

Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

3rd December 2025 at Committee Room, Black Isle Leisure Centre

Minutes

Item		Action by
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies <u>Committee:</u> Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL, Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP; Heather Alexander HA, Susan Munro SM, Anne Phillips AP, Ann Jefferson (Associate Member) AJ <u>Ex-Officio:</u> Cllr Lyndsey Johnston LJ; Andy Dorin (RAFT) AD <u>Residents:</u> Penny Scott PS, Mike Scott MS, Phil James PJ, Pamela Masden PM <u>Apologies:</u> Theo Stratton TS; Kerry Ward KW In TS's absence, AP was invited to chair the meeting. There were no relevant declarations of interest. AJ was nominated as a full committee member, proposed AP seconded BL, and was elected unopposed. AP welcomed residents attending. PS was pleased that it was an in-person meeting and hoped more would take place. There was some discussion over pros and cons of online/in person/ideal mixture. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting when all elected members were present. BL to investigate improving remote access for online attendees if more meetings are to be held in person.</p>	BL
2	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting JP proposed an amendment to the draft minutes, which was accepted. The amended minutes were approved; proposed AP, seconded HA.</p>	
3 3.1 3.2 3.3	<p>Matters Arising <u>Property, Fortrose High Street:</u> LJ apologised but due to illness had been unable to pursue the matter of the vacant council house/unoccupied house next door. SM enquired about the state of the garden. LJ to update at the next meeting. <u>Chain of Office/Provost:</u> LJ said that the Ward Manager, Lynn Baumeister, was in the process of arranging a valuation, the cost of which would be borne by the Common Good Fund. TS had now formally requested that the role of Provost be reinstated. <u>Phone Box:</u> HA had collated suggestions for future use: 3 suggested a defibrillator, 8 library/book swap, 1 community group "shop", 2 location information centre, 2</p>	LJ

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>giant planter/herb sales, 1 bakery, 1 toy swap. HA shared a map of existing local defibrillators, showing 5 in Fortrose and 2 in Rosemarkie. She also highlighted installation costs (£2,200 + VAT, plus cost of electrician) and ongoing maintenance obligations: electricity, replacement batteries (every 4 years c. £200) and replacement pads (2 years, up to £40). HA shared images of other repurposed phone booths, including using it as a planter, which HA suggested might be easier to maintain than hanging baskets in Fortrose. It was possible that this use could be combined with a “local information kiosk”. The bookswap/library suggestion and any food storage use would depend upon how well the box could be weather-proofed, as there seemed to be some damp present. To that end, she was delighted to report that Black Isle Men’s Shed (BIMS) members had agreed to help with refurbishment, including rehangng the door, painting and shelving etc as required. Work was likely to take place in Spring so a decision on future use could be taken at the following FRCC meeting. HA to liaise with BIMS.</p> <p><u>Photo Competition</u>: HA reported that although the quality of submissions for the competition had been very high, the quantity had been rather low. For that reason, the deadline had been extended to 17 April 2026. IV10 had kindly agreed to change the prize vouchers’ expiry date.</p> <p><u>Winter resilience</u>: SM said that the sub-group of 5 FRCC members had assembled (with capacity to include other community volunteers). Draft remit to be agreed at next meeting. Contact had been made with THC’s Emergency Planning Officer and a meeting due 17/12/25. Based on national guidelines, the scope of the committee would be: 1) local warm hubs 2) volunteer network 3) contacts for agencies/businesses 4) alternative communications plan. SM said she was in contact with other Black Isle Community Councils, including Cromarty who have an exemplar plan. The Mid-Ross Community Partnership were also assisting and had suggested working with Garve CC who were also working on a local plan. Local churches, the BI Leisure Centre etc are being approached re warm hubs. Black Isle Cares had shared details of their plan for “winter packs” which are ready to go to their clients as required. The group would discuss how to identify hard-to-reach vulnerable groups (for example, those not signed up to SSEN’s scheme for priority help during power cuts) and would see what THC could provide by way of similar “winter packs” for them. Advice or information which can be provided before a final plan to be sent to HA to post on Facebook. HA to put latest grit</p>	<p>HA</p>
-----------------------	--	-----------

