

FEUGHDEE WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in Inchmarlo Hall On Thursday 30th November 2017 at 7.30pm

Present:

Community Councillors:

Mr A. Neish, Ms L.Craig, Mrs J.Randalls, Mrs M. Stallaert, Mr P.Tyrrell, Ms S.Wylde,
Mr S.Richards (Chair), Mr W. Smith (Secretary), Mr W. Ross, Mr I. Adams

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors:

No Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors were in attendance.

Minutes:

Mrs I.Addison

Members of Public:

10 Members of the public were present.

1. Apologies and Absences

Apologies were tendered by Cllr E.Durno, Cllr A.Ross, Cllr R. Bruce, Mr I Brockie, Mr I Morrison and Mr C. Smith

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting in October were approved with the following amendment:

Agenda Point 7. Par. 3 *Despite assurances by Mr Neish that all the information had in fact been communicated, not all those present agreed with that point of view and there was a general feeling that it was insufficient and unclear.*

In a discussion about this point there was still a feeling that not all information had been circulated to FWCC members but Mr Neish assured those present that he and Mr W. Smith has kept FWCC fully informed. .

Minutes Proposed by : Mr P.Tyrrell
Seconded by : Mrs M. Stallaert

3. Treasurer's report

Opening Balance		£
23,555. 05		
Strachan Youth Club	£ 1000. 00	
Bowling Club	500. 00	
DD to BT Web-cam	63. 60	£
1,563. 60		
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Closing Balance		£
21,991. 45		

4. Police Matters

No Police were in attendance. An email report was submitted by Constable Hamish Wallace to the effect that there was no significant criminal activity to report.
Enquiries are still on going into the theft in the Glen Dye area.

Police Scotland will be running an operation in the Marr area to ensure that motorists and their vehicles are equipped for winter weather and any freezing temperatures.

5. Glen Dye Wind Farm

It was reported that both fact sheets had been sent out for independent verification (Jeff Dickens contacts), had input from the working group and had been looked at by Coriolis to clarify technical information. Fact Sheet 1 has been circulated to FWC Councillors for comment. Once sheet no. 2 has been completed and verified, it will be submitted to FWCC for approval before uploading to the web site.

It was suggested that Fact Sheet 1 and Fact Sheet 2 be sent out together as an Information Pack. This was agreed.

The aim of the Information Sheets is to ensure that the community is aware of the facts regarding the proposed Wind Farm and understands the pros and cons of such a development.

There was a discussion about whether to include an indication of the financial benefits that could potentially be available to the Community and it was ultimately agreed that it would be deemed acceptable to do so in order to fairly represent the proposals to date. The Chair agreed to provide some narrative around this topic.

It was agreed that any erroneous information, which has already been publicised on the Internet or otherwise, either mistakenly or through personal agenda by persons unknown, should be addressed in the information pack and adjusted to give an accurate account.

It was agreed that it would be pragmatic to alert the local community, through the FWCC Website, Facebook and notices in the public halls and library, that a link to the information will be made available in due course.

The issue of the perceived lack of information from the two CLG representatives (Mr W. Smith and Mr A. Neish) was again discussed at the instigation of Mrs J. Randalls. When Mr A. Neish interrupted to explain to Mrs Randalls that all the relevant information from the CLG funding group had been passed on he was asked to 'shut up' by the Chair. Mr Neish and Mr Smith felt that the info had been reflected in the FWCC Minutes after each CLG meeting. Mrs Randalls who had copies of the CLG notes and the subsequent FWCC Minutes disputed this.

6. FWCC Community Benefit Applications

It was reported that the sub-committee met on 11th November 2017.

There are two applications:

Strachan Village Youth Group has applied for £1000.

They have received £4000 to date since commencement of Midhill Community Benefit. It was agreed that the Youth Group is run commendably and that it represents a very valuable asset to the community.

There was a general feeling, however, that whilst the Group should be supported, it would be in the best interests of everyone to also encourage the pursuit of alternative sources of funding. It was felt that there was a need to reduce the reliance of the Youth Group on the Midhill funds in order to increase their resilience for times when multiple applications meant increased competitions for existing funds. Both youth and parents could be encouraged to engage in the process. Mr P. Tyrrell will meet to discuss and encourage engagement with parents regarding their level of contribution.

After some discussion the Youth Group's application for £1000 was unanimously agreed with £500 agreed for their next application, providing funds are available at that time.

Inchmarlo Community Workshop has applied for £6000 towards further development, and as match funding for its Leader Application, which is due to be submitted in early 2018.

It was reported that woodwork classes are already successfully in operation.

