

Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at Rafford Village Hall

FCC members present:

Tony Pinner (TP), Howard Davenport (HD), Tom Hardie (TH), Anna Gatward (AG)

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM), Rosemary Pannell (RP), Kathleen Robertson (KR), Stephen Hallet (SH), Stephen Wilkins (SW), Pat Hern, Andy Kemp (AK), Susan Kemp (SK). Peter Mitchell (PM)

Apologies:

Peter Taylor (PT), Kathleen Robertson, Paul McBain, Phillipa and Keith Atkey

1) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed.

2) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

- **Provision of a pavement in Upper Rafford**

Construction works complete, but some snagging items to be tackled. Elaine Penny, Roads Engineer, still to propose some road markings at crossing points.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

TH has devised a software update, which will allow remote re-set of the units.

- **Village Entrance Signs**

No further update, awaiting action from Roads Department.

- **Road Closures**

HD reported that we had received a response from Roads Department, but that the situation has not improved. Contractors had been asked to email FCC in advance of closures, but this has not happened.

HD to write again, asking that diversion signs be taken down when works are not in progress, particularly evenings and weekends. **(Action: HD)**

b) Broadband

HD reported that he had received a reply from Rachel Darroch at the Scottish Government office, saying that the "the pause for SVBS vouchers relates only to Gigabit-capable solutions. Applications remain open where the solution will deliver superfast speeds."

TH explained that this probably meant no grant for fibre connections. TH reported that this impacts External Reality's business model, and they were limiting their ambitions.

HD also reported a response from Robert Thorburn at OpenReach, who had said he would look into some missing properties. He urged that anyone with concerns use the form available on the Scottish Governments link <https://digitalconnectivity.campaign.gov.scot/get-in-touch>.

The meeting agreed that, with fibre being installed for most properties, the issue was now to get ultrafast connections for the remainder of properties. It was agreed we should write again, asking for more clarity on this. (Action: HD)

c) Brockloch Field Development

TP reported that FDT was still awaiting a decision on the planning application from Moray Council. The outstanding issue being the amount of Developer Obligations being asked for by TMC.

d) Windfarm Developments

HD reported that the only new news was notification from SSEN of an extension to the BerryBurn Substation. AM reported drilling works continuing, testing soil conditions for new pylons.

e) Joint Community Council

HD reported that there had been no JCC meeting since the last FCC meeting, but the next one was on 14th November. No FCC members were available to attend.

f) Resilience Planning

PT reported the following by email, ahead of the meeting:

- I have made contact with Pete Mitchell, Mike Crutch and Andy Kemp to invite their contributions and participation in an ad hoc subgroup to explore local issues with me.
- A second draft Resilience Plan has been circulated.
- Roy Dennis has confirmed that he would prefer my outreach to Edinkillie to be limited to Mike C as a contact point; Roy wishes to step back from the Resilience Planning process.
- We are moving towards a Plan that identifies "Local Heroes" on a Postcode basis, using the database supplied to FCC by Moray Council; these will be "contacts" in localised areas who can be a very specific local first port of call for the authorities, first responders etc. to gather accurate data about the local conditions; local "assets" such as generators, pumps, chainsaws, tractors etc will be identified on a postcode-based listing
- I have a provisional list of likely candidates for this role, and will work around them to discuss their willingness etc.
- Ordnance Survey have agreed to explore methods to facilitate an "overlay" of postcodes onto the Finderne Area map; I will be taking up their offer on my return, through a contact in Moray Council identified by OS.
- I was unable to attend the Council's Resilience Conference last week, but Andy K and Tony did attend, and will be able to report on its utility and outcomes to the meeting (we have not yet had a chance to catch up on their experience and recommendations from that day)
- I have received a copy of the slideshow from Rhona McNicol
- I will be following up with Rhona and Debra Duke after my return.

AK reported that the Resilience Conference was very useful, and the slide show would be circulated.

HD thanked Pete, Andy and Mike Crutch for volunteering to join the Resilience sub-group.

g) Forres Health Services

TH has received answers to some of the question posed to the Forres Area Health Forum, on behalf of FCC. He is considering how this information can be made available on the FCC website.

TH proposed a further three-part question on the Engage Consult facility:

1. There are differences between the opening times on the iPhone App, the Webpage, and the webpage video. Which is correct?
2. Why is it only possible to submit an eConsult during such limited hours? If it was available 7/24 it wouldn't affect the number of submissions as all the submission criteria would remain the same and this would allow patients to manage their medical admin at times convenient to themselves rather than effectively only during the working day.
3. In all other interactions with the health system, be it letter, email, telephone, video call or face to face, the name and position of the respondent is always given. Why not on all eConsult responses?

The meeting agreed these questions should be submitted, with the aim of improving the service for all users. **(Action TH)**

3) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. A940 Road Junction at Edinkillie Church

It was confirmed that AM should phone PT when the road is flooded, so pictures can be taken, and forwarded to TMC Roads Dept. **(Actions: AM, PT)**

b. FCC membership

TP suggested that we launch a campaign for members in the new year, as a number of current members are planning to step down at the end of the current council term in September 2025.

c. Local Place Plans

TP reported the drop-in events had been well attended, with lots of useful comments and input received. Next step would be for the consultants to complete a draft LPP, for review by FCC. This would be made available for comments from the community.

