniors' Afternoon Tea:</u> Gordon Memorial Hall booked for Thursday 26th June. AP liaising with musicians, JP liaising with Academy and Young Councillors regarding volunteers and other entertainment. A call for prizes for a (free) raffle would be included in the next mailout.</p> | HA AP/JP |
| 4.7 | <p><u>St Boniface Fair:</u> Planning meeting held 17/4/25. Ap to send letters to vendors shortly. Next planning meeting due 5/6/25. AP writing risk assessment for Cadets. Lucy Tonkin liaising with school re publicity. Musicians approached. Street entertainers booked, requiring a £150 deposit which BL had actioned.</p> | JP |
| 4.8 | <p><u>Speeding:</u> TS following up request for speed camera van, although finding a suitable parking location may be a problem.</p> | TS |
| 4.9 | <p><u>Road Closures:</u> No reported issues or comments received during Fairy Glen road closure.</p> | |
| 4.10 | <p><u>Chain of Office:</u> AP had put THC representative in touch with the person looking after the Burgh Chain. There was some discussion regarding a suitable safe and publicly-accessible location where it might be permanently displayed. AP to approach Groam House.</p> | AP |
| 5 | Points from the public/correspondence | |
| 5.1 | <p><u>Ardersier Port Authority:</u> Request for Chair to contact them regarding dredging operations. TS to respond.</p> | TS |
| 5.2 | <p><u>St Andrews Steps:</u> A note of appreciation for work carried out so far had been left in the library box. JP to pass on to ROGS/Mens' Shed contacts.</p> | JP |
| 6 | <p>Police Report</p> <p>TS had had confirmation that the monthly report's contents can be made public in their entirety. This month's report featured road safety/road crime incidents, mostly on the A9. Separately, FRCC had received one report of anti-social behaviour around Cathedral Square. MMM asked for details. AP to provide. (NB Damage to the Cathedral boundary wall was accidental and NOT the result of vandalism. Historic Environment Scotland aware).</p> | AP/MMM |

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| 10.3 | <u>Black Isle Community Councils</u> : Meeting date tbc for Place Plan steering group to plan board launch. | |
| 10.4 | <u>Black Isle Tourism</u> : No meeting. | |
| 10.5 | <u>Black Isle Partnership</u> : No meeting. | |
| 10.6 | <u>Rosemarkie & Fortrose Trust (RAFT)</u> : No update | |
| 10.7 | <u>Regenerate Our Green Space (ROGS)</u> : JP said that plans to acquire the Ness Road land were progressing. Restoration of the St Andrews steps by the Episcopal Church was also progressing well (see 5.2). JP had also contacted SSE regarding community volunteers for future projects and made some initial enquiries regarding "community payback" schemes. ROGS had earmarked tentative dates for more "tidy up" sessions including more work on the Railway Line path (13/14 September), High Street to St Andrews Walk path (4/5 October), Easter Watergate to sheltered housing and Cathedral Square (15/16 Nov). HA said that she and other ROGS members were in talks with Black Isle Cares regarding the garden outside the Leisure Centre. | |
| 11 | Any Other Business | |
| 11.1 | <u>Fortrose Fun Day</u> : Planned for 6.9.25. AP attended planning meeting - hoping for reciprocal help with setting up stalls at St Boniface. | |
| 12 | Date of Next Meeting 7pm on Wednesday 4th June in the Committee Room, Black Isle Leisure Centre, Fortrose. The monthly meeting will be preceded by the AGM. MMM unable to attend - alternative ward councillor to be invited by JP. JP to book venue. | JP |