

Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

Wednesday 5th November 2025 by Zoom

Minutes

Item		Action by
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies <u>Committee:</u> Theo Stratton (Chair) TS; Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL; Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP; Heather Alexander HA; Susan Munro SM; Anne Phillips AP; Kerry Ward KW; Ann Jefferson (Associate Member) AJ <u>Ex-Officio:</u> Cllr Lyndsey Johnston LJ <u>Residents:</u> Jillian Donnet JD; Chrissie Lane CL; Ian Munro IM; Gareth Phillips GP; Ingrid Robertson IR; Angela Stewart AS <u>Apologies:</u> None received. Note: A proposal received on 5/11/25, that AJ be co-opted as a full member, has been deferred to December's meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting Minutes were approved. Proposed HA, seconded KW.</p>	
3 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4	<p>Matters Arising <u>Common Good Consultation:</u> A lengthy discussion took place relating to declarations of interest. In future, as required by Standing Orders, all meetings will include an invitation to declare interests at the start. The proposed Community Asset Transfer, by Rosefort Community Interest Company, of Rosemarkie campsite was noted. GP to meet TS to outline plans. <u>Property, Fortrose High Street:</u> No update. LJ to report back at next meeting. <u>Chain of Office/Provost:</u> Update on display location at next meeting, following advice from Ward Manager. It was agreed by a unanimous vote that TS should start the process to request that the role of Provost is reinstated. TS to contact THC. <u>BT Phone Box:</u> HA said that potential maintenance issues had arisen following the purchase. BT have denied they were aware and consider any issues now a matter for FRCC following the purchase for £1 in September. It was agreed that the first step would be to clear leaves and debris from behind the box. HA/JP to action. Suggestions for use to be discussed at the December meeting. IM asked why FRCC had made the purchase without a clear idea of future use. JP explained that it was a local landmark, was of architectural interest, that BT gave a short window for purchase before it would be removed, that other communities had developed many creative uses for boxes and that, if all else failed, selling a K6 box could deliver a substantial</p>	<p>GP/TS LJ TS HA/JP</p>

	sum for the FRCC. HA said that FRCC posts on Facebook had already yielded many suggestions from residents, but the first job was clearly to make the box wind- and water-tight, and that BIMS had been approached to help.	
3.5	<u>Photo competition</u> : JP said the response so far had been disappointing. HA and JP to distribute publicity posters with committee help. JP to approach schools.	HA/JP
3.6	<u>Janitor's House, Fortrose</u> : LJ said that THC's intention was to use the building as an operational base for proposed rebuilding/refurbishment at the Academy. JP asked when this work might take place. LJ said months rather than years. In the meantime, LJ had requested the garden was cut back and asked for feedback if this did not happen.	LJ
3.7	<u>Co-op Closure</u> : Store due to reopen in early December. FRCC had requested anyone who required assistance to contact it. As yet, no messages had been received via FRCC email/mobile phone.	
3.8	<u>Trishaws</u> : KW said that speaking as a committee member for the Trishaws, she thanked the FRCC for their donation towards the cost of a new battery. An application by the group to the ward discretionary fund was underway.	
3.9	<u>Feddanhill Woods visit</u> : Very positive feedback from FRCC Facebook post. JP to send feedback to the owner. GP reminded the meeting that the Scottish Outdoor Access Code meant the public has a right to access woodland even if privately owned. All agreed that only responsible visitors should be encouraged, given the regrettable incidents of vandalism on the site in the past.	JP
3.10	<u>Hanging Baskets for villages</u> : For discussion at future meeting (January/February tbc) with exploration of sub-committee to investigate practicalities.	
3.11	<u>Winter resilience</u> : SM has circulated an initial update following contact with THC and other Community Councils, some of whom might act as a "good practice" template for FRCC. It was suggested that a sub-group should be established from FRCC members and volunteers from the wider community. KW and TS agreed to join. SM to draft scope of work and circulate. LJ and AP noted sources of possible funds if required.	SM
3.12	<u>Christmas</u> : <u>Christmas Eve Carols/Songs at the Cathedral</u> : AP to arrange a planning meeting shortly. Historical Environment Scotland had given permission for use, with access from 2.30pm for set up. <u>Christmas Lights</u> : JP arranging PAT testing this month with BIMS member for Village Christmas lights. <u>Christmas Tree/Lights</u> : BL to arrange Christmas Tree for Cathedral Square and erection/removal of street lights.	AP JP BL
4	Points from the Public/Correspondence	
4.1	<u>Committee Room furniture</u> : Highlife Highland had contacted	

