

Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

Wednesday 6th August 2025 by Zoom

Minutes

Item		Action by
1	Welcome and Apologies <u>Committee</u> : Theo Stratton (Chair) TS; Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP; Anne Phillips AP; Heather Alexander HA; Kerry Ward KW <u>Associate Member</u> : Ann Jefferson AJ <u>Residents</u> : Susan Munro SM <u>Ex-Officio</u> : Cllr Lyndsey Johnston LJ <u>Apologies</u> : Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL	
2	Minutes of the Last Meeting Agreed. Proposed AP, seconded KW.	
3	Matters Arising	
3.1	<u>Chain of Office</u> : Yet to hear whether Groam House Museum wishes to display it. AP was asked what information was available regarding the original (the current chain is understood to be a replacement made for the Quincentenary in 1955). AP to investigate other historical sources. LJ to enquire via THC. JP to ask for suggestions regarding display location in the next mailout. HA to put on Facebook.	AP/LJ JP HA
3.2	<u>Phone Boxes</u> : No BT news. HA to monitor.	
3.3	<u>St Boniface Fair</u> : The meeting thanked AP for her tireless organisation, SM for her hard work collecting bottle stall donations, and everyone else whose efforts made the day a success. The weather, once again, encouraged a good attendance and just under £600 was raised. A full de-brief, including discussion of a date for next year's event, will be held on 20/8/25. AP organising.	AP
3.4	<u>Fortrose Fun Day</u> : FRCC has a stall at this event on 6/9/25. TS agreed to man it with assistance (SM/AP to check). JP to provide game/tombola prizes (latter donated by Tesco community scheme) etc in advance (as she cannot attend). BL to provide float.	TS/JP/SM/ AP/BL
3.5	<u>Website</u> : HA said that work was on-going by Plexus and some information had been migrated. JP to inspect. It was agreed a competition would be run to provide "banner" photos for the site, when we publicise the relaunch. HA to update at next meeting.	JP HA

4	Points from the Public/Correspondence	
4.1	<u>Water quality/sea swimming:</u> Concern had been expressed over water quality at local sea swimming sites, namely Rosemarkie Beach and Fortrose Harbour, after heavy rain. TS said that SEPA issues a weekly report for Rosemarkie (but not Fortrose which is not monitored) and overall, the quality was excellent. However, it was noted some swimmers might not be aware of SEPA's advice NOT to bathe during, or 1-2 days after, heavy rainfall, due to short-term pollution "caused by sewer overflows, agricultural run-off and surface water discharge". HA to link to SEPA site and advisory on FRCC Facebook page.	HA
4.2	<u>Traffic - Road Traffic Order Rosemarkie:</u> AJ expressed dismay at the continuing lack of signage and road-markings, and the lack of protection of the verge/provision for pedestrians, on Marine Terrace. TS highlighted a RTO for Marine Terrace, issued 2/7/25 which <i>appears</i> to indicate that action on road-markings and signage is imminent. LJ to confirm timescale with THC. Regarding the verge/provision for pedestrians, LJ to establish from THC who owns the land and liaise with AJ over correspondence and action to date. Regarding much-needed provision for overflow parking, possibly on land currently owned by Scottish Water, LJ said she was aware of proposals discussed by FRCC with other ward councillors and would update at next meeting.	LJ LJ/AJ
4.3	<u>Chanonry Point:</u> AJ said that public areas were looking tired and in a state of disrepair. Recently, bollards to count the number of visitors automatically had been erected by THC on the path from the car park to the Point, and, once the numbers of visitors had been established, arguing for funding might be easier. AJ and others pointed out that many visitors do not use the path being monitored since it is poorly signed, and had concerns that the plan will not capture the necessary data. It was agreed that Chanonry Point Action Group's (CPAG) input into counting visitors and future plans for the Point would be of great assistance to THC. LJ to establish a contact at THC and pass details to AJ/CPAG. The recent Chanonry Point Access Day had been a resounding success with around 50 visitors from the Highlands and beyond. Feedback indicated that knowing there would be parking had played a major role in their decision to come. FRCC thanked THC, in particular the Ranger and Parking Warden, for their invaluable help. The abandoned boat, still at the Point, is now starting to break up and presents a potential hazard with debris likely to enter the sea. TS to chase THC re removal. AJ said that CPAG continued to have concerns regarding	LJ LJ/AJ TS

