



	<p>It was agreed that TS would discuss with Leisure Centre management the use of the Committee room for free, when required, since it housed Common Good furniture traditionally used for Town Council meetings. There also needed to be a discussion about protecting the furniture from accidental damage. SM to send details of BILC manager for TS to action.</p>	SM/TS
4	<p><b>On-going Issues update/projects</b></p>	
4.1	<p><u>Chanonry Point signage</u>: AJ reported that she had identified appropriate signs for £35 + VAT (two required) but was awaiting permission from THC to erect them before purchase. LJ to chase THC response. LJ suggested that the Ward discretionary fund might cover costs. JP to send forms to AJ for completion and submission.</p>	LJ JP/AJ
4.2	<p><u>Chanonry Point noticeboards</u>: Chanonry Point Action Group (CPAG)/FRCC could apply for grants for an information board, said AJ, but once again it would be conditional on THC giving permission. It was suggested that this could be bundled together as a request to THC for permission AND funding along with 4.1. LJ/AJ to action.</p>	LJ/AJ
4.3	<p><u>Hanging baskets</u>: AJ requested an update following initial discussions at an earlier meeting. HA confirmed that maintenance (watering) and traffic (possibly hitting brackets/baskets) had been identified as potential problems and that an alternative for Fortrose might be turning the BT phonebox into a giant planter - an option which was being explored. AJ suggested that local residents could be encouraged to adopt a nearby basket. JF said that in Rosemarkie it had proved difficult to keep plants in baskets alive, even with water-retaining gel. As a result, Rosemarkie Amenities Association had abandoned the idea and are now planning half-barrels at various locations which are easier to maintain. JP said that regarding Fortrose, in addition to the phone box planter idea, residents had commented on the poor state of the Co-op carpark area. JP had therefore, on behalf of FRCC and ROGS (Regenerate Our Green Space), approached the store manager to see if he would support community volunteers planting the perimeter with tough perennials and/or colourful annuals. The Co-op was supportive and JP would report back on further talks with the manager/ROGS volunteers.</p>	JP
4.4	<p><u>Cigarette butt bins</u>: AJ said that she was grateful that two Young Councillors were now emptying the bins, but felt it was important that provision for maintenance in future for this and similar long-term projects were in place. JP said she felt in this case, the Young Councillors could be relied upon to provide a service for some time. It was agreed that volunteers could be sought as necessary via Facebook/news mailout etc and that a section entitled "Project monitoring" should be included at each AGM to ensure oversight continued.</p>	
4.5	<p><u>Jubilee Hedge</u>: Similarly, AJ was concerned regarding future maintenance of the hedge planted three years ago on Green Gates. JP assured her that maintenance was fairly minimal at this stage - a handful of volunteers had helped trim the saplings and removed some</p>	

<p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p> <p>4.8</p>	<p>of the wraps at the end of last year. When the hedge was planted THC had agreed to trim it when it reached an appropriate size, as part of routine local hedge maintenance. JP said that as long as she was a resident, she would take responsibility for it.</p> <p><u>Road Traffic Order (RTO) Rosemarkie</u>: AJ has contacted THC Roads department and confirmed that they were aware of incomplete single lines and inadequate signage. The department had agreed to look at the matter urgently. AJ/LJ to maintain pressure.</p> <p><u>Greengates benches</u>: JP said that Fortrose Academy had informed her that the money donated by FRCC to refurbish the three benches on Greengates was more than had been required, partly because a former resident, separately, had offered to pay for one to be refurbished in her parents' memory. The refurbished benches are due to be installed at the end of Feb/March. It was agreed that the residual amount of £500 would be gifted to the school to assist with the purchase of equipment required as a result of re-introducing Metalwork into the curriculum. Some would also go towards repairing other benches currently on school grounds. JP to continue to liaise with the Academy.</p> <p><u>Dangerous man-hole cover, footpath, Fortrose</u>: JP confirmed that the owner had refused to take responsibility. JP was now in discussion with the Countryside Team Leader at THC regarding next steps.</p>	<p>AJ/LJ</p> <p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>
