

FEUGHDEE WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting held in Inchmarlo Hall

Thursday 29th November 2018 at 7.30p.m.

Present:

Community Councillors: Simon Richards (Chair), Sam Wylde, Lynsey Craig, Marijke Stallaert, Katy Rumbles, Ian Brockie, Ian Bertram, Cecilia Rogers, Peter Tyrrell, Alice Lewsey

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors:

Cllr. A. Ross

Members of the public: 7

Minutes: Irene Addison

1. Apologies

Jill Randalls (Secretary) Cllr R Bruce, Darcy Curry, John Andrew, Jelle Andrew, Iain Adams (co-opted), Cllr Durno, Portia Clarke

2. Minutes of August Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting approved

Proposed by: Katy Rumbles

Seconded by: Cecilia Rogers

3. Police Report:

Constable Hamish Wallace tendered apologies that, due to other commitments he was unable to attend the meeting in person. An email report stated that it had been another quiet month in relation to crime in the Feughdee area. However, there was an upswing in road traffic accidents. The snow gates at Cairn o' Mount have already had to shut this winter so motorists are being urged to exercise caution as conditions change.

Sadly extensive searches by Police Scotland continue in the Banchory and Crathes area for the 16 year old missing person Liam Smith. A large police presence will be evident and members of the public are asked to report any viable sightings or information in relation to his disappearance around 13.10 hours on Saturday 17th November 2018 when he was last seen on the 202 bus from Aberdeen heading towards Banchory. Pictures of Liam can be viewed on the Police Scotland Internet page or via social media.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Natural power have reimbursed £24.00 for hire of Strachan Hall on 12/4/18
- Midhill Wind Ltd. paid £19,212.00 in respect of App.18 Inchmarlo Car Park resurfacing.

- This amount was paid into Inchmarlo Hall Bank Account on 29/11/18
- Invoices for planters and 2017 Christmas tree had not been received at time of report. Mr. Brockie had them to hand.
 - The balance in the FWCC account on 29/11/18 was **£2219.86** which includes £536.90 restricted to operating the Glendye webcam and £694.00 restricted to administering the Midhill C B Fund
 - It was proposed and agreed to register FWCC Treasurer for internet banking with the Clydesdale Bank to enable him to facilitate income and outgoings in a timely manner. Cheque payments from the account will still require the mandatory two signatures and internet access will eliminate the need for frequent visits to the bank for checking account.

The Clydesdale Bank Internet Banking terms and conditions were made available at the meeting for anyone to view. The C.B. Registration form will be approved and signed by Mr Simon Richards, Chairman and Mrs Jill Randalls, Secretary.

5. Councillor's Report

Councillor Ross reported that the results of speed checks, carried out at Bridge of Canny and the Inchmarlo Retirement Village, had been made available. It was intimated that on the basis of these surveys, no action is to be taken, as there appeared to be no issue with speeding.

There followed some discussion surrounding the 'no issue' result with some strong vocal feedback. This feed-back, contrary to the speed-checks, from those present will be emailed to Councillor Ross to see if any further action could be taken and a group will be formed to take things forward. However Cllr Ross made it clear that AC is also restricted by legislation.

In the meantime speed surveys continue across Marr area. Police reported that some of the most obvious speeding violations take place around schools where children are often dropped off or picked up in a hurry. It was suggested that it would be worthwhile flagging this issue up on Strachan and Inchmarlo Community Websites.

It was also reported that budgets for Aberdeenshire Council are annually assessed and that it will be February before the A.C. settlement is intimated

6. Secretary's Report

There was no secretary's report available on this occasion

7. Wind Farms

Glendye – As a result of the meeting held on 8th.November to consider the survey results relating to the proposed Glendye Windfarm, a letter of objection was drafted to the Energy Consents Unit as a response from FWCC representing the local community. This letter was sent to all FWCC Councillors for comments in the first instance.

After discussion, a few agreed amendments were made to the letter, which would be emailed to E.C.U. the following day. It was agreed to attach the survey questions with the letter.

Following the discussion P.Tyrrell intimated that there were concerns regarding the GDWF sub group, and possible conflicting interests. This was noted by the Chair

Fetteresso

There was a discussion regarding whether or not Fetteresso is an extension to the existing Midhill Wind Farm or a new development. Sam Wylde reported that she had been in touch with Stephen Young, CARES Development Officer who clarified that 'extension' implies the same ownership, financial partners, period of use and grid connection whilst 'new' implies any or all of these might be different. The application would need to be assessed on its own merits. However, although the application is unlikely to be determined differently, this doesn't preclude the public from making comment. National Power will be contacted for further information.

8. Planning

Corner Cottage Inchmarlo

Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse (rear dormer). No concerns raised.

There was a short discussion regarding Riverstone House and its apparent demolition. Neil Mair, Planning Officer for Marr Area will be contacted for clarification.

9. Community Action Plan

Lynsey Craig reported that there had been a very constructive meeting at Strachan School on 26th Nov with a presentation from Community Enterprise. This was well attended and the projects well received. There will be another C.A.P. Meeting on Thursday 6th December at 7pm at Inchmarlo Village Hall.

