



### ***Minutes of the meeting held on***

7<sup>th</sup> October 2020

(A virtual meeting held via Zoom)

#### **I. Present/apologies for absence:**

- **Present:** Ken Smith (Chair), Michele Bennett (Vice Chair), Sue Wallace (Treasurer), Angela May (Secretary), Karen Milliken, Hendy Spence
- Pam Campbell (Community Link Officer)
- **Apologies:** Meg Duckworth (Planning/Licensing)

#### **II. Declaration of interest in any items of business**

None

#### **III. Approval of Minutes of last meeting:**

An amendment to an item of correspondence to remove personal/confidential details will be circulated for approval.

#### **IV. Stirling Councillor's Report**

- No report submitted. This is the second month where no report has been submitted.
- Ken reported that he had emailed all the Councillors to inform them of the change of date of the meeting but had received no reply from any of them.
- Pam will check with the Councillors why this has occurred.

#### **V. Police Report**

- Antisocial Behaviour – Minor disturbance in the village involving 2 males. Police attended immediately and matter resolved. No further complaints.
- Road Safety – On the outskirts of the village on the B822 – there were two road accidents as follows:
  - A cyclist collided with a vehicle. Police attended, fortunately there were no serious injuries.
  - A report of a vehicle in a ditch. Male driver conveyed to hospital however no serious injuries.
- Vehicle care - Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road. Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing. Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre. Please ensure that vehicle windscreens are defrosted and you have a full view of the road ahead prior to driving off. On that note, please do not defrost the windscreen by leaving your engine running unattended on the road or driveway.
- Theft - A caravan was stolen from a property on the B822 – during the theft, the caravan overturned and was recovered however was damaged. Enquiries ongoing. All incidents in relation to suspicious persons or vehicles are welcomed and Police will attend to all these incidents immediately. We urge people to remain vigilant and

report anything suspicious. The evenings are getting darker earlier and it is a time where traditionally housebreakings can occur. Please consider the following:

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
- If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.
- Create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.
- Shut out scammers - Doorstep Crime affects some of the most vulnerable within our communities. It manifests in many forms including online and telephone scams, exploitation by persons known to the victim and the fraudulent activities of unscrupulous persons purporting to be bona fide tradespeople. There is a campaign started called "Shut Out Scammers" which is raising awareness of offenders who cold-call people at their homes and scam them out of money. Doorstep criminals may offer to carry out work at a reduced rate, asking you to hand over cash straight away and often in advance of any repairs being carried out. We have visited local businesses handing out leaflets and posters to highlight this issue. There is no specific look to a bogus caller or rogue trader. If you have any concerns at all, do not allow an individual entry to your home, or provide them with any form of payment and do not hesitate to phone the police immediately. Always ask for ID and only let callers in if they have an appointment and you know that they are genuine. If you would like to receive any of our advice and guidance on preventing crime then you can visit your local police station, call 101 or visit our dedicated webpage at
- Community Engagement and Reassurance - It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems. PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact. Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at [www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision](https://www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision) [www.facebook.com/policescotland](https://www.facebook.com/policescotland) [www.twitter.com/stirlingpol](https://www.twitter.com/stirlingpol) [www.twitter.com/policescotland](https://www.twitter.com/policescotland)

## **VI. Treasurer's Report**

- General Fund Account  
The current balance in this account is £4,549.
- Foundation Fund:  
The foundation fund balance to date is £35,503.

Foundation Scotland Budget	Description	Budget	Spend	Remaining
Commissioned Service	Community Transport Scheme	£2,500	£672	£1,828
Commissioned Activity	Continued Path Maintenance	£5,000	£4,328	£672
Commissioned Activity	Maintenance of resilience fund assets	£1,000		£1,000
Fintry Special Project	Community Garden & Resilience Fund	£2,000		£2,000
Fintry Special Project	Menzies Hall Resilience Hub	£13,000		£13,000
Fintry Special Project	COVID-19 Hardship and Resilience Fund	£5,160	£958	£4,202
Micro Grants-A	Individual Grants £250-500	£2,000		£2,000
Micro Grants-B	Individual Grants £250-500	£2,000		£2,000
Main Grants	Constituted Groups £500-2500	£10,000	£2,500	£7,500
Student Study Grant	Student Study Grant	£1,000		£1,000
Administration Fee	FCC Admin work	£500	£200	£300
	Total	£44,160	£8,657	£35,503

As agreed as part of the resilience response the volunteers have been paid travel expenses based on 45p per mile. The payment of £958 covers 4 volunteers from April till end of September. They averaged 80 miles a month. So big thanks to them for their efforts.