<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p><b>Points from the Public/Correspondence</b></p> <p>Chanonry Point Coastal Water Fountain: TS had circulated an opportunity flagged by the Moray Firth Coastal Partnership to install a water fountain at the Point. It was agreed that with more information on installation and ongoing costs required, and a tight timetable, this was not a project FRCC wished to pursue. SM to contact MFCP to clarify their objectives and what, if any, progress they had made on accessing information regarding FLOW-park plans and environmental impact studies for that and for Firth dredging. Agenda item for March meeting.</p>	<p>SM</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>BL reported that the balance for all accounts was £7311.31. Outgoings included £100 for Xmas musicians, £32 for leatherette for Burgh furniture refurbishment, £28.08 for website hosting, and £100 to D Grigor for Xmas tree/lights work. BL had obtained an estimate of £1,810 for King George V field shed repair/St Boniface stalls repair. It was agreed that this was urgently required - BL to action asap.</p>	<p>BL</p>
<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p>	<p><b>Community Issues/Consultations</b></p> <p><u>Rosefort CIC</u>: GP, as the Chair of Rosefort CIC, was invited by TS to address the meeting. GP explained the purpose of a Community Interest Company (CIC) and said that Rosefort was currently reviewing and revising its Articles and governance to ensure it was democratic and he thanked HA for her input. He noted that a CIC's "asset lock" already ensures that any property or profits must be used exclusively for community benefit. Rosefort CIC's purpose was to</p>	

7.2	<p>enable social, environmental and economic improvement locally, generating revenue that would be reinvested in the community - as was originally envisaged as the purpose of Common Good. The constitution of some local groups means it can be difficult for them to access funds and Rosefort could be a vehicle to facilitate access and to provide support and expertise. Rosefort's current priorities are a) community engagement (speaking to local groups, hosting a "town hall" event to inform and receive feedback), b) to initiate a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of Rosemarkie Caravan Site, and c) to explore other potential opportunities. A CAT for the Caravan and Camping site remains its primary focus and talks have been held to reassure the current tenants that Rosefort envisages the lease to continue but with Rosefort rather than THC as landlord. GP described accessing the £40,000 pa or so rental money as potentially "transformational" for local projects. GP said that Rosefort could work with students at Fortrose Academy to develop business plans, for example for the public toilets which would help generate income and support for RAFT. GP intends to meet RAFT to discuss. HA asked how much of the anticipated £40k pa would need to be set aside for sea defence work to protect Common Good assets. GP said that the boundary of the Common Good land required discussion and that the Council could well be required to retain obligation and that the matter would be part of the business plan under development. LJ said that THC will only look at sea defence where property (ie buildings and roads) are at risk and that without Common Good money, there would be no budget for sea defence work to protect vacant areas. JP asked that with such a significant potential income, would Rosefort be employing paid staff. GP said not initially but potentially yes, in future, depending on the portfolio. AJ said residents would be concerned at any decrease in commitment to combat coastal erosion. GP said it was a matter to be explored and that areas adjacent to the road for example would be maintained by THC. LJ restated that THC had no legal responsibility to protect core paths but did have an obligation to restore on remaining land, and that the only source of funding is Common Good income. AP said that Rosefort intends to set aside a certain amount of money for coastal defence, and that those with local knowledge can react more quickly and effectively and in tandem with other local groups. HA asked LJ to clarify if the Common Good Fund was the total income from the two campsites and the Golf Club car park, and therefore if Rosefort CIC took the bulk of it, ie the Rosemarkie Campsite income, there would be little left for maintenance of other Common Good assets. LJ agreed and noted the need for Town Hall modernisation, as an example. TS asked about a timescale. GP said Rosefort hoped to hold a "town hall" event towards the end of April. That would inform the development of a business plan based on community wishes. It was agreed that SM, as a fellow director, would update FRCC meetings.</p> <p><u>Paths</u>: Dropped kerbs: TS understood plans for more dropped kerbs would be implemented "soon" by THC.</p>	SM
