

Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 12th July 2023, 19:00hrs – Rafford Village Hall

FCC members present:

Stewart McCracken (SMcC), Anna Gatward (AG), Tom Hardie (TH), Tony Pinner (TP)

Also present:

Jude Pinner (minute taker)

1) Apologies

Shirley Munn (SM), Howard Davenport (HD)

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes agreed. Agreed version to be placed on FCC website.

3) Matters Arising

a) Passing Places on Rafford – Dallas Dhu Road

No action to date. KR to be reminded to investigate progress **(Action KR)**

4) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic in Rafford

SMcC and TP reported that the manufacturers had sent an engineer to check and re-set the VAS (vehicle activated signs) A problem with the circuit boards was identified and rectified. Now 3 of the 4 signs continue to work. TP did a trial download of data from one sign and showed the council the traffic reports that can be generated. The signs will be monitored next week (W/C 17th July) and the suppliers will be asked to replace any faulty unit and return a battery taken away for checking. SMcC will maintain contact with the manufacturers engineer until the signs are all working satisfactorily.

FCC has received designs for the village entrance signs from Elaine Penny (TMC). FCC will select a design for manufacture when TMC have the money available for them. Designs will be put on the website. HD will liaise with Elaine Perry (MC) on final design. **(Action HD)**

b) Broadband

SMcC attended a meeting with Richard Lochhead and Duncan Nesbit to make them aware of the dissatisfaction that the community had with the R100 progress. Clarification was also requested on whether R100 vouchers would still be available if high speed broadband was made available in Finderne by private contractors and how long the voucher scheme would be available for. No definite answers were received but they now have a fuller understanding of the Finderne area situation.

External Reality (ER) (Richard Allen) have been given a grant of £10000 from FDT to pay for a “deposit” for survey of existing infrastructure by Open Reach. This will be absorbed in development costs if the scheme to extend their network from Lower to Upper Rafford proceeds and the deposit repaid. If suitable the Open Reach ducts can be used to extend ER’s existing fibre optic service. Preliminary findings suggest that there is capacity in the Open Reach

system to run fibre optic cable to Upper Rafford but no capacity for Open Reach to run new cable from Forres without major excavation work. Open Reach are currently rectifying faults in the link between the Raffords and are also examining the possibility of using overhead cable on poles as an alternative to buried ducts to bring new cable from Forres. TP and TH were asked, from the floor, what the cost of connection to the ER network would be and would the vouchers be valid. TH and TP advised that monthly costs would be similar to BT or other providers. TH advised not to renew broadband contracts at the moment and he will review the situation and put further advice on the FCC website. **(Action TH)**

SMcC will ask what percentage of subscribers signing with ER will negate the Open Reach commitment to Rafford. **(Action SMcC)**

TP suggested a “drop-in” session at the monthly Café in Rafford with TH, Richard Allen, TP and SMcC present to answer peoples queries and concerns about getting connected to high-speed broadband. **(Action TP, SMcC, TH)**

TH to discuss with Richard Allen possible timescale etc for connection to Upper Rafford and what is possible. **(Action TH)**

c) Brochloch Development

Nothing to report. Next meeting of FDT on 24th July

d) Windfarm Developments and Energising Moray

HD has contacted Community Energy Moray. Alex Walker has agreed to come along to our meeting on 27th September and give us a short presentation on progress made on Community Participation in the Clashgour Windfarm.

HD will contact EDF/Force9 about Community Benefit. **(Action HD)**

e) JCC meeting Feedback

SMcC was not able to attend the meeting but has the minutes SMcC will attend the next meeting. **(Action SMcC)**

f) Resilience Planning

Moray Council have a training day on Resilience Planning coming up for CC's and FCC will send a representative. HD has contacted Rhona McNicoll at Moray Council, seeking some support in organising a Resilience Workshop. The objective of the workshop will be to try to identify the risks to the community, and where Resilience Planning could be a part of mitigating those risks. It would be good to have a facilitator and to use a process where the risks can be identified, probability and impact assessed, and mitigation strategies documented. This can then develop into a priority/action list for our Resilience Planning strategy in Funderne.

g) Forres Health Services

TH noted that the Practice Manager had failed to attend the last two planning meetings of the Moray Health and Social Care Partnership. He noted the difficulty of accessing health services and will attend the next meeting on 18th July about digital access. **(Action TH)**

h) Newtyle Access Road

On 18th July there will be a meeting at which the users of the Newtyle Road will decide from the following options:

Option one:

Prepare an application to the Berryburn Community Benefit Fund using the FCC as a 'constituted body' as agreed by the FCC. This application will not be heard until October 23rd and it is envisaged that cost of the project will have increased by then. Consequently the gathering of these increased funds from the road users would prove problematic to achieve and is likely to result in the collapse of the project.

Option two:

A significant percentage of the funding required for this project has been promised by the main road users. The balance required from the private residents has yet to be calculated exactly. However, once all the funds, including the element from private residents, have been transferred to the FCC account, the FCC treasurer will pay a deposit to the contractor, the balance being paid when the work is completed to a satisfactory standard. If there is any disparity between the funds held and the funds required to pay the contractor, the project will be cancelled and the monies will be returned to those who contributed them.

5) Pending items

a) Wildfires

Nothing to report.

6) Planning Report

Nothing to report from the planning lists for FCC area. TMC are still progressing a query from a resident about the "appropriateness" of the Leylandii hedge in the new house opposite Tullochwood Lodges. Roadworks have now taken place where previously it was reported that signs had been left on the verge. TP will monitor the removal of the signs when the work is completed.

TP attended the drop-in event to present the Dallas Dhu Affordable Housing project. Concern was expressed about the potential for increased traffic towards and through Rafford. TP to write to MC Planning to inform them of the concern. **(Action TP)**

7) Secretaries Report

It was agreed to wait for HD to return from holiday for any detail comments and attach as an addendum.

8) Treasurers Report

AG confirmed a full report has been emailed to all FCC members as an Excel file. A summary was presented:

Bank Balance £20,609.60 (£20k SSEN + £609.60 Moray Council Admin Grant balance)

9) AOCB

It was noted that SL and KR need to be reminded about a report on the U88 junction.

A query was raised about the completion of the footpath in Rafford. Noted that it is awaiting funding.

TH is still trying to ascertain the ownership of land in the Rafford flood alleviation dam area.

(Action TH)

A question was asked about the proposed new pylons to the south of Rafford. No further information since report at last meeting.

9) Date & Venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 23rd August 2023 – Edinkillie Village Hall.