## **VII. Planning**

In the last month there has only been one Fintry item at the planning committee.

- A planning Enforcement Order regarding a roof light at a house in Menzies Avenue has been dropped and the case is now "closed".
- Karen noted that she had had problems contacting the Planning Department recently. She had tried both by telephone and by messaging them via the website. Pam said she would get in touch with them and ask them to contact Karen.

## **VIII. Ongoing resilience**

- Michele gave an update on the restrictions that are about to begin in Scotland overall but also the tighter restrictions in five areas including Forth Valley. Licensed premises have to close completely for 16 days from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 6 p.m. apart from takeaways. Unlicensed premises can remain open but must close at 6 p.m. every day. Michele wondered how this would affect the Sports Club and the Courtyard Café. Pam said she would try and find out the specifics of the restrictions.
- The collection of prescriptions and shopping for vulnerable people is ongoing. Michele wondered if the FCC should pay for flu vaccinations for the volunteers but it was felt that this may be difficult as there is a shortage of vaccines at the moment.
- Michele has applied for funding from The Postcode Lottery for compost bins and additional planters for the Community Garden. She also reported that the primary school is keen for the children to be involved in planting vegetables. Karen thought it would be a good idea to plan ahead and order seeds as soon as possible as it is likely that there may be shortages.
- Karen wondered if more volunteers were needed but Michele reported that there are enough at the moment who are all happy to continue.
- A quote and funding is being sought for a generator at the church hall and for a generator shed.

## **IX. Flooding pilot scheme**

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) have offered 2,000 trees to be planted in the gardens of the properties in Fintry that are worst affected by flooding.
- The position of the flood camera will be moved tomorrow.
- The cost of providing new doors, flood barriers and sandbags to two houses would be around £1600 to £1800 per house. Michele asked if this could be funded by the Kingsburn Fund. Unfortunately, this would not be possible as the funding cannot be used for individual properties. Pam said she would check if there were any grants available from Stirling Council that may be relevant but felt that Paul Laidlaw from the Scottish Flood Forum (SFF) would be the best person to ask.

- Karen had seen flood snakes which could be places around whole properties to protect them from flooding and wondered if anything like that could be put along the river bank at the Sports Centre to stop the sports field and Kippen Road flooding. As this would be protecting several properties, the Kingsburn Fund could possibly be used for this. Ken felt it would be worth speaking to Paul Laidlaw and Maria Lucie (Flooding Manager, Stirling Council) to see if this is a suitable option. Karen will send the information to Ken.
- There was discussion about the likelihood that the flooding at the bottom of the Crow Road had been exacerbated by the removal of so many trees further up the Crow Road. It was felt that the Forestry Commission should be taken to task about this and that it would be useful to have a civil engineer do a survey to see if this is the case. Michele will speak to a contact she has in the Forestry Commission. Karen also noted that the roadside ditches have not been cleared for at least six years.

#### **X. River Gauges**

- The river gauges have been checked recently. A quote for a third gauge is still awaited. The gauges belonging to Stirling Council did not work again during recent heavy rain so there was a suggestion that Stirling Council 'piggy back' on the other gauges.

#### **XI. Play Park**

- Michele had met with representatives from Stirling Council to discuss the state of the play park. It was agreed that relevant companies should be approached to give quotes.
- The primary school children have made lots of suggestions about what they would like to have in the play park including a flying fox and equipment that would be accessible to all.
- The representatives from Stirling Council had queried whether disabled access could be made from the Castle Drive. Michele will speak to the owner. Sue wondered if access would be possible through the primary school but Michele said this would not be practical during school hours.
- Funding options will be explored including participatory budgeting which involves Stirling residents deciding where funding should go. Michele thought that this system was unfair to smaller communities but Pam said that smaller communities receive weighting to make it fair and that Arnprior which is Stirling's smallest community had benefited from this funding previously.
- A resident approached Michele and the representatives from Stirling Council to complain about the condition of a tree in that area. He stated that the tree was rotten and that branches had been falling into the multi-court at the primary school. One of the Council representatives has some knowledge of trees so examined the tree whilst he was there and said that it is not dead. There have been no complaints about branches from the primary school.

#### **XII. Roads**

- Still waiting for the crossing to be installed on Main Street as advised by Safer Routes to School. Michele noted that Aberfoyle and Kippen had crossings installed recently so Fintry will just have to wait its turn.
- The traffic survey is in place to monitor the speed of traffic going through the village. This is to check if the 20 MPH signs have had any effect. Speed activation signs are still in the pipeline but much of the roads budget has been sidelined into a central pot for Covid related funding. The results of the survey will determine any further traffic calming measures that may be needed but the Roads Department can only make recommendations. The Stirling Councillors have the final say.
- Still waiting for double yellow lines to be painted on the road at the junction of Main Street and Kippen Road. Michele wondered if this could be done at the same time as similar work is being done in Kippen. Pam will enquire.
- The application for a clearway near the Loup is in progress. The possibility of additional laybys is also being looked into.
- The Crow Road will be closed after Jaw Farm for culvert replacement works some time in November. Date to be confirmed.

