

Feughdee West Community Council
Approved Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 30th January 2020 at 7.30pm
Inchmarlo Hall

Present: Lynsey Craig (Vice-chair), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Peter Tyrrell, Ian Bertram, Katie Rumbles, John Andrews, Jelle Andrews, Marijke Stallaert, Sam Wylde, Cecilia Rogers, Ross Clephan (Treasurer), Iain Adams.

Banchory & Mid-Deeside Councillors: Cllr. Bruce

Minutes: Marijke Stallaert

Members of the public:10

1. **Apologies:** Simon Richards, Nicola Milne, Alice Lewsey, Darcy Curry

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

Proposed: Cecilia Rogers

Seconded: Sam Wylde

3. **Police Report:** none available and no police in attendance.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was circulated to members.

Monies have been received from Fred Olsen and paid out to the individual groups.

Balance of unrestricted funds as of 29/01/20 is £1,702.77. Restricted funds of £1,761.25

Total balance of £3,464.02

Unanimous approval to pay bill of £132.74 to replace a faulty external socket for Strachan Christmas lights.

5. **Councillors' Report:**

Cllr. Bruce informed members that Aberdeenshire Council's new main budget would not be available until the end of March.

Cllr Bruce reported that members of Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services Committee had approved a decision to start a statutory consultation regarding formal closure of Strachan School. The consultation will run from January 7th till February 21st 2020. She encouraged everyone in the community to respond to the survey.

6. **Secretary's Report:**

- All correspondence has been emailed in advance of the meeting.

- Strachan school consultation survey monkey is live at the moment and public meeting on 6th Feb at Strachan Hall.

- Aberdeenshire Council sport personality award nominations are sought.

- VE day celebrations on the weekend of the 8th of May 2020. Please respond to Marr area partnership with any initiatives.

- The Secretary spent a lot of time setting up, distributing, and collating of survey monkey information regarding the Potential Dissolution of FWCC.

7. **Junior Councillors' Report**

No issues raised and nothing to report.

8. **Potential Dissolution of FWCC**

The Consultation via Survey Monkey went live on 1st December as agreed and the two-page questionnaire was printed and distributed via email, Facebook, door to door and two drop in sessions at Strachan Hall. The survey closed on 17 January 2020.

200 responses were received. The results show:

92% of respondents did not want FWCC to remain as it is

85% of respondents felt that FWCC should dissolve and two new community councils be formed.

70% of respondents said no to a change of boundary (ie part of FWCC joining with another CC)

The Vice Chair thanked all involved in the survey.

On advice from Marr Area the vote to dissolve FWCC has to be taken at a Special meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that the new boundary between the new CC's (if FWCC should dissolve) would follow the River Dee.

A vote was held by the present and voting membership to agree that it is advisable to dissolve the FWCC at a Special Meeting (the date of which to be arranged as the next item on the agenda).

The motion was passed unanimously.

The Special Meeting, to formally decide on the dissolution of FWCC, will be held on Thursday 30 April 2020, immediately after the usual FWCC meeting.

A number of issues have to be resolved before then, including Mid Hill funding, insurance, boundaries, putting forward 12 names (for each area) requesting the setting up of a new community council, names of the new community councils and a Fred Olson legal agreement regarding the split of community benefit funds.

Action: JR will check when the proposed dissolution will go before Marr Area Committee.

Action: JR will contact Fred Olsen with regards to a template for the legal agreement

LC asked everyone to be vigilant in reading and replying to email correspondence regarding the dissolution.

9. Transport, Roads & Infrastructure

Temporary speed monitoring is under discussion with Sgt Keith Reid from Banchory Police.

The Police had again enquired about a recording facility on the Glen Dye snow gate web cam after the theft of a Quad bike in that area. Aberdeenshire Council had appeared interested in helping with this but there are problems with GDPR.

Action: JA to follow up.

10. Planning Issues:

One planning application this month:

- Reference: APP/2020/0132, Aultnacaille, Deebank, Banchory, AB31 6PQ
Proposal : Replacement of stable block with a garage/workshop

As this application is by I A, who is the FWCC planning adviser, the Secretary asked for any comments to be directly emailed to her.

A site visit has been arranged by the DPEA Reporter for the Scolty House Glamping pods planning application appeal on Friday 7th at 09:00. It is open to attend but the Reporter will not accept additional representation or answer questions at the site visit. A representative of the local residents affected by the proposed development requested the presence of a member of FWCC at the site visit. Iain Adams agreed to attend but stressed that he would not be permitted any dialogue with the Reporter.

Notification has been received regarding a Proposal of Application Notice for land at Inchmarlo, previously covered by Planning Permission in Principle in 2011 for the development of a Hotel, leisure facilities and approx. 80 homes. It is proposed that the 2011 proposals will not be changed apart from seeking permission for occupation of new homes before the hotel is built.

