

FINTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 1 August 2023 Fintray Village Hall

Present - Roddy MacInnes (Chair), Richard Taylor (Treasurer), Katherine Gerrard (Secretary), Cllr Trevor Mason, Cllr Jim Gifford, Ian Thompson, Sarah Hashim, Evelyn Morrice, Belinda Miller, Gina Ford, Laura Simpson (Minutes)

Welcome - Roddy welcomed everyone.

Apologies - Kat Lancaster, Cllr Glen Reid

Declaration of Interest - None

Approval of Minutes

Proposed by Evelyn Morrice, seconded by Katherine Gerrard

Matters Arising

Roddy and Richard still to meet regarding banking.

Hogweed has been treated by a contractor on behalf of Fintray Estate. Large ones have been injected and small ones sprayed. Will be follow up by contractors in Spring 2024.

Roddy will liaise with Edward Johnston in respect of this.

Emergency Planning Boxes - Roddy will visit Fintray school for a School Assembly in September with Emergency Planning Team from Council to introduce the proposed project..

Newsletter - Alison Cumming contacted Roddy tonight so he will have a look at her information and he is also waiting for some feedback from other similar communities. Kat has researched costs of a newsletter and feels that cost would not be prohibitive using printpond.co.uk It may be that moving into Winter there could be an opportunity for a resilience type information publication. Some ideas about how to engage the wider community was discussed but this will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Belinda suggested considering the library service for printing.

Police Report

Sergeant John Hampton sent a police report covering May to July. There was nothing to report.

Overall there is increased patrols to deter and detect ASB and increased use of stop and search to deter/detect Drugs and Acquisitive crime

There are enhanced speed checks and other speed reduction measures in place.

Treasurer's Report

No actions since last month meaning balance remains at £2599.58.

The audited accounts have been sent to the Council along with Minutes from the AGM to obtain the CC grant.

Planning

No planning applications validated or decided during the previous period.

Local Development Plan The cornerstones of the National Planning Framework 4 are biodiversity and climate change. As a result, these will be strongly reflected in the next Local Development Plan (LDP 2028). Aberdeenshire Council is currently preparing the Evidence Report (data collection) as part of the LDP process. The Evidence Report sets out the characteristics (economic, social, heritage, environmental, population distribution, health, etc) and needs (housing, healthcare, education, infrastructure, etc) of the region to inform

what to plan for in terms of land use in the LDP. The Community Council will provide input where applicable into the Evidence Report surveys. Once the Evidence Report is published (end Mar 2024) the Community Council will start the process of preparing the Fintray community input into the LDP (likely in the form of a Local Place Plan) during the LDP Call for Ideas. This will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council before Dec 2024.

Meetings Attended

Roddy attended CC Forum with Lord Lieutenant Sandy Manson, explaining his role and how his office works, the value it brings to the area and the help they can give, together with his link to King Charles. He is keen to receive information about community activity and people who are significantly serving the community.

Nom Wright was speaking about the 3 weekly bin collections as a drive to increase recycling. Due to recent challenges, Roddy asked about rota for glass collection, and Nom said he will get back to him about this. Following work done by Sarah, Roddy has also subsequently asked about dog bins, particularly thinking forward to the 3 weekly collection.

Alison Cumming is hoping to get some induction training for new members of Community Councils. It is hoped there will also be a network event in November to discuss ways to build continuity planning within Community Councils with a particular focus on Office Bearers. On Wednesday 6th September there is a Community Council Forum meeting which Roddy cannot attend, he will send an email round in the hope someone will be able to attend.

Community Association Update

An application has been submitted for infrared heating to begin replacing the current heating system. The fixed term electricity price comes to an end in March so costs will rise. Total cost will be in the region of £9000, the Community Association will have to contribute 25% of the cost and are hopeful of support. This will have to be completed by the end of the tax year, which Hosies have said can be done.

There is now a generator that can be used in the case of a power outage but currently the large hall cannot be powered, however, because of the reduced loading the new heating would allow the large hall to be used if necessary.

A housing for the generator is in the plan and it is likely a resilience fund grant would be applied for to help with costs.

Entrance to Hatton Court - they are still waiting for the Council to progress this.

Christmas light switch on is Sunday 3rd December.

Aberdeenshire Councillors' Updates

Cllr Gifford's points have all been discussed in the meeting.

He highlighted the Rural Communities Action Fund which has funds, but the turnaround date is frustratingly very short.

Cllr Mason

Cllr Gillian Owen is now leader of the Council and has moved from Education Services to become chair of Business services. The education services position has been filled by Cllr David Keaton.

Many large public buildings built mid 1950-80's are being surveyed to see what has been built using RAAC concrete. As a precaution some buildings have already been closed while they are checked for safety.

Cllr Mason queried recent social media comment in respect of residents repairing some areas of roadways within the village. It was explained that there had been a frustration in respect of perceived Council inaction due to potholes not being deemed a priority and vehicles sustaining some damage. As a result there had been some preventative action taken by some residents.

Cllr Gifford says there is a combination of budget cuts and insufficient staff, with numerous unfilled vacancies, resulting in many planned pieces of work not being completed.

Correspondence since last meeting - list attached and has been emailed to all members. Roddy drew attention to the bulletins as there is a lot of useful information contained therein.

Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 17th October (instead of 3rd due to holidays)