<p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p>	<p>FRCC asking if there was an alternative location to house the Burgh table and chairs due to space issues at the Leisure Centre. TS had checked and the furniture is currently not on the Common Good asset register. It was agreed that TS should rectify this as soon as possible. AP said that it was specifically agreed that the Leisure Centre would house the furniture in a room for the FRCC's use when the Town House was sold. AP to check relevant minutes and whether in fact FRCC use of the room should not incur a charge (currently a disincentive to hold regular meetings there). BL noted that Black Isle Men's Shed volunteers had already devoted time and energy to refurbishment and were about to start on the table. He noted that if the room was used for example by toddler groups as indicated by HLH, then the furniture might well be damaged in future. Other locations suggested had been rejected (Town Hall, Library) but it was agreed that some others could be explored (eg Cathedral Chapterhouse).</p> <p><u>Tree Survey</u>: A member of the public had raised, again, concerns over the condition of trees along the A832, the main road between Fortrose and Avoch. There were particular worries that in a future storm, they would present a serious hazard. HA said that THC's own map showed that the trees were part of a tree protection order and thus even though most/all of the trees might be on private land, THC should be obliged to make an assessment, contact the landowner and/or take necessary steps itself. LJ noted that residents in a separate part of Fortrose also had an issue with a large tree. LJ to pass details, and THC contacts to JP who will write to THC tree officer as a matter of urgency highlighting potential health and safety issues where relevant.</p> <p><u>Greengates Benches</u>: JP said that Fortrose Academy's head had confirmed that the tech department was working on refurbishment and that the cost of materials was likely to come in under the amount donated by FRCC. He had suggested that any surplus might be used for other school projects. JP to get details and report back at future FRCC meeting to approve/reject.</p> <p><u>Manhole Cover, footpath off Ness Road</u>: A resident had emailed with continuing safety concerns. It appears the raised manhole cover is not an issue for Scottish Water but belongs to a neighbouring vacant house. JP to assist as far as possible.</p>	<p>TS</p> <p>AP</p> <p>LJ/JP</p> <p>JP</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report The total of accounts: £6,942.34. JP to investigate (possible free) THC Teams account instead of Zoom before latter renewal due in March 2026.</p>	<p>JP</p>
<p>6</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p>	<p>Community Issues and Consultations <u>Common Good consultation</u>: See above. Young Councillors: JP said a new Young Councillor has joined</p>	

