

# Fortrose & Rosemarkie Community Council

## Wednesday 11th March 2026 by Microsoft Teams

### Minutes

Item		Action by
1	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>  <u>Present:</u> Theo Stratton (Chair) TS; Jo-Anne Pugh (Sec) JP; Bob Latimer (Treasurer) BL; Heather Alexander HA; Ann Jefferson AJ; Susan Munro SM; Anne Phillips AP; Kerry Ward KW  <u>Ex-Officio:</u> Cllr Lyndsey Johnston LJ</p> <p>TS thanked the meeting for deferring the usual date to accommodate his availability. There were no new declarations of interest.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>            AP noted two omissions in the draft minutes (7.1) which, when rectified, were then agreed. Proposed HA, seconded SM.</p>	
3 3.1          3.2	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>  <u>Provost/Chain of Office:</u> TS said that the Chain was currently being valued by THC. Once complete, FRCC would discuss where it could be displayed. LJ said a display box above a door in the Library with an information plaque below might suit. TS said that a decision on restoring the position of Provost was due to be taken at the B.I. Area Committee (BIAC) meeting in May. Although FRCC had agreed in principle to the idea of a Provost, having solicited local opinion, there was a strong sense from residents that any Provost should be a local appointment, decided on by the community, rather than a Ward Councillor on rotation, as had been suggested by THC. LJ said that the Ward Manager was under the impression that FRCC had agreed to this, with a one-year term of office for the Ward Councillor attached to FRCC, commencing in May 2026. SM felt strongly that further consultation with residents was required. AJ queried whether a Provost needed to be a resident of the Burgh. LJ said that it was not a requirement but that a Provost, a ceremonial role, would attend events solely in Fortrose and Rosemarkie. JP said that given residents' pushback, reinstating a Provost on the proposed basis could be reputationally damaging for FRCC and for any Ward Councillor involved. It was agreed that JP would consult the Ward Manager to clarify alternative options for selecting any Provost. FRCC would seek views and discuss at the April meeting, ahead of the scheduled BIAC meeting.</p> <p><u>Burgh Furniture:</u> TS confirmed that the furniture has been added to the Common Good register. BL said that another chair, in very poor condition, had been discovered and would be repaired by Black Isle Men's Shed volunteers. Further work on the table was paused pending confirmation that THC had carried out a valuation, as requested by the Ward Manager. There was discussion as to how best to protect the furniture (including the town clerk's desk, also in the Leisure Centre meeting room) from future damage. JP pointed out that planned Fortrose Academy redevelopment would almost certainly include additional community spaces so restricting the use of the</p>	JP

