



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

10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

(A virtual meeting held via Teams)

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

- **Present:** Michele Bennett (Vice Chair), Sue Wallace (Treasurer), Angela May (Secretary), Ian Rodger, Hendy Spence
- Pam Campbell (Community Link Officer), Robert Davies (Stirling Councillor)
- 2 members of the public
- Steven Park, Andrew Smith and Nick Mackie (Force 9 Energy)
- **Apologies:** Meg Duckworth (Planning/Licensing)

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

None

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

Approved

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

- Robert paid his respects to Councillor Graham Lambie who passed away recently. He noted that Graham had been a big supporter of Fintry and will be a huge loss to the whole of Stirling. Michele also paid her respects to Councillor Lambie on behalf of Fintry Community Council and agreed that his passing will be a huge loss to Fintry.
- A meeting of Stirling Councillors is scheduled for tomorrow (March 11<sup>th</sup>) to discuss the budget.
- Scottish Parliament elections (including local by-elections) are scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>. This along with dealing with the Covid-19 epidemic has meant that Stirling Council employees are stretched so there will be a reduction in the number of council meetings.
- There has been a lot of discussion recently about parking and traffic management in rural areas with concerns raised about sheep worrying, damage to fencing etc. Problems over the Easter period are being anticipated especially as overseas travel is not allowed.
- Michele had been contacted by a local resident over an issue with potholes preventing a funeral hearse being able to access their residence. Michele will contact Robert with the details.

### **V. Police Report**

- Antisocial Behaviour – There were no reports of anti-social behaviour since the last meeting.
- Road Safety – There have been no reportable RTCs in the Fintry area since the last meeting. Please keep 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.

- Theft - There have been no thefts in the Fintry area since the last meeting however there was another Theft by Housebreaking at commercial premises in Killearn, this time it was Oakwood Garden Centre. Enquiries are still continuing however anyone with any information then please contact Police. We always advise never leave bags or any valuables lying on the seats of your parked and unattended vehicles. It is so very quick and easy for thieves to smash a car window, reach in and take any valuables in an instant. If a thief observes a bag in a car, they may think the bag contains something valuable and will smash your window to get in, even if it contains absolutely nothing of value! Please take any bag and or valuables with you but if this is not possible, place the items in your boot or out of sight, but preferably, take all valuables with you. 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. 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 secured 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.
- Fraud - There was a report of attempted fraud in Balfron regarding Bitcoin investment and one in Gargunnoch regarding the sale of puppies. Fraudsters can make contact with you by phone. The caller might pretend to be from your bank and ask for personal information such as bank details or they might be someone offering you a deal or a prize. Other calls have been made by persons purporting to be from HMRC stating that there was a warrant out for the receiver of the call and was asked to contact the number that was given. This is clearly a false call so please heed the below advice:
  - Consider making your phone number ex-directory.
  - Don't give out any personal information unless you are the one who made the call and you are certain of the identity of the person you are speaking to.
  - Don't give out your credit card or bank card details to strangers on the telephone.
  - NEVER tell somebody your bank PIN number, even if they claim to be the bank or police. If the caller is genuine they will never ask for this information.
  - Don't give out information which may infer that you live alone, are older or vulnerable.
  - Never send money to anyone who claims to have a prize for you.
  - If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
  - Contact local trading standards – they may be able to use approved 'call blocking' technology.
- Fraud – Covid 19 - Criminals are using the Coronavirus as a cover story to trick you into parting with your money or information. Always take a moment to Stop, Challenge and Protect before making any payments. It's important not to let the criminals rush or panic you into making a decision that you later come to regret and remain vigilant and guard against criminals using the publicity around Coronavirus as a chance to target you with fraudulent emails, phone calls, texts messages or social media posts. With fake news articles on the internet and in the press promoting remedies, cures and false advice around coronavirus, it's also important to only share articles from trustworthy sources. If you are in any doubt, then visit [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) or [www.who.int/](http://www.who.int/) for updates and information. Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard

down for just a moment. Stop and think: it could protect you and your money. If you receive an email, text or WhatsApp message purporting to be from the government, HMRC, the World Health Organisation (WHO) or a coronavirus-related charity, then take a moment to think before you part with your money or information. Never click on links or download attachments as criminals may infect your devices with malware or ask you to enter your personal or financial information into fake websites. In some cases this can lead to your identity being stolen.

