

**Feughdee West Community Council**  
October Approved Minutes of Meeting  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at 7.30pm  
Inchmarlo Hall

**Present:** Simon Richards (Chair), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Lynsey Craig, Peter Tyrrell, Marijke Staellert, Sam Wylde, Cecilia Rogers, John Andrew, Nicola Milne, Jelle Andrew, Ross Clephan (Treasurer) K. Rumbles, Iain Adams, Ian Bertram

**Banchory & Mid-Deeside Councillors:** Cllr. Bruce

**Minutes:** Irene Addison

**Members of the public:** 13

1. **Apologies:** Ian Brockie

2. **Approve minutes of previous meeting:**

Proposed: John Andrew

Seconded: Cecilia Rogers

3. **Police Report:** No police were in attendance and no report received in time for meeting. It was surmised that it might have been sent to the wrong email address. Councillor Bruce had the report to hand.

***Marr Policing Priority - Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder***

*Despite the school holidays, October has not seen an increase in Antisocial Behaviour, or crimes involving Violence or Disorder. There have been a very small number of calls to Police of this nature during the month, which have been attended and investigated where required.*

*As a result of Community intelligence received in October, Banchory Police Officers executed a Drugs Search Warrant in the Banchory area, which resulted in a significant quantity of drugs being seized and taken off the streets. Three persons were reported for being Concerned in the Supply of a Controlled Drug.*

*In comparison to 2018 we have more than doubled our activity in relation to drugs and have been able to obtain and execute substantially more warrants. This means we can enter premises where we have the authority of a sheriff by force because we have high cause to believe the premises is linked to this kind of activity.*

*Drugs bring misery to communities, not always noticed by our residents and it remains one of our top priorities to keep this pressure on and make sure we disrupt and deter this behaviour in Deeside.*

*Police continue to engage with persons of all ages when patrolling, especially at the weekends, when these type incidents tend to spike. We also provide attention to the areas renowned for Antisocial Behaviour and Antisocial Driving in an attempt to prevent such behaviour.*

***Marr Policing Priority - Acquisitive Crime***

*There have been few Acquisitive crimes reported, such as housebreakings, however there were a small number of shop-lifting's reported, a couple of which were attributed to the same individual who has since been reported for same.*

*Police Scotland continues to work with the retail outlets throughout Aberdeenshire to ensure that they are provided with suitable advice and information to help prevent thefts.*

***Marr Policing Priority - Road Safety and Road Crime***

*As the winter approaches we anticipate an increase in call demand in relation to mirror collisions resulting from road and weather conditions. We are also gearing up to deal with the difficulties of road closures and the reopening of same once clear.*

*We would like to remind drivers in the Community to ensure that their vehicles have been checked and are suitable for the pending weather conditions. Useful advice on this matter can be found on the Police Scotland*

website and Social Media sites, as well as the websites of the RAC, AA, etc.

It is planned to host a 'get ready for winter' event in Banchory where motorists will again have the opportunity to take their vehicle along and have it checked over by trained officers to ensure that it is ready for winter driving. Details of the event will be advertised nearer the time.

The number of serious or fatal accidents within the area remains low, however sadly this month there has been a fatality involving a motorist on the B9125 outside Banchory. Police are continuing to investigate the circumstances.

In relation to speeding vehicles, and vehicles causing issues in built up areas, we are continuing to target these when we can. This month there was a planned 'car meet' at Bellfield car park. Organisers had given pre-event notice and we did monitor the situation on the night and despite what may have been the hope of those present we recorded no more than 20-25 vehicles attending at various times although once the heavy rain hit, everyone dispersed very quickly. One of those attending was charged with anti-social behaviour due to the manner of his driving but other than that it was relatively low key.

We have also been deploying our 'Smiley Face' sign which monitors and records vehicles speeds. This is a mobile sign that is deployed for approximately one week at a time, and provides useful feedback.

### **Marr Policing Priority - Wildlife Crime**

Our wildlife liaison officers and divisional officers continue to carry out pro-active patrols when duties permit to prevent Wildlife crime.

We continue to encourage members of the community to report any activity deemed suspicious when they are out and about.

### **Other Policing Activity and information.**

During November various fireworks displays are planned for the area and a number of Remembrance Parades will take place. Plans have been drawn up to Police these proportionately.

We will continue to engage with community members and offer advice on a number of issues, and encourage contact if anyone has any queries or questions that they think Police can assist with. End of report.

4. **Treasurers Report:** The treasurer's report was circulated to members. Balance of unrestricted funds as of 30/10/19 is £1,702.77. Restricted funds of £2061.19 bring the total balance to £3763.96

RC also reported that BT has agreed to reduce the monthly rate for the Glen Dye Snowgate webcam from £64.92 to £43.55 per month, fixed till October 2021.