6.3	the school-based group: Beth Knight, Rosemarkie. <u>Cathedral Square noticeboard</u> : For discussion at future meeting. JP to continue to investigate options.	JP
6.4	<u>Avoch public toilets</u> : No update.	
6.5	<u>Moray Flow Park</u> : TS shared a map of the proposed plan for anchored storage areas for wind turbines off Nairn and Findhorn. Public meetings were scheduled to be held in Findhorn and Nairn on 11/11/25. AP and HA were concerned that neither FRCC nor Cromarty and District CC had been consulted. TS to liaise with other CCs and to write to the necessary bodies to formally request our involvement. LJ said there were multiple concerns for this side of the Firth including impact on coastal erosion and wildlife. IR flagged local residents with expertise who might assist in an assessment. HA noted that a Facebook group was running with updates (Stop the Moray Firth Flow Park). It was agreed that it would be an agenda item at the December meeting.	TS
7	Planning LJ took no part in the discussion,	
7.1	<u>New barn, Broomhill, Fortrose</u> . No comments.	
7.2	<u>Community Gardens, Ness Road, Fortrose</u> . Application by Regenerate Our Green Space. (JP, HA and SM as ROGS directors took no part in this discussion). No comments.	
8	Licensing No applications. TS noted that figures regarding short term let (STL) use had been published and that of the 200 “new builds” erected 2020-2024 on the Black Isle, only 7 were STLs. LJ said that the area had the lowest rate of STLs in Highland, although the figures do not capture second homes that are not let as holiday cottages, and that a proportion of the STLs that did exist were not suitable as full-time residences (eg Yurts). The Area Committee had decided that it did not currently require its own STL policy but that the issue would be kept under review.	
9	Police Report TS said that he would circulate the September report and would do likewise when the October report appeared.	TS
10	Community Groups/Meetings	
10.1	<u>Chanonry Point Action Group</u> : A zoom meeting will be scheduled shortly. Awaiting latest plans from THC, but in the meantime AP had circulated the 2022 plan. AJ asked LJ what stage the new plans were. LJ said she was awaiting information and would share when available. It was agreed that LJ and TS would press for a response from THC with indicative timings. KW welcomed the news that the Ranger would be employed over the winter, on a part time basis, and thanked him for improvements	LJ/TS

10.2	he had carried out already on the path. <u>Regenerate Our Green Space</u> : See 7.2 above. There would be a final joint “tidy up” of the year, organised by FRCC and ROGS, in Cathedral Square 10am-12pm on Saturday 15 November. HA and JP to distribute flyers asking for residents’ participation.	HA/JP
10.3	<u>Black Isle Men’s Shed</u> : See 4.1.	
10.4	<u>Black Isle Community Councils</u> : AP attended October meeting - minutes yet to be published. There had been discussion of a more formal approach to “Opportunity Black Isle”.	
10.5	<u>Rosemarkie Amenities Association</u> : Bonfire Night Saturday 8 November from 6pm. Volunteers are always sought for the clear up next morning. Any details to be shared on the FRCC Facebook page by HA.	HA
10.6	<u>Historic Scotland engagement event</u> : AP had attended with other participants from across Highland. The likely impact of climate change, in particular flooding concerns, on sites by 2050 had been discussed and a project to encourage people to document local sites was underway. AP to share details when available for FRCC mailout (JP) as first step.	AP/JP
11	Any Other Business	
11.1	<u>Remembrance Sunday</u> : TS and AP to attend as representatives. AP/BL had arranged payment for a wreath.	
11.2	<u>Town Hall shed</u> : AP said that the shed by the Town Hall was intended for use by FRCC but appeared to be used by the local Scouts. KW confirmed that it was also used by the Trishaw team. AP and JP agreed that the Christmas lights in particular required more secure storage than available in the King George V field shed. AP to investigate options.	AP
11.3	<u>List of outstanding actions</u> : AP suggested a list be compiled of outstanding actions/ongoing issues that tended to drop off agendas. JP to compile with input from FRCC committee and circulate ahead of each meeting.	JP
11.4	<u>Road crossing, Rosemarkie</u> : GP asked if there was any update on the request for a safe crossing on Rosemarkie High Street, given it presented a danger to children using school buses. GP to resend details to LJ.	GP/LJ
11.5	<u>(It was requested that this item would be discussed by FRCC committee only, and other attendees were asked to leave the meeting).</u> <u>Local drug-dealing</u> : BL said that the landlord of the Plough and the Tavern had shared his concern regarding drug dealing in and around his premises. He had requested FRCC assistance in approaching the police for help. It was agreed that BL would liaise as the FRCC representative.	BL
12	Date of next meeting 7pm Wednesday 3rd December. Committee Room, Black Isle Leisure Centre. TS to investigate online attendance options for committee members unable to attend in person.	TS

