

Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at Edinkillie Community Hall

FCC members present:

Howard Davenport (HD), Peter Taylor (PT), Anna Gatward (AG)

Also present:

Andy Munro (AM)

1) Apologies:

Tony Pinner (TP), Tom Hardie (TH)

2) Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed.

3) Current Standing Items

a) Traffic Safety in Rafford

- **General Items**

It had been agreed at the last meeting to download speed data from the VAS units, and compare with previous data. **(Actions: TP to download the data, HD to write to Police)**

HD reported that he had contacted Forres Academy about children walking on the B9010 after dusk, wearing dark clothes, but had received no reply or acknowledgement. Item closed.

No further progress on the main items below:

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

Some further snagging items to be completed by the civils contractors. Wild flower planting on the verge will be done by Land and Parks Department. Roads Dept will remove redundant post in front of the speed sign at the southern end of Upper Rafford. EP has proposed some road markings at crossing points.

- **Vehicle Activated Signs**

TH has done a manual reset of some units, and has devised a software update, which will allow remote re-set of the units.

- **Village Entrance Signs**

EP said this work would need to wait until new financial year, and she wanted to discuss who pays for what. HD reported that he had made an enquiry about the cost of signs.

b) Broadband

HD reported that he had written again to Robert Thorburn of Openreach, asking for definitive information on all properties in Funderne, but had received no reply (**Action: HD to follow up**)

AM reported that there was ongoing activity by OpenReach contractors in the Edinkillie area, including laying of ducting to some very remote properties.

c) **Brockloch Field Development**

HD reported he had received the following update from Ian Chorlton of FDT:

We are in the process of acquiring a Section 75 from Moray Council (Developers contribution) , this will enable planning to be awarded hopefully by June 2025. We can then progress the final phase of the design and building warrant. We will be going out to tender shortly to gauge the interest and get a budget cost for the project.

FCC had agreed in February to ask FDT if they would approach TMC Planners with a view to reducing the amount of lighting within the project, in order to minimise light pollution. FDT agreed to do this, but had reported that TMC would not change their requirements.

d) **Windfarm Developments**

HD reported notification from Community Energy Moray about a consultation event on the subject of a proposed windfarm at Blackhills, east of Elgin.

e) **Joint Community Council**

No member was available for the last JCC meeting on 13th February. Next meeting scheduled for 22nd May.

f) **Resilience Planning**

PT reported progress on the following:

- Peter Mitchel had completed mapping of the localities of proposed resilience groupings.
- PT will be contacting the proposed Local Resilience Heros, who would be a first point of contact within each locality. **(Action: PT)**
- Version 3 of the FCC Resilience plan had been submitted to Rhona McNicol of TMC for comment.
- PT will contact Ordnance Survey with regard to use of mapping data. **(Action: PT)**
- PT had applied for funding for resilience materials to the value of £300 from TMC.

g) **Forres Health Services**

No update this meeting, so it was agreed to carry over previous items to next meeting:

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)**

4) Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. A940 Road Junction at Edinkillie Church

AM reported a further road traffic accident on the bend at Edinkillie Church, resulting in damage to the wall and the vehicle concerned.

AM also reported icing on the side road up to the viaduct, and that he had some picture of recent flooding and would send these to PT, who will liaise with TMC Roads Dept. **(Actions: AM, PT)**

b. FCC membership

The future of the FCC remains a significant concern, if additional members do not come forward when the new FCC is due to be formed in September this year. PT recommend writing to Debra Duke to alert her to this situation, and ask what actions would be taken if insufficient candidates come forward. **(Action: HD)**

c. Local Place Plan

HD reported that TMC had acknowledged receipt of the Finnerne Local Place Plan. They will take a few weeks to review the document. It is anticipated that an information report on LPPs will be presented to the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee in May. Provided that all of the legislative requirements are met then the LPP will proceed to registration and be reported to the May committee meeting.