3.3	Meeting Room for meetings only should be possible in future. TS to discuss with Common Good/Black Isle Leisure Centre management/Highlife Highland options including banning moving the furniture around the room, restricting bookings and placing a notice asking users to respect the antique furniture.	TS
3.4	<u>Policies Review</u> : HA and AP have drafted revised Volunteering and Safeguarding policies for FRCC. For discussion at the April meeting.	
3.5	<u>THC guidance and support packs</u> : JP had requested that THC send packs to new/co-opted FRCC members but had been told new versions were being drafted. Meanwhile, a new Scheme of Establishment guidance/support sessions are due to be held online - AP, HA planning to attend; details to be sent to SM.	AP/HA/SM
3.6	<u>FRCC meeting venues</u> : As agreed at an earlier meeting, at least three meetings a year will be held in person rather than online. It was suggested that if the AGM was held in the BI Leisure Centre meeting room, at least one other should be held in Rosemarkie. To that end, JP would book the Gordon Memorial Hall meeting room for a September in-person meeting. AJ suggested that the Young Councillors might attend an in-person meeting. JP to invite them to AGM.	JP
3.7	<u>Shed/Stalls repair</u> : BL has actioned payment to a joiner for materials for repair of the King George V shed and St Boniface stalls, with external work planned when the weather improves. BL to continue to liaise.	JP
3.8	<u>Water safety</u> : TS said that FRCC had finally had sight of the RNLI safety report, compiled in 2022. It identified a number of hazards around Chanonry Point and recommended increased RNLI provision, better signage/communication and improved provision for public rescue equipment. The report had been sent to the then Ward manager, THC Roads depart and the senior Access Ranger but no action seemed to have been taken. AJ said that it was a very thorough hazard review, with a likelihood/impact matrix assessment, many of which scored 4 out of a possible 5, which should have prompted action. The multi-agency water safety group, Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) met monthly and included Tim Frances as THC representative. AJ said she was shocked and incredibly disappointed to find that Mr Francis had not been informed of the RNLI report and was unaware of its contents, and that some responsibility for this lay with our Ward Councillors since this had been raised repeatedly with them since 2023. LJ said that she was only recently made aware of concerns and that she acted as soon as she had been alerted. TS requested that LJ now push for implementation of the recommendations. SM said that she would add concerns to the developing FRCC risk register, and that she would also raise it with the Mid-Ross Community Partnership. AJ to liaise with CPAG; SM with the Resilience group.	BL
3.8	<u>24 High Street, Fortrose</u> : LJ confirmed THC's policy on vacant privately-owned property in disrepair: action would only be taken if there was an imminent danger to the public. SM said that residents in Cathedral Square believed the structure and the presence of vermin were dangerous. LJ suggested that evidence (including photographs) be collected that could be presented to council officers - SM to assemble and circulate. TS noted the house is in a conservation area and agreed to investigate possible action via that route. AP noted that THC had an empty homes service. SM to contact the officer and share information with local residents and to make enquiries regarding the name and possible address of the absentee owner.	LJ AJ SM
3.9	<u>Hustings, Scottish Parliamentary Elections</u> : AP had contacted other Black Isle	SM TS SM



5.3	<p>had replied explaining that in the long term, the property will be incorporated as part of the Academy redevelopment i.e. either improved or demolished. In the meantime, JP would raise it with THC estates at the next Stakeholder meeting.</p> <p><u>A832 Seawall, Fortrose-Avoch</u>: A resident had raised urgent concerns and had supplied photographs highlighting the condition of the seawall by the main road. JP had emailed the ward councillors and the roads department. LJ confirmed that THC had agreed to assess it for any imminent danger as soon as possible. HA observed that assessment did not mean action, and noted the markings on the seawall on Marine Terrace, Rosemarkie had been there for a number of years with no work commencing.</p>	JP
6	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>BL reported that the balance of both accounts stood at £6833.77. Outgoings included £313.10 for material for shed/stall repairs (see 3.6).</p>	
7 7.1  7.2	<p><b>Community Issues/Consultations</b></p> <p><u>THC participation and engagement strategy</u>: Document had been circulated and HA had shared her observations, namely that the strategy was fine as far as it went, but failed to deal with two-way communication, e.g. from Community Councils upwards to THC. SM said that the Resilience Group's engagement with the Mid-Ross Partnership team had been very positive and THC were learning lessons from the experience. AP noted that many former HC Chief Executives had promised to improve communications - to no effect. It was agreed that individual members would respond rather than FRCC as a group.</p> <p><u>Moray Firth FlowPark</u>: TS said there had been no update from official stakeholders. SM had spoken to the Moray Firth Coastal Partnership (MFCP) who confirmed that they were taking a lead from David Ross's campaign. SM to put MFCP in touch with KW for insight into possible wildlife impact; KW to liaise in future. SM recommended that the issue was raised by TS/BL at the next BICC and Opportunity Black Isle meetings, so that an area-wide response could be developed. SM had also explained to MFCP the reasoning behind FRCC's decision not to proceed with the water fountain project.</p>	KW TS/BL
8 8.1 8.2	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><u>Greengates housing, Fortrose</u>: Specific design for one plot. No comments.</p> <p><u>Former Quarry, Fairy Glen</u>: JP noted new landscaping activity on the site which had been the subject of a planning application for camping pods last year. TS to update on planning status.</p>	TS
9	<p><b>Licensing</b></p> <p>No applications.</p>	
10	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>No report since 9/1/26. TS also confirmed no update on his request for action on speeding - he would continue to chase. Police Scotland are hosting an online meeting for Community Councillors to learn about the Partners Intelligence Portal. Link distributed. SM, HA and possibly BL to attend.</p>	TS SM,HA,BL
11 11.1	<p><b>Sub-committees/Community Groups/Meetings</b></p> <p><u>FRCC/ROGS/RAA projects</u>: HA (representing FRCC and ROGS) had met</p>	