TP asked for the notes on paths from Drop-in, to incorporate into the work of the FDT Paths group.

HD reported he had circulated a draft report on the results of Community Survey to FCC members for review.

d. Lower Rafford Mini-Wetland

TH reported further progress on his plans for the mini-wetland by the Rafford Burn

e. Path to Rafford Church

A further work party to be organised to complete the work. **(Action: TH)**

f. Road to Rafford Cemetery

HD reported no further response from TMC legal department on ownership of this section of road.

g. Moray Council Community Council Scheme review

Some boundary changes around Cathay Nursing Home, and along the Pluscarden Road south of Rafford were discussed. TP agreed to map out some ideas. **(Action: TP)**

HD had questions about the process for boundary changes. **(Action HD to follow up)**

h. Review of Guidance Document for Develop Obligations

An email discussion between FCC members on this topic had reached no agreement, so no comments had been submitted to the review. (Item closed)

i. Drainage of A940

AM reported that offlets had been cleared, but not in the previously reported problem area beside Blairs Loch. HD noted that community members could report issues directly to Moray Council Roads Department and would include a link on FCC Website. **(Action: HD)**

j. Community Minibus

RP asked for feedback on Bus Service. HD notes some comments had been made on Community Survey and would be forwarded when finalised. **(Action HD)**

RP reported that Ian Chorlton had attended Moray Transport Forum, where there had been some discussions around a joint service including Edinkillie, Rafford, and Findhorn. Any timetable revisions would need 3 months' notice.

4) Planning Report (TP)

TP reported that no new planning applications of note for Finderne had been lodged.

5) Secretary's Report (HD)

Summary of correspondence received by email to 13th November 2024:

12th Nov – D Duke forwarded Scottish Community Councils newsletter, including Resilience survey and funding available! Various other funding pots and the Ian Findlay Path Fund.

11th Nov – Revised Community Toolkit from SSEN including what to do when there is a power cut.

7th Nov – D Duke sent agenda for JCC meeting on 14th November.

5th Nov – D Duke sent tsiMoray newsletter, including various funding opportunities

4th Nov – email from R Thorburn Openreach, saying he would send updated property spreadsheet.

4th Nov – notice of Leancoil Trust AGM on 21st Nov, preceded by Q&A on their plans.

1st Nov – response from R Thorburn (Openreach) on queries about missing properties R100 fibre.

31st Oct – request from RVH to send info on Dates for FCC meetings in 2025. **(Action: HD)**

21 Oct – Notice of TMC Public Session on 12th Nov to discuss TMC Budget. (KR noted that this had been postponed until January.)

30-Oct – Email for Rosemary at FDT, with an update on the Community Bus, asking RVH and FCC for any feedback.

30th Oct – Notice from SSEN about planned extension of BerryBurn substation

30th Oct – Reminder of TMC Resilience Event – 7th November

29th Oct – D Duke sent reminder of Scottish Community Councils Resilience Survey (PT has responded)

19th October – reminder of Moray Transport Forum meeting on 29th Oct, discussing mConnect bus.

21st Oct – Email for Enkellie Community Association asking us to publicise Quiz Night on 26th Oct.

17th Oct – email from C Matheson from TMC Roads, responding to our complaints about lack of notice and inaccurate Road Closure signage.

15th Oct – response from Rachel Darroch at Scottish Govt, on our query on the pause of SBVS vouchers.

15th Oct – email from TMC Planning allowing extension to consultation of Developer Obligations to 21st October.

6) Treasurers Report (AG)

AG had provided the following update, based on report issued prior to the meeting:

Bank Balance £25,906.68

- £20k SSEN.
- £553.32 Moray Council Admin Grant balance.
- £57.79 Newtyle Access Road Residents balance.
- £240 Stocksigns compensation. (earmarked for sign maintenance)
- £5,055.57 balance of funding from FDT for LPP

It was noted that an invoice for £4,791.10 had been received today from Collective Architecture, for their work on the Local Place Plan.

AOCB

Mud on Damhead Road

SH, supported by SW, raised concerns about the state of the Damhead road following recent pig farm operations by Karro, who have recently relocated a number of outdoor pig units from Clodach Farm to Easter Brochloch.

The key points raised were:

- No attempt had been made by Karro to clean the road.
- It had been left in a dangerous state, making it unsafe for cyclists, pushchairs, wheelchairs and pedestrians.
- The mud may damage the road surface.

SH added that he recognised this was a rural area, and that farmers needed to use the local roads. However they should clean up the road afterwards, and they seemed to have no regard for the safety of other road users, or themselves (lack of using helmets on their quad bikes)

TP noted that FCC had complained to Karro previously about this, and would contact Tim Slack, for a Karro contact person. **(Action: TP)**

It was agreed that FCC should contact the local police and TMC roads department to bring this to their attention. **(Action: HD)**

7) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 22nd January 2025, at Rafford Village Hall.

(Post meeting note: It was decided after the meeting, to cancel the proposed meeting on 18th December)