

Feughdee West Community Council

Approved Minutes

26th March 2020

Online

Present: Simon Richards (Chair), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Ross Clephan (Treasurer), Lynsey Craig, Sam Wylde, Marijke Staellert, Ian Bertram, Cecilia Rogers, Peter Tyrell, Katy Rumbles, John Andrew, Jelle Andrew, Iain Adams, Alice Lewsey.

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors: Cllr R Bruce, Cllr A Ross.

(No members of public present as online meeting)

- 1) **Apologies:** Cllr Durno, I Brockie.
- 2) **Approve minutes of the last meeting:** Proposed by Katy Rumbles, Seconded by Sam Wylde.
- 3) **Police Report:** No police report received this month.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer had sent out the monthly report by email.
Total funds as of 26/03/20 = £3,124.20
Balance of unrestricted funds = £1,498.03 (some of which earmarked for final payment of community noticeboards (£300), payment of hall hire (£165), Zoom subscription (£14.39/month) and release of unused CB funds (£395.76)).
- 5) **Councillor's Report:**
 - Cllr Bruce reported that the Council budget had been approved last week (as required by law) although this would be subject to change due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
 - At a meeting of the Education and Children's Services committee – it was decided to hold a new consultation as part of the statutory consultation on the closure of Strachan School. This was necessary due to a proposal for an additional rezoning option by members of the community. A report on the original consultation (which closed on 28th Feb) would be presented to Marr Area Committee for comment and then to the Education and Children's Services Committee by Oct for approval to commence a fresh statutory consultation. All timings subject to Coronavirus social distancing measures.
 - Cllr Bruce also reported on the amount of community work progressing as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and advised checking Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian websites and FB pages on a regular basis for up to date information.
 - Cllr Ross reported that the Banchory Resilience Group had been formed. Also Regional Hubs would be set up, coordinated by Council Area Offices. Normal council business has been suspended and all enquiries should be through local Councillors and the Area Manager and their teams.

SW asked Councillors re resilience budgets to aid Village Halls pay bills whilst earning no income during the pandemic. Advised to contact Marr Area Office.

- 6) **Secretary's Report:** All correspondence received had been forwarded where appropriate. Members were asked to pay attention to the following:
- Request to support the resolution regarding the Local Electricity Bill.
 - Fetteresso additional information – responses now due in by 18th April.
 - Aberdeenshire LDP will be out for consultation from 27th April for 8 weeks.

Email received from Natural Power stated that a legal agreement had been drafted but various points needed clarifying with Fred Olsen before it could be passed to FWCC.

Now signed up for regular emails from Aberdeenshire Trading Standards Dept.

Guidance notes from Marr Area have advised that:

- CC AGMs due in June will be postponed until Oct 2020.
- CC elections will be postponed until after the summer recess.
- Members that were due to stand down or stand for reelection could remain in post until the AGM/elections are held.
- Admin grants would be made available without having sight of independently verified accounts (but accounts would still need to be submitted after the next AGM)
- That planning application deliberations and decisions (including statutory consultee responsibilities) are properly recorded and minuted.

It was agreed by all present to continue with virtual meetings on a monthly basis.

It was agreed by those who were due to stand down in June, that they were happy to remain in post until elections could take place.

- 7) Junior Councillor Report:

JA reported that the schools were now closed and exams cancelled for some.

- 8) Dissolution:

JR gave a brief update on progress so far:

- An online meeting with Marr Area on the 19th March discussed that although FWCC could dissolve as planned at a Special Meeting on 30th April, the formation of new community councils would be unable to proceed, as elections could not be held until restrictions imposed by the pandemic were lifted. Therefore if FWCC chose to dissolve, the community would not have a 'voice' at Council level especially in terms of planning and statutory consultations. A note of the discussion to continue as FWCC had been sent out to members, and there were no comments from members regarding

this decision. Therefore FWCC will continue in its present format for the immediate future.

- The proposed boundaries of the two new CC's had been approved in principle at the March meeting of Marr Area.
- The draft legal agreement was with Natural Power awaiting input from Fred Olsen.

LC asked when could the Special meeting take place. JR thought that as soon as elections could be held, then it would be possible to work back from that date. A Special Meeting did not have to hinge around the AGM date. Cllr Bruce agreed that the AGM in October was an extension for all CC's and that if an AGM could be held sooner - then that would be possible.

Community Benefit Fund Principles proposed by a member of the public from Inchmarlo:

SR clarified that it had been discussed, agreed and minuted how the Community Benefit Fund should be allocated between the proposed newly established CC's after dissolution.