4.4 4.5	water safety at the point. It was understood that an RNLI report highlighting concerns had been lodged with THC but nothing appeared to have come of it. AJ to send details to TS. AJ made a strong case for better signage <i>before</i> visitors reach Chanonry Point, with “no motorhomes” signs on both sides of the Golf Course road and a clear indication that there are no toilets at the point. LJ to pursue. <u>Janitor’s House, Fortrose</u>: A resident had complained regarding the state of the vacant property and garden. LJ was asked urgently to establish what THC’s plans are for the building, and ask them to commit to grass-cutting and basic garden maintenance until a permanent solution is delivered. <u>Footpaths</u>: FRCC thanked all those involved in completing the St Andrews’ Church Steps project, namely Black Isle Men’s Shed and ROGS volunteers, local businesses who gave discounted goods and services, and Highland Council who made a substantial contribution to the budget. ROGS, with FRCC support, continues its programme of “tidy up sessions”: the next for the path and steps from Fortrose High Street down to St Andrews’ Walk and the Harbour is planned for 1030 on Saturday 16/8/25. Volunteers are sought and to that end, JP and HA to leaflet nearby houses in advance. Two other residents had flagged paths in need of attention. The first, connecting Fortrose Bay campsite with the picnic area on Wester Greengates, is well-used but overgrown. It is understood to be on Council land and has been maintained by the THC in the past. JP to forward resident’s concerns to LJ to take up with THC. JP to flag the second suggestion (the footpath down Ness Road from the entrance to Ness Way) to ROGS for inspection and possible action. AP to send details of TORB (Tidy Our Royal Burgh) members, which used to arrange litter picks etc, to JP in case any members are still active and wish to get involved. LJ said that the job of a sponsored “village officer” was being advertised elsewhere in THC area and that perhaps a similar role was possible for Fortrose and Rosemarkie. TS to investigate. In Rosemarkie, the Slog steps were in need of improvement. It has already been established that the land is owned by THC. Given that more housing is being built at Greenside and that residents would likely use the path and steps, it was suggested that a joint approach by Rosemarkie Amenities and FRCC to the Pat Munro Foundation for possible funding or other practical support might be worthwhile. JP to liaise with TS and RAA	AJ/TS LJ LJ JP/HA JP/LJ JP AP/JP TS
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7.2	<u>Canonbury Terrace, Fortrose, house extension.</u> No comment.	
8	Licensing	
8.1	<u>Fortrose Bowling Club</u> : licence for a one-day event. No comment.	
8.2	<u>Short-term lets</u> : TS said there were no applications as far as he was able to establish from THC website. LJ noted that Community Councils should be aware that the grounds for rejecting an application are very limited: namely, whether the applicant is a fit and proper person, and/or over safety concerns regarding the property.	
9	Police Report	
9.1	No report from July as yet. TS to circulate when received. <u>Rosemarkie</u> : FRCC had been made aware of damage caused by an unknown vehicle to a grit bin, a private car and a lamp-post in Rosemarkie. FRCC has been told by THC that the lamp-post will be replaced by a similar Victorian-style one. LJ confirmed that THC will replace the grit bin.	
10	Community Groups and Meetings	
10.1	<u>Rosemarkie Amenities Association (RAA)</u> : AP was delighted to share the news that RAA had received funding to carry out work to improve the Prom by the Beach Cafe in Rosemarkie. It was anticipated that work would be completed in time for Bonfire Night. The RAA Fun Day is 12-3pm on 16/8/25.	
11	Any Other Business	
11.1	<u>Mercat Cross</u> : TS reported that THC would assess in October and the FRCC would receive an update. TS would also remind THC of the persistent rumour that the top of the cross is buried on the site below where the cross stood and ask them to investigate if possible.	TS
11.2	<u>Rosemarkie Clock Chimes</u> : AP confirmed that refurbishment of the clock was anticipated when work on the church is undertaken by the Church of Scotland.	
11.3	<u>Gordon Memorial Hall, Rosemarkie</u> : AP noted that the Chair and the Vice-Chair of FRCC are automatically trustees of the GMH. The meeting saw no need at this present time to appoint a Vice-Chair solely for this purpose and it was agreed that TS, as chair, would attend the GMH AGM on 21/8/25.	
12	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 3rd September at 7pm via Zoom.	