Application agreed.

It was reported by Mr Tyrrell that an email had been received from Fred Olsen regarding the application for the Strachan Hall development. Queries had been raised making it necessary to resubmit the application.

The accompanying email, which had been sent to Fred Olsen by Secretary Will Smith, was read out. The email asked for the application to be scrutinised and listed a number of reasons why the application should be looked on unfavourably. The sentiments expressed were personal opinions and were not those expressed by FWCC at any of its public meetings. The email was signed by Will Smith as FWCC Secretary. It was felt that he had abused his position as FWCC Secretary, had misrepresented FWCC and the community and his comments had rendered the application unacceptable in its present form. That, along with two earlier issues in regard to his representation of community matters, raised a motion of no confidence by the Vice Chair. The Chair asked all those who had confidence in Mr Smith continuing as Secretary to raise their hand. There was one raised hand and so the vote of no confidence was carried.

It was agreed that the Chair would consult with Fred Olson as to a way forward.

The Chair asked for someone to take on the role of FWCC Secretary, Jill Randalls being the only person to express an interest, agreed to fill the position. Chequebook signatures will be adjusted accordingly and all FWCC secretarial matters transferred at soonest opportunity.

A member of the public requested information on the Community Benefit Fund to date and details of applications and approvals already processed. Mr P.Tyrell will attend to this. It was intimated that there is also information on the FWCC Website.

7. Planning Issues

Land Adjacent to Waulkmill, Strachan.

Erection of agricultural storage barn and livestock/equine pens and feed store (retrospective).

No comments or concerns raised.

Mill of Strachan, Banchory. AB31 6NS

Alterations and Extension to dwelling house.

No comments or concerns raised.

Site to south of The Steading, Gellan, Strachan.

Erection of dwelling house and detached garage.

No comments or concerns raised.

Low Cost Housing & Cemetery Car Park

Nothing further to report. (Refer to October Minutes)

8. Transport, Roads and Infrastructure

Road Closure B993

It was intimated that there will be a temporary road closure from Potarch Hotel to Ballogie commencing 8th January 2018 for a period of five days. This is to facilitate the removal of tree limbs on the Ballogie estate.

9. Education and Youth

Nothing further to report. Tenders are being received for play park development.

10. Community Issues

Maintenance of Old Graveyard at Strachan

Due to time constraints, it had been agreed to carry this forward to November's meeting. Further time constraints prevented this. Carried forward to January.

Proposed Change of Constitution and New Scheme of Establishment

There was a fairly lengthy discussion surrounding the proposed change of constitution.

Concerns were again raised regarding the implementation of a fairer representation of the community on FWCC. Correspondence with Kirsty Macleod from Marr Area Office advised that Councillors could voluntarily stand down and their seats be filled by Inchmarlo residents to achieve the required balance in numbers. Otherwise seats would be filled when vacated after three years in office completed. This would be in March 2019 soonest.

Some Councillors expressed the opinion that it would be counterproductive to lose some of the current expertise serving on FWCC as a result of attempting to balance representation. This raised the question as to how anyone could develop expertise when the same people were elected every year. However it was pointed out that Inchmarlo residents had had an equal opportunity to stand and be elected in the election last April.

Some members of the public from Inchmarlo who were present said that they were aware of a renewed interest in their

area in engaging with FWCC and would appreciate the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

It was agreed that the voting mechanism needs to be discussed and adjusted where necessary to facilitate a more balanced representation of Councillors. This will be discussed at the January meeting to be held in Strachan Hall on 25th January 2018 and it was proposed that Kirsty Macleod should be invited to that meeting.

The new Scheme of Establishment has been approved and will be implemented in 2018.

11. Any Other Business

Community Action Plan

SR reported that a CARES grant of £10,000 had been applied for; for the purpose of hiring a consultant to assist with the development of a Community Action Plan (CAP). This move was fully supported by all members. The CAP will look forward for the next 25 years with a detailed focus on the next 5 years.

Consultancy will be put out to tender and volunteers will be required – one from each area to work with appointee.

Mr A. Neish requested that, as a substantial landowner, he could be considered to liaise with those involved when appropriate.

Trustach and Cairnton Wood

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the proposed removal and thinning of forestry at Trustach and Cairnton Wood. Questions were raised regarding the extent of the work being planned, areas to be thinned and cleared, species of trees to be felled, restocking plan, species for replanting, woodland paths etc.

The agent has expressed his willingness to address any concerns and questions. JR asked that questions be sent to her for forwarding to the agent.

12. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 25th January 2018 at Strachan Hall.