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.6.i</p>	<p>bin details on Facebook. (LJ said they were filled in October - any empty ones should be reported). SM will write up the resulting plan when complete and a leaflet drop could follow. PS noted that given current international tensions, the “winter resilience” plan should perhaps be developed into a “community resilience” plan.</p> <p><u>Christmas update:</u></p> <p><u>Tree/lights:</u> BL said that volunteers David Guthrie, Nick Lake and David Grigor had all kindly agreed to help fell a tree and put up lights and street lights on 5/12/25 and 6/12/25. BL to prepare risk assessment.</p>	<p>HA SM</p>
<p>3.6.ii</p>	<p><u>Carols and Christmas Songs at the Cathedral:</u></p> <p>AP said plans were progressing and another meeting would be held on 10/12/25. Two competition-winning posters would be used on Facebook and elsewhere to publicise the event, which would start as usual at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve. Father Christmas had been booked. A First Aid post would be in place. New QR code for the lyric sheet to be sent by AP to HA to put on the website and Facebook/website in advance. The Sum Up device would be by the gate to take card donations as required.</p>	<p>BL</p> <p>AP/HA</p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p><u>Committee Room Furniture:</u> Mock-leather for the table top would cost in the region of £35. BL said an image of the proposed colour choice (to complement chairs) would be circulated to FRCC members when identified. LJ suggested an application to the Common Good Fund to cover restoration costs, since items are Common Good (TS had requested they be added to the register asap.) JP to send Ward manager details to BL. JP asked where the paintings usually hanging in the committee room were. LJ said they had been taken down because the frames have deteriorated and are stored in the corner. BL said that protecting the furniture going forward needed some thought - possibly providing a clear fitted table cover for example, or requesting that room users do not move the table or attempt to stack the chairs. HA wondered whether Highlife Highland, as Leisure Centre operators, or THC as the property owner, could be held responsible for damage arising to Common Good property on the premises. BL to discuss with Leisure Centre manager. JP to provide contact details. Despite suggestions to the contrary, there was NO plan to move the table and chairs to another location.</p>	<p>JP/BL</p> <p>BL JP</p>
<p>3.8</p>	<p><u>Tree Survey:</u> JP had emailed the THC tree officer with urgent concerns regarding trees along the Fortrose-Avoch road. LJ to provide the name of the officer if possible. JP to chase by phone if there is no timely response.</p>	<p>LJ JP</p>
<p>3.9</p>	<p><u>Benches:</u> A change of personnel at the Academy’s tech department had resulted in some delays to the</p>	

3.10	<p>Greengates benches project, during which time a former resident had made contact with the school offering to pay for a bench refurbishment in memory of her parents. JP is speaking to the school and the member of the public regarding how to split costs fairly (for example, FRCC pays for two, she pays for one), with any surplus cash either refunded to FRCC or, if the school can make a case for a specific project, possibly donated to the school.</p> <p><u>Town Hall shed/Storage</u>: AP to speak to Scouts. JP offered to do a temporary repair to the George V playing fields shed door.</p>	JP AP JP
4 4.1 4.2 4.3	<p>Points from the Public/Correspondence</p> <p><u>Black Isle Library of Things</u>: Request to speak to FRCC. Invited to January meeting.</p> <p><u>Road Signage</u>: St Andrews Walk. Local resident in contact regarding possible new signage on his land. Invitation to future meeting.</p> <p><u>Library postbox</u>: Note from Academy pupil re Culbokie buses. Forwarded to Ferintosh CC. LJ aware of problems.</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>BL presented the accounts to 30/11/25 - total balance £6,780.75. Outgoings included website annual fee, Remembrance Sunday wreath and Xmas light plugs. BL to action £200 donation to BIMS for services, as agreed at previous meeting.</p>	BL
6 6.1	<p>Community Issues/Consultations</p> <p><u>Moray Firth FLOW-Park</u>: As suggested at Nov meeting, local environmental specialist Duncan MacRae had been invited to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, the date was inconvenient so 5 CC members had met for a briefing on 18/11/25. His observations regarding concerns for protected marine areas had been circulated to the FRCC committee and SM had helpfully circulated the developer's (OSG) response to an MSP's list of questions. AJ noted that the Nairn area had subsequently been dropped from OSG's scoping plan, leaving a possible development off Findhorn. TS had contacted Avoch and Killen CC, Cromarty and District CC and Knockbain to suggest a co-ordinated response/joint lobby for consultee status for BICCs, citing the adopted Place Plan. TS had also contacted the Moray Firth Coastal Partnership and was awaiting a response. TS to chase both. LJ noted that planning issues on the south side of the Moray Firth that could have implications for the north side were, sadly, not routinely flagged to the North Area planning committee. AJ suggested a public meeting to raise awareness but it was agreed that at this stage,</p>	TS

