

# Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

**Wednesday 4th June 2025** in Committee Room,  
Black Isle Leisure Centre, Fortrose

## Minutes

Item		Action by
1	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b>  <u>Committee:</u> Theo Stratton (Chair) TS; Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP; Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL; Kerry Ward KW; Anne Phillips AP; Heather Alexander HA  <u>Residents:</u> Susan Munro SM;  <u>Apologies:</u> Cllr Sarah Atkin SA; Pam Masden PM</p> <p>The CC noted the passing of Dr MacGregor, commending his long service as a local GP and sending sincere condolences to his family.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>  Agreed. Proposed HA, seconded KW.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p>	
3.1	<p><u>Website:</u> HA presented a summary of possible new designs available via Spanglefish, incorporating requirements expressed in the recent survey and using, as examples, other community websites. HA was thanked for her excellent work and it was agreed that she, BL and SM would progress the project.</p>	HA/BL/SM
3.2	<p><u>Benches:</u> HA in contact with THC to establish land ownership of Fortrose/Rosemarkie road strip. HA to seek assistance from ward councillors. JP to send contact details.  JP has yet to hear from Fortrose Academy re Green Gates bench refurbishment. JP to chase.</p>	JP/HA JP
3.3	<p><u>Mercat Cross:</u> TS confirmed that the pieces are now in safe possession of THC and that the Council is legally required to undertake repairs - timing, however, tbc. THC and Historic Environment Scotland are both aware of a preference expressed by residents to have the repaired and/or restored cross sited in the Cathedral grounds, possibly with an information board. It was noted that the remains of the stump present a trip hazard and an eyesore on the High Street. TS to discuss with ward councillors/roads department.</p>	TS
3.4	<p><u>Chain of Office:</u> As requested, AP had arranged for THC to take pictures of the Burgh chain of office which is in safe-keeping until an appropriate location for display can be found. Groam House Museum trustees are due to discuss the matter. AP to update. For discussion at next meeting.</p>	AP

3.5	<u>Senior's Afternoon Tea</u> : AP said sign-up lists for residents over 65 who would like to come (Thursday 26th June at the Gordon Memorial Hall, Rosemarkie 2pm-4pm) will go to local shops shortly, including Rosemarkie Spar and the Cromarty Bakery. Residents can also email or text FRCC. Publicity via Facebook. JP to draw up a list of volunteers.	AP/JP
3.6	<u>St Boniface Fair</u> : Planning meeting on 5/6/25 with AP as lead. KW to investigate trishaw involvement. JP to chase Cadet help for set-up.	AP/KW/JP
3.7	<u>BT Telephone Box sale</u> : BT consultation closing date in July. HA to monitor.	HA
4	<b>Points from the Public/Correspondence</b>	
4.1	<u>Cathedral grass</u> : Residents had expressed concern about the length of the grass in the Cathedral grounds which looks untidy. JP confirmed that Historic Environment Scotland was leaving the grass long for environmental reasons. AP to discuss next time she is in contact with the HES lead. JP to put an explanation on the gate when HES wording available.	AP/JP
4.2	<u>St Andrew's Walk/Fortrose signage</u> : Prospective resident Matthew Locke had offered to develop a design for a new village sign on his land at the junction of St Andrew's Walk and Fortrose High Street. He is liaising with the Roads department and JP will stay in touch with him.	JP
4.3	<u>Community buildings/solar panels</u> : A new community benefit society had been in touch regarding an offer of assistance to install solar PV panels on community buildings. It was agreed that since FRCC did not own any buildings, this was of limited use, however JP to send information to RAFT, RAA and Gordon Memorial Hall committee in case of interest.	JP
4.4	<u>Black Isle Men's Shed Testimonial</u> : BIMS have entered the Men's Shed of the Year competition and have requested a testimonial from FRCC, outlining assistance given this year (including Christmas lights project, Burgh furniture, St Andrew's Steps, Fortrose noticeboard). JP to draft and send.	JP
4.5	<u>Road crossing/traffic calming Rosemarkie</u> : Resident Gareth Phillips had copied FRCC into his emails to ward councillors with suggestions for safer pedestrian crossing points on Rosemarkie High Street. FRCC to formally endorse his request for THC Roads department to consider possible improvements. JP to write.	JP
4.6	<u>Tavern Lane tidy up</u> : SA had emailed to pass on concerns from residents regarding the state of the alley (unadopted by THC) between Fortrose High Street and The Orchard/Station Crescent. JP/HA to inspect and suggest possible joint "tidy up" session to ROGS/local residents.	JP/HA
4.7	<u>Rosemarkie Churchyard Bins</u> : Residents had complained these had not been emptied. AP to contact church/THC.	AP
4.8	<u>Fortrose Fun Day</u> : The fundraiser for F&R Union FC is	