- Sheep worrying - This time of year presents the problem of sheep worrying. It is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep. "Worrying" includes attacking or chasing sheep and, in some circumstances, farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs if they are endangering their sheep. It is vital that you keep your dog on the lead around livestock, even if you can usually trust it to come to call. If you live in or near a farming area, you must make sure that your dog cannot escape from your property, as it may find its way onto land containing sheep. If a dog worries sheep on agricultural land, the person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence. The Act considers sheep worrying to include attacking sheep, chasing them in a way that may cause injury suffering, abortion or loss of produce or being at large (not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep.
- 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 £8,736. We have received a grant from Stirling Council for £3,098 which will be used by the Resilience Team to provide Easter Care boxes for the young people and elderly in the village.

Foundation Fund:

The foundation fund balance to date is £23,408.

| Foundation Scotland Budget | Description                           | Budget  | Spend   | Remaining |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Commissioned Service       | Community Transport Scheme            | £2,500  | £1,424  | £1,076    |
| Commissioned Activity      | Continued Path Maintenance            | £5,000  | £4,963  | £37       |
| Commissioned Activity      | Maintenance of resilience fund assets | £1,000  |         | £1,000    |
| Commissioned Activity      | Community Notice Board                | £1,500  | £1,428  | £72       |
| Fintry Special Project     | Community Garden & Resilience Fund    | £2,000  | £410    | £1,590    |
| Fintry Special Project     | Menzies Hall Resilience Hub           | £11,500 |         | £11,500   |
| Fintry Special Project     | COVID-19 Hardship and Resilience Fund | £5,160  | £3,737  | £1,423    |
| Micro Grants-A             | Individual Grants £250-500            | £2,000  | £250    | £1,750    |
| Micro Grants-B             | Individual Grants £250-500            | £2,000  |         | £2,000    |
| Main Grants                | Constituted Groups £500-2500          | £10,000 | £8,400  | £1,600    |
| Student Study Grant        | Student Study Grant                   | £1,000  |         | £1,000    |
| Administration Fee         | FCC Admin work                        | £500    | £240    | £260      |
| Post Code Lottery          | COVID Grant                           | £2,000  | £1,900  | £100      |
|                            | Total                                 | £46,160 | £22,752 | £23,408   |

- Grants for review:
  - Fintry Flower Show – £250
  - Amount Available £1,750
  - Amount Remaining if all above requests granted £1,500
  - It was agreed to fund the application from the Fintry Flower Show on the condition that no plants were to be planted in the fountain.
- The plan for the forthcoming financial year's budget will be presented in the May meeting.
- Michele confirmed that an application has been submitted by the FCC to fund the restoration of the fountain.
- Expenses from the Covid-19 volunteers will be submitted soon and will be paid out of the Resilience Grant received recently from Scottish Government/Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise/Stirling Council Partnership.

## **VII. Resilience Update**

- Funding has been received Covid-19 grants for the community gardens. Produce will be going to the elderly and vulnerable and seeds will be planted soon in the greenhouse by the school children and volunteers.
- Michele thanked Robert Taylor for providing free manure and delivering it to the community gardens.
- Michele had been notified by the Trossachs Search and Rescue Team that the defibrillator at Balgair Caravan Park was not working properly. Michele passed this information on to the park owners.
- Shopping ongoing
- Telephone befriending ongoing
- Prescription deliveries ongoing
- Hardship fund ongoing
- Defibrillators – Trossachs Search & Rescue will be carrying out maintenance on our defibrillators

## **VIII. Planning**

- An application to replace a garage door with a patio door and painting of windows, doors, verges and soffits at Abriachan, Main Street.

## **IX. Licensing**

- Hendy had hoped to attend a meeting regarding proposed changes to licensing laws but was unable to attend. She had received some feedback from the meeting that the police were seeking more powers to prevent people drinking alcohol in public.

## **X. Roads/paths**

- The resurfacing works on the B822 near the caravan park which was scheduled to begin on the 29<sup>th</sup> March has been put on hold.
- The culvert works on the B818 have been put on hold.
- The road closure on the B818 between Fintry and Killearn has resulted in an increase in the number of large vehicles going through the village. Several residents have mentioned their concerns to FCC. Michele has spoken to the police but was informed that there is no weight restriction on the roads through Fintry and it is a public highway so traffic cannot be prevented from using the roads. Concerns have also been raised about the speed of these vehicles i.e. not sticking to the 20 M.P.H. speed limit. Michele will mention this to the police.
- The traffic calming survey that was carried out showed that speeds have come down so the 20 M.P.H. speed limit has had an impact. Traffic calming measures on Kippen Road have been proposed but will need to be approved by the Stirling Councillors. A second survey has been requested but this has been delayed due to Covid-19.
- Some residents had raised concerns about the lack of gritting on the Denny Road. Michele has been told that the policy will be reviewed at the start of next winter with a view to upgrading the level of the Denny Road. A second survey has been requested but this has been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) had submitted a quote for £452 to install French drains on the Lade path. It was agreed that this work should go ahead as it is a well used path.