	<p>RAA members and, with them, had compiled a list of possible improvements around Rosemarkie, prompted by residents' suggestions. It was envisaged that groups would either organise work themselves or work collaboratively, picking from the list to avoid duplication. HA and JP, along with Julie Ferguson from RAA, had made some initial enquiries regarding the footpath on the Slog. HA and JP had some quotes for footpath and/or handrail improvements. JF was liaising with THC to establish it was prepared to carry out the work itself. HA to update at next meeting. AP said that she and AJ had surveyed the area with THC some years ago, looking at areas for improvement. AP to send details to HA.</p>	HA AP
11.2	<p><u>Rosemarkie and Fortrose Trust (RAFT) funding:</u> AP was awaiting a reply to her email to RAFT's chair to clarify what had happened to money donated some time ago by Parklands care home. FRCC had been involved in the original discussion surrounding the donation. AP to update.</p>	AP
11.3	<p><u>Fortrose Academy Stakeholder group:</u> No date set for second meeting. JP to attend. Following residents' comments, JP would clarify if a swimming pool could be part of the new sports facilities on the site, and if not, why.</p>	JP
11.4	<p><u>Rosefort CIC:</u> SM said that Articles of Association were in development, along with plans for a Spring newsletter and a village hall meeting to solicit residents' views. A meeting with RAFT was planned.</p>	
11.5	<p><u>Fortrose Fun Day:</u> Date set for 5/9/26. AP will share the CC's disappointment at the lack of assistance clearing up last year - the FRCC stalls had been loaned to the football club on the understanding that help erecting and dismantling would be forthcoming.</p>	AP
11.6	<p><u>Resilience Sub-Committee:</u> It was formally agreed, for reasons discussed at the last meeting, that the Winter Sub-Committee would be renamed, as above. SM had circulated an update and was due to meet Avoch &amp; Killen CC to discuss flood risk. She would be discussing warm hubs with the Mid-Ross Community Partnership shortly. She would add items discussed at this FRCC meeting (No 24 High Street, water safety, seawall damage) to the risk list, along with the potential for road slips along the Fairy Glen. JP asked LJ if, as indicated, the senior arboriculturalist had updated ward councillors on THC's new Tree Risk and Resilience Policy. LJ confirmed that he had not. JP to discuss with the ward manager and feed results to SM.</p>	JP/SM
12	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>	
12.1	<p><u>Station Car park, Fortrose:</u> LJ said that Iain Moncrieff from THC Roads dept was aware of the poor state of the car park. The ward councillors had indicated support for an "invitation to pay" scheme but felt strongly that this should only come <i>after</i> improvements. IM indicated budgetary constraints may prevent this happening in the near future. LJ was asked to maintain pressure.</p>	LJ
12.2	<p><u>Communications with Highland Council:</u> Deferred to next meeting.</p>	
12.4	<p><u>Remits/FRCC constitution:</u> AP and HA to continue to prepare and publish remits for remaining sub-committees.</p>	AP/HA
12.5	<p><u>St Boniface Fair:</u> AP said the next sub-group planning meeting would be held 12/3/26. SM was examining insurance issues.</p>	AP/SM
12.6	<p><u>THC budget:</u> LJ noted that THC had agreed an uplift to the Community Councils annual grant and to provide an additional £5,000 to the Ward Discretionary Fund.</p>	
13	<p><b>Date of Next meeting</b> Wednesday 1st April at 7pm via Microsoft Teams.</p>	