There was a brief discussion about funding/applying for grants in order to subsidise the provision of broadband for those not able to receive Superfast Broadband due to their location.

5. **Councillor's Report:**

Cllr. Bruce thanked everyone who had participated on the AC online budget simulator. This is a tool developed to enable input from the general public regarding the best use of funds available and to prioritise spending.

Cllr. Bruce also requested feedback from FWCC and the general public regarding the provision of transport in the area (a clean sheet approach). Views and suggestions may be submitted through the AC website.

In the run-up to the General Election, feedback to AC would be greatly appreciated in relation to venues and meeting places which may or may not be free for use as polling stations.

Cllr. Bruce was also aware that there was an initiative, recently announced, for fast broadband to everyone by the end of 2020. She will investigate further.

Cllr. Bruce stressed the importance of directing any concerns or suspicious activity directly to the Police

rather than posting on social media. Such Information cannot be recorded as a crime unless it is reported directly to the Police Department.

**6. Secretary's Report:** All correspondence received has been forwarded to members as appropriate. This includes the following:

*30/09/19 Update on Light Touch Review. Comments received and will be reviewed. Report will be sent to committee for review on 19th Nov.*

*02/10/19 Thank you letter from Marshall Bailey for FWCC attendance at Planning meeting.*

*03/10/19 Marr Area Partnership newsletter.*

*03/10/19 Health and Social Care Partnership newsletter*

*08/10/19 Natural Power: Community Investment meeting for the proposed Fetteresso wind farm in Strachan Hall on Thursday the 28th November*

*09/10/19 Invitation to Marr Area Partnership AGM on 29/10/19*

*12/10/19 Inchmarlo Community Workshop: Invitation to woodworking courses.*

*14/10/19 Aberdeenshire Council: Budget simulator.*

*15/10/19 Aberdeenshire Council - advice re conflict of interests*

*15/10/10 Invitation to the AGM of South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau on 06/11/19*

*17/10/19 Tajana Telisman Susic Greenspace Projects Officer Aberdeenshire Council. This is a one year project, funded by LEADER, to deliver numerous biodiversity development sites across Aberdeenshire. Project will include trees planting, wildflowers, bulbs, food plants etc. and will include a reduction in grass mowing and strimming. Ideally identified locations will connect with other woodland and wildlife areas.*

*22/10/19 Aberdeenshire Council supported Bus Services survey questionnaire. Open until 9/12/19.*

*23/10/19 Marr Area Partnership :Community Ward Forum : Aboyne Victory Hall 6.45-9pm , Thursday 14th November 2019 (Note: Earlier Informal Community Council Catch Up 6.30pm - 6.45pm )*

*28/10/19 Housing to 2040 - Community Council Engagement. Roadshow (Dundee 22nd Nov and Peterhead 25th Nov)*

*30/10/19 Marr Area Bus Forum - Tuesday 12th of November 2019 Huntly*

*30/10/19 Marr Area Committee Agenda - 5 November 2019*

**7. Junior Members.**  
No issues raised and nothing to report.

**8. Proposed Boundary Change**

JR reported that a revised draft (4) of the public consultation document had been submitted to Marr Area for comment. The advantages and disadvantages of the proposals have been clearly stated. There was a discussion as to whether a map or diagram should be used. Andy Wilkins offered to help produce a clear map showing the boundaries of FWCC and neighbouring CC's. It was agreed that the consultation document would be promoted in as many ways as possible - via Survey Monkey, paper copy, email, social media, posters and drop in sessions.

It was agreed to aim to go live by 1<sup>st</sup> December. Also agreed (by a vote of 5 - 4) that the consultation would close mid January and results compiled in time for the end of month meeting in January 2020.

Question raised regarding low turn out or if community voted differently to FWCC - which result would be binding? Aberdeenshire guidance (via email from Marr Area) was that the CC's role was to act in the interest of its community.

There was some discussion about the possibility of using polling stations as an opportunity for providing survey forms. Further advice will be sought from Marr Area.

It is anticipated a decision will be made by January 2020 meeting with finalised boundaries/ composition of new CCs by March/April 2020.

**Actions:** AWilkins to help produce clear map of FWCC area.

    KR to help with Survey Monkey

    JR to send draft 5 to Marr asking for comments within the week

    JR to ask Marr re possibility of using polling stations to advertise consultation

    JR to have final hard copy and Survey Monkey ready to go live by 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

It is anticipated that everything can be finalised by March/April 2020. In the meantime all agreed documentation will be sent to Marr with a response requested within a week in order to get things moving forward.

**9. Mid Hill Community Benefit Fund:**

Prior to tonight's meeting Peter Tyrell had sent out to all FWC Councillors a Power Point Presentation on the Inchmarlo Community Workshop from inception to community resource.

Four applications to the MCBF were considered.