#### **XI. Shelloch Windfarm**

- Questions regarding the Shelloch Windfarm development had been sent to Force 9 Energy prior to the meeting. A power point presentation had been prepared to answer these questions and provide more information about the development and was presented at the meeting. This presentation is attached to the minutes.
- A background to the planning history of the site was outlined. The original planning consent was for 7 turbines and access to the site would have been via the existing windfarm at Todholes. Since then turbine technology has improved so only 5 turbines are proposed. These will be bigger than the original ones and due to their size the site will need to be accessed via an alternative route. The proposed route is from the A811, up the C36 Arnprior Road, onto the B822 and then down a farm lane to the site.
- There will be very limited visibility of the turbines from the Fintry side of the hills. 1 or 2 of the turbines may be visible from the top of the Crow Road.
- The windfarm will be connected to the grid at Dumbarton. The connection will initially be underground and then above ground using wooden poles, not pylons. There will be a separate planning application submitted with regard to this by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and will link in with an existing line where possible.
- Two of the turbines will be in excess of 150 metres and will therefore need to be lit with aviation warning lights. These will only operate during the hours of darkness and will not be visible to any properties in Fintry or from any roads. They would be visible from Dunmore Hill. The brightness from here would be equivalent to seeing a brake light.
- There will be a period of disruption during construction along the Arnprior Road and the stretch of the B822 from the junction with the C36 and the farm lane. The community will be kept up to date and made aware of possible disruptions. The construction period will be around 9 months. Following this the top surface of the additional roads will be removed and dressed back to fields. A tree survey has been done including looking for bat roosts and the route of the access road has been designed to avoid as many trees as possible. Any work which affects trees will require a licence and will be done in conjunction with Stirling Council's Tree Officer.
- A survey has been done to establish the depth of the peat on the proposed site. There are some discrete pockets of deep peat. The access across this area will use an existing track and avoid the deep peat areas as much as possible. There is some flexibility within the plans to move the route slightly if further pockets of deep peat are discovered.
- The community benefit scheme will mean that approximately £120K per annum will be shared between the 6 community councils in the immediate area and there is an opportunity for the community to participate in a shared ownership scheme.
- Force 9 Energy has no plans to develop any more windfarms on the Fintry Hills but it is possible that other developers may want to.
- Michele thanked Force 9 Energy for their time in attending the meeting.
- It was agreed that the presentation had been comprehensive and had answered the questions.
- Concern was raised about the impact on the landowners along the Arnprior Road and the risk to road users.
- It was agreed that the option of shared ownership should be investigated and that the Fintry Development Trust may be able to advise on the best way forward with this.

#### **XII. Village litter pick**

- Ian offered to organise a village litter pick as the amount of litter on the grass verges is quite noticeable. This has been done in previous years and litter picking equipment should still be available to use. Stirling Council has previously agreed to do a special uplift for the litter that is collected.
- There was a suggestion to liaise with adjacent community councils to pick up litter from the village boundaries. Pam will send community council contact details to Ian as well as details of who to contact at Stirling Council. She was also aware of another community council who had done something similar and had prepared a detailed risk assessment and would send details of this to Ian.

#### **XIII. Play park update**

- Details of the proposed new climbing frame had been circulated to FCC members prior to the meeting. Michele confirmed that Stirling Council would be responsible for the maintenance of the climbing frame after its instalment and will be meeting with them again soon to take it forward.

**XIV. Correspondence**

- Correspondence had been received from the Fintry Development Trust outlining their view on the Shelloch Wind Farm development.

**XV. A.O.B.**

- It was agreed that Michele should contact Stirling Council's legal department for advice on the locked gates on the castle drive before any correspondence is sent to the castle owners.
- Some responses had been received about the survey from Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Partnership (HSCP) for views on the delivery of community health and care models. Michele will forward them to Pam.
- A forum meeting is scheduled for next week where community councils have the opportunity to raise issues which are important to them to Stirling Council.
- Stirling Council has offered a number of trees for planting in areas that are frequently flooded and these will be distributed soon.
- The vacancy for a Fintry Community Councillor has been advertised on Facebook, in last month's minutes, on the FCC website and on both noticeboards in the village. There was some concern that the Facebook post had not been on the Fintry Buddies page as this seems to be the page that the majority of Fintry residents look at regularly. It was agreed that it will be made clear on Fintry Buddies that community council business could be accessed via the FCC Facebook page. Resilience/Covid related posts will still be posted to Fintry Buddies.
- A resident queried the fact that Twitter and Facebook accounts from their household have been blocked by FCC. None of the councillors present knew why this had happened and will look into it.

**XVI. Date of next meeting**

- 12th May 2021