

THE FINDHORN VILLAGE CONSERVATION COMPANY

10th AGM

Thursday 2nd December 2021

James Milne Institute, Findhorn

WELCOME Christine Hunt, Chairman welcomed 21 members to the tenth AGM.

APOLOGIES were received from Margaret Allan, Fiona Thomson, Gary and Sarah Hunt, Irene Hunt, Nicole Edmonds, Timothy Finnegan, Maggie and Hamish Gregor, Susan Anderson, Bryan Parson, Roddy Stewart, Andrew Lawson, John Low, Fiona and Campbell Ross, Kathleen Munro

MINUTES OF 23rd September 2020 These were adopted. Proposed by Neil Robertson Seconded by Donald Watson

MATTERS ARISING None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that 2021 had been a very busy year for the company and thanked the Directors and Volunteers for their support.

When we last met on our 2020 Zoom AGM we were still waiting for Moray Council to approve our planning permission to enable us to control the Motor Homes which had at times overrun the car park at West Beach. After nine months the approval came at the end of 2020. As the board began to formulate a plan a funding opportunity presented itself from HIE. With a tight timescale the directors worked to put together a funding application and we were delighted when in late December we had a funding offer. However, the project had to be completed by the end of March 2021.

We were fortunate that Aaron Stuart of Aarons Groundworks who lived in Findhorn when he was a child came forward with an acceptable tender. Work began in February 2021 and was completed by the end of May 2021.

The total project cost was £120,000 of which the company contributed £10,000 from its own reserves. It was the start of a remarkable fundraising year which saw £207,000 of grand funding for the following projects.

The installation of ANPR and computer booking system for the Motor Home Stopover

The improvement of the East Beach Car Park and Dunes Track

The improvement of the West Beach Car Park

TFVCC would like to thank HIE, Nature Scotland, Coastal Communities and Moray Council for their support.

The Car Parks and the Dunes Track all need constant maintenance, as these areas are no longer under the Local Nature Reserve Moray Council no longer support the cost of maintaining them. The West Beach Car Park will see the introduction of a barrier and a charge of £1 per day will be made for the car park and toilet facilities. The East Beach Car Park will remain free of charge.

The board are also working on the CAT transfer of the toilets and had earlier secured a lease to open the Beach Toilets in time for the release of lockdown restrictions. Funding of £76K has been secured through the Rural Tourism Investment Fund and work will start on updating during 2022.

The members of the organisation CAMPRA voted to awarded us 5* status for the West Beach Motor Homes Stopover Facility. They went on to vote us Aire of the Year for 2021. A remarkable achievement for the members of the car park working group.

Work has also progressed on the Armstrong Garage project to convert four of the garages into low cost workshops and studios to encourage small business opportunities for start ups and other local ventures.

Subject to funding, the coming year will see this project move forward as all planning and building control requirements have received approval.

A new working group has taken on the task of re instating the former unofficial allotment site and during 2022 this project will also be seeking funding the move forward with sustainable and organised allotment pitches for local people.

During the year Sarah Theman organised several beach clean occasions, thanks to all those who attended. Together with the volunteers who regularly pick up rubbish our beach has made Findhorn stand out and contributed to the listing for excellent water quality.

FINANCIAL REPORT The treasurer Neil Robertson presented the summarised accounts. The accounts were audited by Cathedral Accountancy Ltd. The Company's income has been generated by the letting of the Armstrong Garages, charging for parking at the West Beach. The unrestricted funds held are healthy, mainly due to income generated from parking at the west beach carpark and now in a much better financial situation than in 2020. The full accounts will be on the web site. Accounts were proposed by Alexander Hunt and Seconded by San Russell

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR The appointment of the Auditor, Cathedral Accountancy Ltd proposed by Neil Robertson and seconded by Cathy Low. No objections

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS Marjory Barber who was co-opted to the Board following her 9 years as an Elected Director resigned during the year. The Chairman expressed thanks for all the work she had done as a founder member of the Board and her continued support. Nicole Edmonds has served 9 years and therefore is required to stand down from the Board and can not stand for re-election, however if she wishes she can be co-opted onto the Board. Cathy Low has served 3 years and is required to stand down, but is eligible for re-election to the Board.

Cathy Low was proposed by Alexander Hunt and Seconded by Sue Finnegan. She was duly elected.

Sam Russell, will be the co-opted director representing the Findhorn Residents Association. The Board members are Cathy Low, Christine Hunt, Bryan Parsons, Sarah Theman, Donald Watson and Sam Russell.

Presentation of Tourism Infrastructure Project – Cathy Low presented to the members an overview of the work that was carried out over 2021 to develop the motorhome stopover. As part of the presentation a map of Findhorn was shared, which will provide visitors with information on local amenities. The Company is very grateful to Mike Shand for drawing up the map

AOCB

David Johnstone raised the issue of motorhomes parking on the bay front road. The grass verge is becoming unwalkable and the pavement is also being destroyed. Also report of structural damage to properties.

The Board will look to set up a working group to look at this issue and to engage with Moray Council, Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council the Findhorn Residents Association and Police Scotland. With the hope that a survey can be organised to provide evidence to support the issue being caused by the narrow road and large vehicle.

Greig Munro asked what the Company's community communication plan was.

Christine Hunt advised that we are working with HIE who have offered the Company support to develop the Companies business plan, and communication strategy.

Hamish Grigor submitted a question prior to the AGM as he was unable to attend

Why did the Board decide not to lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday especially as it was only a couple of years since TFVCC asked to be included in the ceremony? The donation to Poppy Scotland I am sure was welcome but by buying a wreath from them they would benefit anyway and villagers who spoke to me were disappointed as the wreath demonstrates more community spirit than a donation.

Cathy Low responded that the Company had made a donation of £40 plus gift aid to the Poppy Appeal instead of purchasing a wreath at a cost of £36 However if the membership felt the Company should be laying a wreath on remembrance day the Company will look at this again if the membership request it.

Christine Hunt thanked everyone for attending and their continual support
Meeting Closed

DRAFT