

# Feughdee West Community Council

Special Meeting held in Strachan Hall

Friday 25th May 2018.

## Present

Simon Richards (Chairperson), Jill Randalls (Secretary), Ian Brockie, Lynsey Craig, Peter Tyrrell, Sam Wylde.

Kirsty Macleod (Marr Area) was also in attendance.

## Apologies

Marijke Staellert, Covie Morrison.

## 1. Adoption of New Constitution

- Simon Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to adopt a new constitution and standing orders in line with Aberdeenshire Councils recently revised Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils.
- A draft of FWCC constitution had been provisionally agreed at the FWCC meeting in April 2018 and this draft had been sent to Marr Area Office to ensure that it complied with the new Scheme.
- Public notices, including the wording of the new FWCC constitution had been placed on the Feughdee West Community Council website, Strachan Hub Face book page, Inchmarlo FB page and in the Inchmarlo newsletter. No comments had been received from members of the public.
- Before a vote was taken Lynsey Craig asked to address the meeting. She outlined her grave concerns about the proposed constitution in respect of seat representation. Although she had originally voted for the proposal in May 2017, she felt that the constitution was now too rigid and complicated in respect of seat representation and further division would be caused within FWCC by essentially 'blocking' or guaranteeing seats. She felt that all parts of the Feughdee West community area had an opportunity to attend any of the monthly meetings and have their views heard and ensure that they were being fairly represented. It did not require set seats to be allocated to certain areas and that we should be working to bring the community together and not creating divides. For these reasons she felt that she could not vote in favour of the constitution and would be keen for the CC to continue with its present system (the candidate elected in a fair and democratic election system with the highest amount of votes, irrespective of geographical area) or potentially it may mean that we need to consider the possibility of Strachan and Inchmarlo splitting and becoming two separate CCs if the division of areas is so important to some people.
- Peter Tyrrell replied to the above statement by reminding those present that the proposal for seat representation was made at the meeting in May 2017. This received a majority vote in favour. He stated that anyone attending the meetings over the past 18 months would have been dismayed at the behavior of some councillors, and therefore unlikely to want to take part in FWCC. He stated that fifty per cent of CC's within Aberdeenshire operate a system of seat representation.

\*Please see insertion at the end of these minutes \*

There followed a long discussion during which the following points were raised by those present:

- The figure of 50% of CC's operating seat representation was questioned, as was its relevance to FWCC. It was suggested that in the particular case of FWCC the geographically/physically separated communities may explain Inchmarlo's historical lack of interest in the CC. It was acknowledged that it was only with the adoption of the new Scheme that CC's had to formalise the way vacant seats would be filled.
- The vote last May was immediately after the election in April. Four councillors were new to FWCC. The required 28 days notice was given of the proposed amendment, but it was felt that

some councillors had not fully understood the implications of seat representation until a much more detailed discussion and analysis occurred with regards to the new Constitution.

- Inchmarlo, in particular, had an equal chance of being successful in the last election (April 17) as the electorate is almost identical to Strachan. They had fewer candidates so had a greater chance of representation.
- Auchattie, Tilquhillie, Bridge of Feugh and Blackhall were at a disadvantage due to their smaller electoral role.
- A vote for seat representation was taken at a public meeting in May 2017 and it is important that FWCC sticks by its decision.
- It was felt by some that the new constitution was too complicated and would not necessarily result in better representation.

A vote was held to adopt the revised Constitution:

For - 3 votes

Against - 2 votes

Abstention - 1

The proposal to adopt the revised constitution could not be passed as it required a two thirds majority.

There ensued a further long discussion at which the following additional points were raised:

- The Constitution was changed in 2014 to get rid of seat representation due to difficulties filling allocated seats.
- That the draft constitution was not necessarily wrong, just not well described, and that the focus should be on solutions not problems.
- Need a constitution agreed upon by September 2018. If not, there is a possibility of going into supported status.
- Adopt the current draft in its present form and review its working after a year. FWCC has the right to amend the constitution if any aspect proves to be not working in the best interests of the community.

With the last point in mind (to agree the present draft constitution and amend, if necessary, at a later date) another vote was held:

For - 5 votes

Against - 0 votes

Abstention - 1

Therefore the Constitution was approved and was formally adopted. It will be sent to Marr Area office for approval and then placed on the FWCC website.

## **2. Terms of election**

The terms of the election were then discussed and it was agreed that:

### **If 3 vacancies**

- 1 vacancy for Auchattie, Tillquhillie, Bridge of Feugh and Blackhall
- 1 vacancy for Inchmarlo
- 1 vacancy for either of the above to be decided by highest number of votes

### **If 4 vacancies**

- 2 vacancies for Auchattie, Tillquihillie, Bridge of Feugh and Blackhall
- 2 vacancies for Inchmarlo

In the event of there being insufficient candidates from one of the sub-divisions, priority will be given to candidates from sub-divisions where there remain vacancies i.e. if there are insufficient candidates from Auchattie et al. vacancies may be filled by Inchmarlo residents until the 4 Inchmarlo seats have been filled and vice versa until the 3 Auchattie et al. seats have been filled.

In the event of vacancies still unfilled, this vacancy will be filled by the candidate from the Feughdee West Community Council area with the highest number of votes.

The Returning Officer will be Janelle Clark, Marr Area Manager.

It was also agreed by Kirsty Macleod, on behalf of Marr Area, that elections would be held in both Strachan and Inchmarlo Halls.

Kirsty Macleod agreed to provide a map showing the boundaries of the three geographic areas comprising FWCC

### **3. AGM**

Under the terms of the new Constitution the FWCC AGM will be held in June.

### **4. AOB**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.30 hrs.

[Prior to the minutes being signed off at the FWCC meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 , Peter Tyrrell highlighted that he had meant to say 50% of CC's in Marr, and not Aberdeenshire, operated a seat representation system. On further discussion this figure was amended to 7 out of 16 community councils]