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7.3	<p>AJ flagged continuing pedestrian safety concerns along Marine Terrace. JF (RAA) and AJ to liaise on continuing approaches to THC officials.</p> <p>Railway line path: JP said that Avoch and Killen CC (AKCC) and ROGS members were in talks with THC and local contractors with a view to improving drainage and clearing more debris along the path from Fortrose. JP said that AKCC was leading the project and it was agreed that FRCC would support them regarding funding applications etc. with JP continuing to liaise. SM noted that the Resilience sub-group had identified the path as one key route accessible by quadbike in the event of the main road closure.</p> <p><u>Water safety:</u> AJ expressed frustration that THC had not followed up on the confidential report the RNLI had supplied on water safety and the need for better signage and equipment, especially at Chanonry Point. She noted that Water Safety Scotland was currently holding a consultation regarding Scotland's drowning prevention strategy and suggested that FRCC should give feedback. AJ, with assistance from JP, to draft response. LJ to chase THC regarding RNLI report and identify the official tasked with water safety at THC.</p>	JF/AJ  JP
7.4	<p><u>Matters of Public Interest:</u> AJ asked for guidance on the best way to raise local awareness regarding pan-Highland or pan-national issues/consultations that were relevant to our community. HA suggested that such matters be brought up under the existing agenda heading of "Community Issues" and flagged for inclusion seven days before a meeting. Once agreed, issues can be brought to residents' attention via Facebook, the website and the monthly email newsletter. AJ said that one current matter was the Scottish Outdoor Access Code petition. AJ to circulate details for discussion at the next meeting.</p>	AJ/JP LJ
7.5	<p><u>Fortrose Academy stakeholder group:</u> As FRCC rep, JP had attended the inaugural Teams meeting on 4/2/26 regarding the repair/rebuilding/improvement plan for Fortrose Academy, including the replacement of older classroom blocks and improved sport facilities. She said plans were at an early stage with work on the site unlikely before 2027. JP had voiced concerns at the meeting that the building design needed to account for site-specific problems, such as nesting seagulls. It had been agreed at the meeting that other community groups would, at this stage, feed back comments via their Community Council (all Black Isle CC's had been invited to attend) and if relevant (a sports club, for example) they would be invited to attend a specific meeting. JP had informed RAA and RAFT. The minutes would be available on THC website with the next meeting likely end of March. JP to liaise.</p>	AJ  JP
8	<p><b>Planning</b></p>	
8.1	<p><u>Porch, St Andrew's Walk, Fortrose:</u> No comments.</p>	
8.2	<p><u>Burnside Farm, building change of use:</u> No comments.</p>	
9	<p><b>Licensing</b> No applications.</p>	



<p>12.3</p> <p>12.4</p> <p>12.5</p> <p>12.6</p>	<p>requested a 25-year extension on its lease of the Pavillion and Tennis Courts. A decision would be made by THC shortly.</p> <p><u>Provost of Fortrose</u>: LJ said that the Black Isle and Easter Ross Area Committee would consider a proposal to appoint a Provost for a 12 month term of office, commencing in May. It would be for the Area Committee, with FRCC input, to decide if a ceremonial Provost would be appointed and who that should be. Separately, AP said she was meeting the ward manager for a Burgh Chain valuation on 13/2/26. Agenda item for March meeting..</p> <p><u>24 High St. Fortrose</u>: SM shared local concerns regarding the state of a privately-owned but vacant property and asked if THC could take any form of enforcement action. LJ to find out. Agenda item for March meeting.</p> <p><u>FRCC Website</u>: HA reported that the server belonging to the website's host had been hacked which resulted in the site going down for a period. The site is now back up. However, there are some lingering issues which HA will monitor and chase.</p> <p><u>Scottish parliamentary election hustings</u>: HA had collated general advice on how to organise an online and/or in-person hustings for candidates standing for the constituency in the Holyrood elections in May. She wondered if, collectively, the Black Isle CCs might want to host, recognising that it would require volunteer time and may have cost implications. HA to send details via AP for BICC to consider.</p>	<p>LJ</p> <p>HA</p> <p>HA/AP</p>
<p>13</p>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> Based on Chair availability, the next meeting will be via Zoom on 11th March 2026.</p>	