Members were directed to:

- Approved minutes of June 2019 where it is discussed how the Community Benefit fund would be allocated,
- Draft letter prepared by PT (July 19) which formed the basis of the letter sent to FO in Aug 19
- Letter sent to FO (2nd Aug 19) outlining the intention to dissolve and the intention to split the existing Mid Hill Community Benefit Fund.
- Approved minutes of the August meeting stating that the letter had been sent to FO regarding the future distribution of existing Mid Hill wind farm monies
- FO response agreed to the proposal set out by FWCC (Sept 19)
- FWCC were strongly advised by Marr Area manager that wind farm monies should form no part of the community consultation on dissolution. Any discussions with members of the community were on the basis of the agreement outlined in the letter from FO.

The Chair therefore believed that the matter was well documented in emails and approved minutes and that the existing Mid Hill Community Benefit should be split as agreed by voting population of the new CC's at the point of dissolution.

PT asked for a review every three years of electoral roll numbers to reflect population change and for the Fetteresso wind farm to be taken into account.

SR reiterated that what had been agreed was a split of the existing Mid Hill CB and that this had been specifically minuted.

A general discussion resulted in an overall agreement that a review every three years would be potentially divisive and onerous and that the agreement should be clear-cut and not revisited.

It was also agreed to wait for the draft legal agreement being drawn up by FO/NP as they had both the expertise and impartiality.

9) Transport roads and infrastructure:

- Glen Dye web cam – still attempting to contact Deeside Computers.
- Pot holes – concern expressed re the state of the recently repaired pot holes on the South Deeside Rd and Garrol Road. Cllr Ross stated that Aberdeenshire Council would only repair very badly damaged roads until the pandemic was over but encouraged the continued reporting of pot holes on the Shire website
- Cllr Bruce stated that the council would concentrate on just four aspects of the infrastructure services, namely – waste collection and disposal, burial, emergency road repairs and winter maintenance.
- Tour of Britain Cycle event due to go ahead in September. Members of the Glen Dye community had requested that there should be a full road closure or at least a rolling road closure in place for such a well-attended event. JR has contacted the race organisers and Marr roads dept. re their concerns. Cllr Bruce reported that the final race route had not yet been finalized.

10) Planning:

- No current planning applications in the FWCC area to consider.
- The draft LDP has been approved by the Council and will be out for public consultation from 27th April for 8 weeks, although also subject to change due to Coronavirus.
- Removal of planning applications from the planning data base.
Action IA to investigate further.
- IB requested that Aberdeenshire Council planning dept. contact all site developers regarding cessation of construction work.
- Fetteresso Additional Information response due 18th April.
Agreed that a response would be submitted reiterating our original concerns regarding the light pollution caused by having to light the three 200m turbines.

11) Education and Youth:

MS fed back from the public meeting held in Strachan Hall in February. MS suggested to Officers that a fourth zoning option should be included in the consultation. This would be a free choice of which school children could attend regardless of where they lived in the catchment area. She also reported the concern that continued mothballing was no longer an option.

12) Mid Hill Community Benefit Fund:

- PT reported that the next tranche of money would be September so the next sub group meeting would be August.
- JR reported that she had communicated with FO regarding the fact that App 31 was for more funds than currently available. Advised to submit the application in the usual way and it would be considered.
- JR reported that she had taken part in the Webinar hosted by Foundation Scotland regarding the Community Benefit Toolkit. She found it very informative, especially the sections on good

governance, accountability, transparency, establishing good working practices and managing expectations of applicants. LC had looked at the Tool kit and recommended that all involved in Community Benefit should take some time to study it.

13) Climate and Environmental Matters

- CR had sent out notes to all members from the recent Deeside CAN meeting.
- The Climate Action Week had to be cancelled and has been rescheduled for 2021
- Recycling center will now take polystyrene and chipboard (when open again)
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14) Communications:

- IB reported that the Auchattie and Tilquihillie noticeboards were being updated regularly.
- JR reported that she had met with landscape services re the Strachan play park noticeboard. Awaiting confirmation of position from them, along with confirmation that they would install. ICW to send invoice to the Treasurer.
- LC requested that a list be sent to everyone regarding what was on the noticeboards. **Action -IB**
- JA suggested that the notice from Banchory Community Resilience Group should be put up on the boards. CR recommended their FB page.

15) Community Support:

- See above re Banchory Community Resilience Group
- JR reported that it was hard to keep up to date info posted via email and the Strachan Newsletter and that people were being encouraged to join the Strachan Community Hub on Facebook as it was a much more reactive platform for dispersing information in a timely way.

16)AOB

All agreed that the online meeting had gone well and that happy to meet online next month.

17)Date of next meeting Thursday 30th April online at 7.30pm.