11. Education & Youth

M.S gave a brief update on the proposed closure of Strachan School.

- All residents within the Strachan school catchment area have received postal notification, and have been invited to the special meeting organised by Aberdeenshire Council on Thursday 6th February at 19.00hr and to take part in the online survey. The consultation runs until 21 February 2020. MS pointed out that this is our community's last chance at keeping Strachan School open.
- MS also raised the point that during the Aberdeenshire Council meeting Cllr. Martin Ford (representing Garioch) talked about the fact that there has never been an investigation as to why a reasonably well-attended small school was suddenly bereft of pupils. It was noted that the consultation documentation did not give any of the history as to why the school suddenly closed and then reopened with only two pupils. MS asked if we should press for more answers.
- L.C suggested that FWCC should support any parents that wanted the school to either remain mothballed (for a determined period of time) or stay open and that we should ask for an Aberdeenshire Council inquiry into the reasons the school closed and lessons learnt.
- Cllr. Bruce stated this was not a practical suggestion as many of the staff involved had moved on and it is not relevant to the current position. She also stressed that Aberdeenshire Council is following statutory procedure and prioritising the educational benefits for the pupils concerned. However, Cllr Bruce agreed to ask re the possibility of a separate inquiry into the reasons that the school had initially closed.
- S.W replied that as relief head teacher in Strachan School shortly before it was closed the first time, her experience was that Aberdeenshire council had been unsupportive.
- SW also said that if we are to be champions of sustainable communities, then we should do all we can to keep local schools open and not hastily close them.
- Representation at the public meeting and taking part in the survey was raised as important.
- IA and IB asked if we should specifically target parents with primary school children.
- JR asked if the Banchory Primary Schools would be at full capacity within the next 5-10 years once new house building projects completed. Cllr Bruce replied that according to projected data for 2024 Banchory Academy would be at 100%, Banchory Primary would be at 74% and HofB would be 81%. Projected figures for Strachan could be at 40% capacity.
- It was agreed that FWCC will email Aberdeenshire council with a response after attending the meeting on 6th February and before the next Community Council meeting; the reason being that the consultation ends on 21 February 2020.

12. Mid Hill Community Benefit Fund.

PT stated that there was approx. £8000 in the fund.

- Application 31 ICW extension £17,500 – PT (as Chair of ICW) stated that the three outstanding documents were now in place on Dropbox - planning permission, approval of the landowner and outstanding land issues, and so the application was now complete. PT, as Chair of the sub group, saw no reason for the sub group to meet as all documents were in Dropbox. LC requested that the whole application was sent to the Sub Group electronically so that due process could be followed. The Sub Group could approve or refuse the application by email and the decision would then be presented to full Council at the February monthly meeting.

13. Climate and Environmental Matters.

CR stated that she would forward the Deeside Climate Action Networks newsletter as soon as it was available. The next public meeting will be on 11th March at Woodend Barn. The theme of the next meeting is 'What is a climate emergency and how can we play a part'.

The Zero Waste Shop initiative survey has now closed.

Aberdeenshire Council has a bio-diversity project aimed at adding more natural space in local communities through the provision of trees, shrubs, wild flowers etc. to local communities. Local communities are encouraged to identify potential sites and get involved. Further info is available at:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/greenspace>. The Council is collating a map of Council-owned areas as potential planting areas.

IB asked ways in which environmental information from Aberdeenshire Council was cascaded down to the community. Cllr Bruce highlighted info available on the Council website as well as initiatives like Deeside CAN and the Marr Area Partnership Ward Forums which had devoted a recent meeting to environmental issues.

14. Communications Group Feedback

IB reported that two noticeboards (Tilquhillie and Auchattie) were now installed. JR reported that she is currently waiting on a date from landscape services for a site visit at Strachan Play Park. IB and CR will work together to get info onto the boards.

15. Community Matters

VE day celebrations 8th May (Bank Holiday) – please forward details of community events to Aberdeenshire Council.

16. Any Other Business:

Secretary reported that an email received via the website regarding red squirrels which have seemingly moved back to an area along the South Deeside Rd. Unfortunately two had been killed on the road and the email was seeking advice on measures to protect the remaining population.

Action: Cllr Bruce to forward names of the biodiversity champions for red squirrels.

IB reported that there was an increasing amount of storm damaged trees left lying along road verges, which were a potential threat to road safety.

Action: Cllr Bruce agreed to look into this matter.

CR reported that leaves left lying on the walkway over Feugh Bridge, which is making it very slippery, and that padlocks are beginning to reappear.

Date of next meeting – Strachan Hall Thursday 27 February at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 21.10hrs