#### **XIII. Community Council Archive**

- The Community Council would like to amalgamate all the old documents into one place. They could be stored in metal filing cabinets at the Menzies Hall. Hendy said she would be happy to look through the documents and make sure only relevant documents were stored.
- Pam will compile a list of FCC Chairs for the last twenty years and send their names to Hendy. Hendy will contact them to ask for the old documents.

#### **XIV. Communication**

- Karen wondered if there were any ways that FCC could improve their methods of communication with the community. She pointed out that several people had been asking about where to access the minutes. She noted that Michele puts lots of information on Fintry Buddies on Facebook but that maybe the FCC Facebook page and website should be used more. Information should be posted on the FCC page first and then shared to Fintry Buddies. Consideration should also be given to people who do not use the internet/social media.
- Sue mentioned the noticeboard outside the old police house and that a decision was needed about replacing it. One option would be to have one side locked for FCC information only or to have both sides locked and any information that other people want in there could be posted through Sue's door. It would be an FCC board only, not a board for everyone. There was discussion about whether the board could be moved to a different location but Sue said she was happy for it to remain there for the foreseeable future. Sue will circulate some options for the new noticeboard.
- Karen also felt that the website could be improved and would investigate options for this and circulate to FCC. She felt it would be good if members of the community could add information to the website for example, past editions of The Fintry Focus.
- Karen said she would draft some guidelines to ensure there was a consistent approach to how information was shared.

#### **XV. Stirling Bus**

- Angela had obtained quotes for a larger coach to enable physical distancing but also for Buchanan Cabs to provide two vehicles instead of one. With new restrictions in place, including the Bingo hall being closed, it was agreed that the bus is not a viable option at the moment.

#### **XVI. Community Garden**

- Angela asked what the next steps are for the community garden. This year, residents have not been able to use the planters as they have been used to grow vegetables etc. for distribution to vulnerable people in the community. Options are to continue to use it this way again, to open it up to the community or try and get more of the community involved in growing things for others. The options were discussed and it was agreed that a decision could not be made until FCC have an idea of how many people are interested in having their own tub. A questionnaire is planned on another issue and it was agreed that this question could be added to it.
- Karen wondered if there was any other land available in the village that could be used as a community area as the current location is prone to flooding. It was agreed that if a lot of interest is expressed, this option could be looked into with a view to it being a larger area with an orchard, bee-keeping area etc.
- Sue pointed out that funding that has been earmarked for the community garden could not be used if the tubs are being used by individuals for themselves rather than for the community.
- Karen confirmed that there had been no negative feedback about the way the garden had been used this year and said that now would be a good time to plant potatoes as they could probably withstand the odd flood.

#### **XVII. Complaint Response**

- Two complaints were submitted to Stirling Council about Fintry Community Council and the Code of Conduct.
- As the complaints relate to more than half the membership of Fintry Community Council, Stirling Council has asked for a response from FCC.
- Stirling Council will consider whether it complies with the requirement within the Scheme for a complaint to be considered for the Conduct Review Panel.

- Stirling Council provided a summary of the complaints. A response has been drafted and circulated to all Community Councillors and with amendments/additions as discussed and agreed at meeting on 7 October will be submitted to Stirling Council.

**XVIII. Correspondence**

- A resident had queried the reason for the traffic survey (answered in Section XII) and the reason for the delay in the roadworks on Kippen Road. FCC was not told the reason for the delay.
- No applications have been received for the Kingsburn micro/macro-grants. Sue will put information in the noticeboard.

**XIX. A.O.B.**

- The bench near the cross has still not been reinstated due to the fact that the pavement has not been repaired. Sue said there may be a possibility that the bench could be positioned on the grass outside her house which would be graveled.
- An application to amend the premises licence at The Courtyard Café as follows: adding The Tin Shed and Bothy to the premises licence and layout plan and increasing capacity to reflect this. Adding additional outdoor areas to the layout plan, the Kitchen Gardens and Orchard. Adding, celebrations, funerals, live performances, dance, theatre, films and indoor sports to the licence. A pro-forma form (preferred) for making objections or representations is available from the clerk and online at: [www.stirling.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/licensing)

**XX. Date of next meeting**

- 11th November 2020