PT thanked TP and HD for all the work they had put in to preparing the LPP.

d. Lower Rafford Mini-Wetland

No update.

e. Path to Rafford Church

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

f. Community Minibus

HD reported an update from Ian Chorlton:

Based on feedback from the community survey, FDT have submitted the revised route (including Lower and Upper Rafford) and timetable to Moray Council. This takes 28 days, so mid-April, then we will apply to the traffic commissioner, approx. 7-9 weeks. As soon as we have acceptance FDT will propose a date for the change of route (Approx. May/June).

g. Mud on the Damhead Road

As the FCC have not had any further complaints, it was agreed that this item should be closed.

h. Smart Meters

HD reported that FCC had accepted the offer from Sean Lusk, to act as a focal point for households having problems with Smart Meter connectivity. This had been highlighted in a recent community newsletter.

i. Christmas Refuse Collections

HD reported he had written to TMC Refuse Department asking for clarity on a potential 4 week gap in bin collection over the Christmas period. FCC have received a response saying that the Christmas collection timetable would be issued in early December. Item closed.

5) Planning Report (TP)

FCC had received communication from 2 households in the Templestones area, who expressed concern about 2 planning applications for a total of 5 dwellings on a site at which had been designated for 4 houses in the Moray Development Plan. As a result TP had made a representation to TMC planning department on this issue.

(Action: TP to follow up).

6) Secretary's Report (HD)

Summary of correspondence received by email to 12th March 2025: (most recent first)

- 12-Mar: Survey from Sustainable Aviation Test Environment on communities needs from sustainable aviation. No deadline.
- 4-Mar: Notice of next JCC meeting on Thursday 22nd May. Plus slides on Moray Growth Deal from last JCC meeting.
- 4-Mar: Resilience Funding offer, spend £600 before end March. Applications by 6th March!
- 27-Feb: Acknowledgment from Emma Mitchell at TMC Planning of Tony's comments on planning applications for houses at Templestones (25/00131/APP. & 25/00132/APP)
- 26-Feb: tsi Moray newsletter including funding opportunities, events and volunteering.
- 24-Feb: Outfit Moray Easter Activities programme
- 24-Feb: Minutes of JCC meeting held on 13th Feb, plus note on formation of JCC working group to publicise forthcoming Community Council Elections
- 18-Feb: Notice of Scotland National Speed Management review, which proposes changes to speed limits on single carriageways from 60mph down to 50mph. Consultation closed 5th March.
- 18-Feb: TMC Local Housing Strategy survey
- 18-Feb: response from Ian Chorlton of FDT on TMC Planning response to request for reduced lighting on Brockloch Housing. TMC are not changing their requirements.
- 13 Feb: Outfit Moray job and training opportunities
- 12-Feb: response from TMC Refuse department, saying that Christmas Bin Collection timetable would be released in December.
- 12-Feb: TMC acknowledge receipt of Local Place Plan
- 10-Feb: email from local resident concerned about new housing planning applications at Templestones.
- 10-Feb: Consultation on Taxi Fare card, closes 20th March.
- 5-Feb: notice from Community Energy Moray about consultation events about proposed Blackhills wind Farm near Elgin
- 5-Feb: email from Dunphail resident about anti-social behaviour. Informal advice provided.
- 30-Jan: Survey from Scottish Government on R100 Broadband Evaluation, closes 3rd March
- 27-Jan: email from Nairn Improvement Community Enterprise, advising that they have submitted a Local Place Plan.
- 24-Jan: Leancoil Trust newsletter

7) Treasurers Report (AG)

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

Bank Balance £21,758.03

- £20k SSEN.
- £795.77 Moray Council Admin Grant balance.
- £57.79 Newtyle Access Road Residents balance.
- £240 Stocksigns compensation. (earmarked for sign maintenance)
- £664.47 balance of funding from FDT for LPP

It was agreed that the Newtyle Access Road balance be returned to residents to cover costs incurred for signage. AG will manage this.

It was noted that the balance of funding for the LPP should be kept for the time being, in case of any further modification being required by TMC, and for printing copies of the LPP which could be made available to community organisations.

8) AOCB

a) Moray Councillors attendance

It was noted that no councillors had attended FCC meetings so far this year. There had been 2 particular issues in February, where FCC members thought some consultation and communication with the FCC would have been appropriate, :

- Proposal for Overnight parking at Califer Hill Viewpoint
- Proposals for closure of Forres Community Centre.

It was agreed FCC should write to Councillors and raise these concerns. **(Action: HD)**

9) Next meeting

Next meeting: 7:00 pm – Wednesday 23rd April 2025, at Rafford Village Hall.