App 31 - Inchmarlo Community Workshop Extension      £17,712

App 32 - Inchmarlo Storage      £ 3,500

App 33 - Strachan Youth Group running costs      £ 1,000

App 34 - Strachan Hall Improvement Phase 2      £16,100

Conflicts of interest on the part of PT, SW and SR were noted and these councillors did not vote on some applications.

There were discussions surrounding finances available, the use of scoring sheets, requirement for quotations, legal documentation required and various other issues raised by JR. These issues were addressed and answered and, with input from Treasurer Ross Clephan, the following applications and resolutions were presented:

App 31 - Inchmarlo Community Workshop Extension	See below
App 32 - Inchmarlo Hall Storage Extension	Agreed £3,500
App 33 - Strachan Youth Group Running Costs	Agreed <u>£500</u>
App 34- Strachan Hall Improvements Phase 2	Agreed £16,100

**Apps 32, 33 and 34 were unanimously agreed**, with the exception of those with noted interests (SW - Strachan Hall, SR -Strachan Hall, PT- ICW).

It was recommended and agreed to return to Fred Olsen (FO) unused money (£396) from App 22 -

Community Noticeboards. It was decided to retain unused money (£783) from App 21 - CAP Expenses in case expenses are incurred associated with the potential boundary change/dissolution of FWCC.

App 31 - ICW Extension was agreed in principle and is conditional on the necessary documentation regarding land use, land owner's permission and planning permission being in place.

The Treasurer reported it is likely that after receipt of the Midhill 2 benefit in February 2020 there will still not be sufficient funds at FO to cover all four applications. PT requested that an advance of funds from FO should be applied for, to cover App 31 as early as possible. It was agreed that once the Mid Hill Sub Group were happy that all the necessary documentation and approvals were in place then a recommendation be made that FO will be approached for advance of funds. This will be brought back to FWCC for approval.

It was emphasised to all Councillors that adherence to the conflict of interest policy must be strictly observed and that all MCBF applications must be accompanied by all relevant documentation by the agreed closing date.

**10. Transport, Roads & Infrastructure**

Aberdeenshire Council was commended for the high level of work done on the Cairn O'Mount Road, which is greatly appreciated.

JA is to enquire about the possibility of the 'Smiley Face' speed camera for Inchmarlo.

**11. Fetteresso Wind Farm**

There is to be a drop in session at Strachan Hall on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, hosted by Natural Power, regarding Community Investment into the planned extension to Mid Hill Wind Farm.

**12. Planning Issues:**

- **Erection of Garage/Store and Change of Use of Land to Domestic Garden Ground**  
Red Gables, Brathens, Glassel Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 4DD  
There was one objection listed from the general public.  
**Action IA -Recommend a stipulation of attractive screening if application is approved.**
- **Erection of 3 Dwelling houses and Detached Garages, Riverstone House Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 5HU**  
Application began as the demolishing and replacement of three buildings (granted) but is now for the building of five new houses in total.  
**Unanimous agreement to object to this development on the grounds that**
  - It would set a precedent for permission for other substantial developments.
  - It would increase water run off into the Feugh
  - It would increase traffic.**Action: IA**

There was a short discussion about the fact that some developers are now preferring to use boreholes rather than mains water connection. It was felt that this is because there is no requirement for planning application and nothing enforced.

However some concerns were expressed about the implications of potential run-off.

**Action: I.Bertram will write a note of concern to SEPA**

**13. Education & Youth**

Cllr Bruce reported previously in the meeting that there should be feedback regarding the current position on Strachan School in December/ January.

MS reported that she is still liaising with Aberdeenshire Council re a notice for Strachan Play Park

Rob Strachan was present and spoke on behalf of Clan Strachan Charitable Trust.

Clan Strachan have expressed an interest in the future of the Primary School and the possibility of providing the location of a community presence for Clan Strachan. They wish a base/ community

presence in Strachan but not for the exclusive use of the Clan

Different possibilities are being investigated which would bring a profit and benefit to the local community. An Internet or community cafe has been suggested as one option. If there was the possibility of an asset transfer, funding could be raised from America and Canada and the Clan Strachan diaspora at large.

The suggestion was welcomed, bearing in mind that a decision from Aberdeenshire Education Department is still pending regarding the school's future. A solid, viable long-term plan would also have to be in place before any such proposals could be considered.

**14. Communications**

Work on the notice-boards is progressing well and once the top name or title boards have been finished and attached the 3 will be ready for installation. LC met with Aberdeenshire Council (AC) and they have been very supportive regarding all three possible locations.

**15. Community Matters**

- Applications for village planting have been submitted
- Spring bulbs have all been planted

**16. Any Other Business**

CR requested permission to circulate the Climate Action Network newsletter. There will be a meeting in Woodend Barn on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7p.m.

**Date of next meeting** - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 7.30pm in Strachan Hall

Meeting closed at 21.48