6.2	<p>more well-sourced information should be sought which could be presented at such a meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters of Public Interest</u>: Deferred to January meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Planning</p> <p>TS to circulate any to FRCC members upon return.</p>	TS
8	<p>Licensing</p> <p>No reports.</p>	
9	<p>Police report</p> <p>October's report had been circulated. Awaiting November report. It was noted that Police Scotland have appealed for information from the public regarding a report on 29/11/25 of vandalism and "hate crime" graffiti at a bus stop on/near Chanonry Crescent, Fortrose.</p>	
10 10.1	<p>Community Groups/Meetings</p> <p><u>Rosemarkie & Fortrose Trust (RAFT)</u>: Andy Torin, RAFT's chair, was invited to address the meeting. The Trust looks after the villages' two public toilets. FRCC and Cllr MacCallum had approached RAFT in the past regarding a possible collaboration over using land currently owned by Scottish Water, near the golf club, to provide additional public parking. The project, which it was hoped might provide some income, needed to be hosted by an organisation that was charitable and legally able to own land, unlike FRCC. At the time, RAFT felt this would present a challenge, in terms of legal work for trustees and the need to reconcile possible conflicting community views. AD now understood that THC itself might take on the project. AD said that RAFT is a small charity, with five current trustees (nb the term of office for 4 of them ends shortly) and, despite generous donations, the toilets were losing around £1,500 pa. AD said RAFT was considering the future. It needed to assess if it should widen its scope: would it be sensible financially to incorporate the Avoch public toilets, for example. However, while RAFT recognised the importance of all-year round-the-clock access to public toilets, the number of trustees and active volunteers needed to increase to reduce the load on the current team. AP asked why parking charges at Chanonry Point were not used to subsidise the toilets. LJ said that the money raised was currently paying for the Ranger. AD said that possible plans for "invitation to pay" at nearby carparks might provide an income, but would also act as a disincentive for donations at the toilets themselves. He noted payment by QR code rather than cash was an increasingly important source of RAFT donations. AD</p>	

10.2	<p>confirmed that the toilets benefitted from subsidy under the Comfort Scheme. He also noted that there were inevitable costs arising from flood damage, vandalism and general wear and tear which needed to be paid for in addition to money spent making the toilets generally attractive, inside and out. AP asked about Parklands money which had been donated for artwork. AD said that it was before his time but he would enquire. AD thanked LJ for suggesting an application as soon as possible to the Community Regeneration Fund and to the Ward Discretionary Fund. AD welcomed fund-raising ideas but enacting them would really require input from more volunteers. JP to liaise with AD over an appeal for help via Facebook (HA) and FRCC mail out.</p> <p><u>Black Isle Community Councils</u>: No meeting date set. "Opportunity Black Isle" (Place Plan initiative) is seeking a fifth member from a local Community Council, and is advertising for members of the public to join its board.</p>	JP/HA
11 11.1	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>On-going issues: JP had circulated as requested a list of on-going issues and projects with updates. Actions arising below; JP to update grid and circulate ahead of January meeting:</p> <p><u>Chanonry Point Signage</u>: AJ to resend suggestions to LJ.</p> <p><u>Mercat Cross</u>: Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has started restoration work. HES/THC believe that as a scheduled monument, the Cross must return to its original location. LJ said the 3 Ward Councillors are unhappy with this as it makes pedestrian access difficult and it is not the original site anyway. HES have asked FRCC to help prepare an information board on the Cross's history for the site. AP to speak to Verity Walker for information as a first step.</p> <p><u>Station Rd Car Park, Fortrose</u>: LJ said that although the condition was terrible, budget constraints meant action was unlikely unless it became an "invitation to pay" site. It was agreed, with apologies to RAFT (see 10.1), that JP would write to THC suggesting that the community would accept this on condition that the car park was resurfaced and relined. She would also suggest a local residents' parking permit card, obtainable for a small fee, which would allow free parking.</p> <p><u>Slog Footpath, Rosemarkie</u>: It was agreed that a handrail would make the steps less "lethal" in slippery conditions. The steps at the bottom also needed urgent attention. JP to assess options.</p>	<p>JP AJ/LJ</p> <p>AP</p> <p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>
12	<p>Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 7th January via Zoom</p>	