	scheduled for 6/9/25. FRCC to take stall. AP has suggested reciprocal help for erecting stalls for St Boniface Fair.	
5	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>BL submitted a May report in addition to the AGM's financial year report. The combined balance stands at £7,041.49. Outgoings included payment for Feddon Hill play park membrane (£55.98) and Makaton training donation (£85). Awaiting various invoices (see 5.2).</p> <p>5.1 <u>Future fund-raising</u>: It was agreed that some form of end-of summer/early autumn event should be held to community-build and raise funds. Discussion included possible ceilidh, beetle drive, family treasure hunt, or quiz night. BL to approach possible organisers/helpers. It was agreed that an Open Gardens day might be held next year since organisation and finding an appropriate date takes time. KW/HA to initiate investigations.</p> <p>5.2 <u>St Andrew's Steps</u>: JP thanked ROGS/BIMS for all the work done so far to improve safety and access. The handrail had yet to be installed and the lower set of steps were therefore incompleated. FRCC Facebook page had been used to alert pedestrians to the fact that, at present, use was at own risk. An invoice for material had yet to be received. It was agreed that the FRCC would cover the unanticipated cost of gravel, which local business Martin Gill had kindly agreed to supply at cost price. Invoice pending.</p>	<p>BL</p> <p>KW/HA</p>
6	<p><b>Community Issues/Consultations</b></p> <p>6.1 <u>Ardersier expansion</u>: TS had been contacted by the Communications Office for the port owner. A public meeting is to be held in Ardersier village hall on 11/6/25. Contact has been made by the port with all local CCs. FRCC had concerns regarding noise, future shipping traffic and disturbance to the resident dolphin population. There was particular concern regarding the extent to which the company had assessed the possible environmental impact on the north side of the firth and around Chanonry Point - namely monitoring the impact of dredging and possible changes to storm wave patterns and thus coastal erosion. TS to submit feedback.</p> <p>6.2 <u>Speeding/motorhomes</u>: SM shared concerns regarding traffic speed on Ness Road and whether speed bumps or a chicane would bring speeds down to the 20mph limit. She also said parking by visitors in motorhomes on Ness Road and East Ness Road was causing issues, namely, with access for emergency vehicles, and illegal parking on pavements. Some motorhomes were parked in residential streets overnight. JP to supply contact details for ward councillors to SM. KW to supply ranger details.</p>	<p>TS</p> <p>JP/KW/SM</p>
7	<b>Planning</b>	

7.1	<u>Coastal sauna, Rosemarkie</u> : Application for public sauna and changing room north east of Rosemarkie (along coastal path). FRCC noted that the proposed business was within a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Concerns regarding access and parking for customers were also noted. The intention was to heat the sauna with a wood-burning stove which raised questions regarding possible local fire risk, and the need for adequate access for emergency vehicles. It was agreed that TS would submit an FRCC objection based on the location concerns discussed.	TS
7.2	<u>Other planning applications</u> : Extension, house, Mackenzie Terrace. No comments. Care home, extension. No comments.	
8	<b>Licensing</b> No matters arising.	
9	<b>Police Report</b> TS had received a pan-Black Isle report for April. JP to upload to FRCC website for public inspection. TS said that he hoped to attend the July meeting planned by Police Scotland and representatives from two BICCs, at which he would request mobile speed cameras to gather evidence locally.	JP  TS
10	<b>Community Groups/Meetings</b>	JP/KW
10.1	<u>Young Councillors</u> : JP said she had recently taken the group for pizzas as a thank you and farewell event for the S6s leaving for university. The five remaining YCs were intending to help at the Seniors' Afternoon tea.	
10.2	<u>Common Good sub-group</u> : AP thanked Nairn CC for assistance in locating maps relating to Common Good land. A meeting was planned with Lynn Bauermeister (THC Community Support and Ward Manager).	
10.3	<u>Regenerate Our Green Space</u> : JP said she was delighted to report that lawyers were in the process of drawing up the paperwork to transfer ownership of a triangle of land on Ness Road (opposite and south west of the care home) from Tullochs to ROGS. A draft plan of the proposed community garden, including small allotments, a pond, community growing area, seating and wildlife areas was in development.	
10.4	<u>Black Isle Community Councils</u> : Date tba for next meeting. No Place Plan update.	
10.5	<u>Chanonry Point Action Group</u> : KW said that a date has been set for this year's Access Day - Saturday 26th July. Volunteers are sought to help put out and take in mats to allow wheelchair users onto the beach. JP to supply Cadet contact and publicise on next mail out. An Access Day at Rosemarkie beach was planned for the last weekend in August. Details to follow.	

11 11.1	<b>Any Other Business</b> <u>Fortrose High Street improvements</u> : SA had provided an update on the ward councillors actions to improve crossing points/dropped kerbs on Fortrose High Street. Draft drawings were being prepared by THC and it was hoped work might be completed by October.	
12	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Wednesday 2nd July at 7pm on ZOOM.	