

THE FINDHORN VILLAGE CONSERVATION COMPANY

11th AGM

07 December 2022

Findhorn Village Centre

WELCOME Christine Hunt, Chairman welcomed 18 members to the eleventh AGM.

APOLOGIES were received from Grieg Munro, Kathleen Munro, Heloise Shewan, Campbell Ross, Timothy Finnegan, Sue Finnegan, Susan Lesley, Steve Lesley, Elaine Macbeth, Ann Munro, Bill Wardlaw, Jonathan Robertson, Aileen Robertson, Doreen Hay, Bruce Hay, Gordon McMullins, Janet Wallace, Celia Shand, Fiona Thomson, Janet Waddington, Neil Fergusson, John Low

MINUTES OF 02 December 2021 These were adopted. Proposed by Neil Robertson Seconded by Donald Watson

MATTERS ARISING None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly, my thanks to all the Directors and Volunteers who have once again supported the Village Company. Sadly this year we are losing Sarah Theman and Bryan Parsons due to work commitments. They have both given their time and knowledge over the years and their contribution to the company will be missed.

We have again had a busy year. When the land was purchased from Novar the car parks and beach steps were all part of the Local Nature Reserve, however Moray Council withdrew from the Access Agreement and the responsibility for maintenance and management reverted to the company.

The closure of the toilets nearest the Ice House took place at the same time and when future plans to close the toilets in the beach car park became known the company decided to apply for a Community Asset Transfer. Thanks to Cathy's work and persistence, 4 years later this has been completed and the company owns both toilet blocks. A successful application for Rural Tourism Infrastructure Funding (RTIF) was made, £76,000 of funding was awarded and the first block to be refurbished will be completed and opened hopefully by the end of the year with the other block following in 2023. Our contractor, Jason Brodie, is working to a tight budget and other funding applications have been submitted to help with the costs. When completed both toilets will have posers and will be connected to the main sewage system.

The income from the Motorhome Stopover is contributing to the maintenance and the £1 charge at the soon to be installed pay to park barrier will mean that we will not have to charge for using the toilets.

Cathy is working with a local trust to secure funding for the reinstatement of the beach steps and also working with the Army 309 Regiment who have also taken on reinstatement of two of the steps. WE hope that in 2023 all of the steps will be available again for residents and locals.

The success of the all abilities path has highlighted the need for other areas to be made accessible for all. WE are part of a group of projects that have been put forward to Moray Council for a future round of RTIF. Our project will make an all abilities path to a view point overlooking the Firth with access from the East Park.

WE have participated in the Queen's Green Canopy Project and working with the Findhorn Residents Association, Nicole has been putting together a project to plant over 150 trees over the coming months

which will be a significant green legacy for Findhorn.

Donald has pulled together register of trip lines so that we have a better knowledge of the boats using them and can keep a waiting list of people wishing to apply for them.

As part of Findhorn Local Nature Reserve (FLNR) we offer our support as they work with Moray Council on securing new leases to carry the reserve into the future. The present outbreak of Avian flu is a concern and notices for residents and visitors will be posted to make sure all are aware of the importance of keeping off the beaches in the bay as much as possible.

Work is on going in finding a solution to our dispute with Carlen Ltd of boundary issues. The plans for the allotments and the Armstrong Garages project will form part of our work in 2023.

It is with sadness we have lost two members this past year, Lambert Munro and Peter Whyn.

The Fire Breaks behind Broom Walk and Elvin Place will be cleared again this year and will be maintained on an annual basis.

Brining this report to an end it is clear that working together with the other organisations in the Village increases the resilience of our village. The Church is under threat of closure and in 2023 we will be making this a priority. However, this new venture will mean that everyone will need to contribute their ideas to the new plan if we are to succeed.

Once again thank you for coming and we wish you a very happy festive season.

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 and the Motorhome stopover. The unrestricted funds held are healthy, mainly due to income generated from Motorhome and Car parking at the west beach carpark and now in a much better financial situation than in 2021. The full accounts will be on the web site.

Frank Alan advised that the £26K in the DU Path Fund is money that has been held back until path 'snagging list' has been complete. Any remainder will be held for footpath maintenance.
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 No nominations were received for the vacant Director positions
Sam Russell will be the co-opted director representing the Findhorn Residents Association. The Board members are Christine Hunt, Cathy Low, Donald Watson, Nicole Edmonds and Sam Russell.

AOCB

Hand Rail on lane leading to Barron House – no progress has been made, this will be chased up.
All Boats have been moved from the Church Slip and safely stored until owners come forward.

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