Work continues towards finalising the report for presentation in January.

Secondary School pupils are to be approached for ideas and input.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the foldout C.A.P. brochure is adequate for informing local residents, rather than an expensive brochure.

10. Transport, Roads and Infrastructure

Some concern was raised regarding the potential skid risk on the newly upgraded section of road from the AA Box to Whitestones. Cllr. Ross advised that any concerns be raised through the A.C. website as repeated reports will bring the matter to attention.

This being said, it was resoundingly acknowledged that both appreciation and credit was due to A.C. Roads Department for the amount of upgrading work that had been carried out locally with stretched and limited resources.

11. Education and Youth

With regard to the mothballing of Strachan Primary School, it was reported that, further to two meetings held on 5th and 26th September, another drop-in public engagement event would be held on 6th December at Strachan School from 6p.m.

A letter from Aberdeenshire Council's Learning Estates Team has been sent out to all residents to this effect. It highlights that, in order for the school to become operational again, there requires being sufficient pupils on the roll to make educational experiences viable and to ensure that pupils receive the broad, curricular entitlements that the Local Authority is expected to provide to all children.

FWCC members acknowledged that Aberdeenshire Council's desire to prevent closure has

been evident and to their credit throughout the proceedings

The Learning Estates Team may be contacted at learningestates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk with any comments or queries.

12. Midhill Community Benefit Applications

Mr Tyrrell reported as follows:

Current Fund Balance is: £27,326

There is one application for Strachan Youth Group for £1000

Next Fred Olsen funding is due in February 2019

There are currently seven applications that were all reviewed by the sub-committee at their last meeting on August 15th and all recommended for funding.

Following approval from a majority of FWCC members, The Inchmarlo Hall Car Park application is in the process of being paid.

The Snow Gates web cam application has been paid and the remaining five applications should be due for payment following submission of approved minutes.

Work on resurfacing of the Inchmarlo Car Park was completed two weeks ago and a progress update letter has been requested.

Still awaiting replies from POOT Project, Strachan Bowling Club, and Strachan Play Park in connection with FWCC request for an acknowledgement of funds received, date received and current benefit/outcome as a result of funds received.

Next MCB Meeting is to be arranged.

There was a short discussion regarding a previous request from Grampian Police to have access to Glen Dye web-cam for the monitoring of traffic. This is still being followed up to assess costs involved and funding source(s).

13. Local Development Plan/Main Issues Report

Summarised documentation on M.I.R. still pending.

Any comments may be addressed to Mr. I.Adams.

14. FWCC emails

There was another lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of having a separate email address for FWCC. Some members highlighted the advantages of presenting a more professional profile, having all information on one platform and enhanced ability to engage with the public. Others expressed concerns about costs involved, having to embrace another in-box on their daily emails and other personal preferences.

However it was agreed that there does need to be a re-vamp of FWCC communication in order to be better engaged with the local population.

It was also agreed that a work group be set up to develop an ongoing strategy (headed by Ian Bertram).

15. Community Safety

Nothing to report. Next meeting is due to be held beginning of 2019.

16. Community Issues

Clachnaben Footpath

During the walk to Clachnaben to survey siting of proposed Windfarm, it was observed that the footpath is now in a state of disrepair and dangerous to walkers. Cllr. Ross will investigate this issue with A.C. and Mr Richards will make contact with the Landowners (Glen Dye Estate) through Audrey Dykes.

Christmas Tree

Glen Dye Estate has kindly donated a Christmas tree for Strachan. Arrangements for erection in the centre of the village are in place. Mr A.Neish has kindly offered to site the tree on land at Bowbutts Farm and also to supply electricity for the lights.

The youth group has expressed an interest in carol singing round the tree and plans are on going for various Christmas activities.

Inchmarlo community also has an open invitation for an evening of Christmas pies and mulled wine etc. on 9th. December (donation at the door)

Oil Club

Ms. Lynsey Craig had researched the proposal of establishing an oil buying group and emailed FWCC members with her findings.

Such a group requires someone willing to co-ordinate the procedure. The co-ordinator is then responsible for the synchronisation of purchasers who live in fairly close proximity, for setting regular dates of purchase and volumes of purchase, contacting suppliers and obtaining the best price available.

It was noted that a group buying system is already in operation at Smiddy Park co-ordinated by Ms Katy Rumbles. She will do some research into savings made so far but indications are that a saving of approximately 20% can be achieved. She is happy to co-ordinate the Inchmarlo side.

Film Festival Funding

There was some discussion surrounding Film Festival Funding. It was established that some form of funding is available. This will be followed up on. Inchmarlo Hall has an Entertainments Licence. Any information should be passed on to Jelle Andrew.

17. A.O.B

Debris in Local Rivers

A member of the public expressed concern regarding debris in local rivers as it causes blockages in different areas and at fish ladders. Both residents and council workers are asked to avoid disposing of garden waste and tree & shrub cuttings in waterways.

It was agreed that public awareness should be raised through both Inchmarlo and Strachan Community web sites in order to prevent unnecessary problems and expense.

18. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be on the 31st January 2019 at Strachan Hall (pending Completion Certificate).

Meeting Closed at 9pm