

FEUGHDEE WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in Inchmarlo Hall On Thursday 22nd February 2018 at 7.30pm

Present:

Community Councillors:

Mr S.Richards (Chairperson) Mrs J. Randalls (Secretary) Mr A.Neish (Treasurer), Ms L. Craig,
Ms M. Stallaert, Mr P. Tyrrell, Ms S. Wylde, Mr I. Brockie, Mr I. Morrison, Mr W. Ross,

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors:

Cllr. E. Durno, Cllr. A. Ross, Cllr. R. Bruce

Marr Area Representatives:

Ms K. MacLeod, Ms J. Clark

Minutes:

Mrs I. Addison

Members of Public:

13 Members of the public were present.

Prior to the general FWCC Meeting at 7.30pm Ms J. Clark and Ms Kirsty MacLeod from Marr Area Office presented the key principles of the Code of Conduct. It was emphasised that these ought to be observed and adhered to on all occasions and in every form of communication. A copy of the Code was made available to all present and it was advised that further training is available as required. Online resources are also available.

The meeting opened with an apology from the Chair recognising that at the previous meeting, the Codes of Conduct had not been strictly adhered to and that care would be taken in future to ensure that there would be more careful observation of same.

In response to item 17 of the January minutes and in response to an Action by a fellow Community Councillor, Ms L. Craig raised the importance of considering the implications of forwarding e-mails that were intended as internal communication between councillors. She specifically referred to a recent incident whereby an email written by her had been passed onto residents in the Inchmarlo community without permission. Although there could be a potential issue regarding the Data Protection Act and the new Scheme of Establishment Code of Conduct she wanted to focus on the issue of forwarding emails without first seeking permission to do so. She emphasised the importance of being able to freely discuss important matters within the CC environment to clearly understand any issues. Emails that were forwarded out of context could prove divisive, and cause a breakdown in trust, both in the community and within the Community Council. It was agreed that this was an area where caution should be exercised and permission sought where necessary.

1. Apologies and Absences

Apologies were tendered by Mr I. Adams and P.C Hamish Wallace

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting in October were approved.

Minutes Proposed by : Mrs M. Stallaert

Seconded by : Ms S. Wylde

3. Treasurer's report

Opening Balance		£ 1725.99
April – October Hall payments	£ 288.00	
DD to BT Web-cam	63.60	£ 351.60
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Closing Balance		£ 1374.39
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4. Police Matters

No Police were in attendance. An email report submitted by Constable Hamish Wallace was to the effect that there was no significant criminal activity in the area. However a report of some poaching of salmon was being investigated. It was also noted that there was on-going violation of parking policies in Banchory and that tickets had been issued to some offenders.

5. Change of Constitution 2014

There was clarification regarding the change of constitution in 2014. The process of changing the constitution began in 2013 and a timeline outlining the amendment process up until the March 2015 AGM was provided. This showed beyond doubt that the process had been strictly adhered to and that Marr Area Office and FWCC were informed throughout. A public apology was tendered on behalf of FWCC to previous Chairperson and Secretary Ms A. Dykes and Ms N. Loosley for the implication (by some members) that the change to FWCC constitution in 2014 was done unconstitutionally.

6. New Scheme of Establishment

The new Scheme of Establishment comes into effect on 1st April, 2018. Community Councils have from April to Sept 18 to adopt the new Scheme. It was emphasised that, in order to comply with it, amendments to our constitution must be in place by our next AGM.

A template constitution provided by Marr Area office had been circulated to all councillors so that it can be adapted to suit the individual circumstances of FWCC. It was agreed that the model should be followed with some minor adjustments to suit our particular circumstances.

Items to be discussed and agreed upon include:

- Does FWCC want to have members from outside the CC area?
- Does the CC want to limit the time office bearers may be in office?
- Does the CC want more than 5 meetings a year plus AGM?
- With regards to the allocation of seats between the areas of Strachan, Inchmarlo, Auchattie, Tilquhillie, Bridge of Feugh and Blackhall, need to agree how to manage any unfilled vacancies.

It was also noted that accounts would need to be certified by an independent verifier in order for an administration grant to be paid.

There followed a discussion regarding the implementation of sub divisions and seat representation.

The options available were:

- All seats to be put up for election.
- Volunteers to stand down and seats filled to achieve required balance.

- Seats filled after terms of office expired.
- Inchmarlo to become its own separate Community Council.

A vote was taken to establish whether **all** current FWC Councillors should voluntarily stand down:

Vote for all FWC Councillors standing down resulted in 3 votes

Vote against all FWC Councillors standing down resulted in 7 votes

There were no abstentions.

This option was therefore **not passed**, as it had to be a unanimous decision.

Mr A. Neish and Mr I. Morrison intimated that they would be standing down at the next AGM. This means that with the extra seat available, as part of the new Scheme of Establishment, there will be three seats up for election. Any transitioning junior members may be co-opted or given the opportunity to be nominated and voted on should there be seats available. Representation from Inchmarlo, Auchattie, Tilqhillie, Blackhall and Bridge of Feugh would, however, have priority on a pro-rata basis in order to address under-representation. Members of the public present engaged enthusiastically on the topic of fair representation. There was a suggestion that Inchmarlo may want to have its own Community Council, as this would provide them with ultimate control over community decisions. Janelle Clark confirmed this might be possible if the community requested. However those Inchmarlo residents attending the meeting roundly rejected this on the premise that Inchmarlo residents in general want to be part of a whole and united community, irrespective of any distance between the communities in question.

The amended constitution should be adopted unanimously at the next AGM, (following draft approval from Marr Area Office). It was decided that the next AGM would be on **Thursday 28th June 2018** (rather than 29th March 2018) as this would be in line with the terms of the new Scheme of Establishment

Ms Kirsty MacLeod will provide a draft timetable and give any support necessary during this process.

7. Glen Dye Wind Farm

It was intimated that the information pack has been finalised and is now on the FWCC Website. It was agreed that this should be distributed and promoted as widely as possible.

It was advised that the possibility of financial benefits might be communicated to the general public in order to give a fair and unbiased view of all pros and cons in relation to the proposed Wind Farm. However, it was emphasised by Marr Area representatives present, that any approval or rejection of planning proposals should be on the basis of planning policies only, without regard to any community benefits.

There have been no meetings with Coriolis or Liberty One to address some of the questions still requiring an answer.

8. Planning Issues

There are no current planning applications to review.

Any comments on the previous application for shops and houses at Hill of Banchory East may be communicated to the secretary for forwarding.

Trustach and Cairnton Wood

A response from Mr John Mackie is awaited regarding questions and concerns raised at the November Meeting.

9. Community Action Plan

The Community Action Plan is in tendering process. Responses to current plans are required by Friday 23rd March 2018. It was agreed to let the community know through communications in the Deeside Piper, Strachan and Inchmarlo websites.

10. Transport, Roads and Infrastructure

Nothing to report.

Re the request for a speed warning sign in Inchmarlo - Aberdeenshire Council advised that this was not financially possible at present. Mr P Tyrrell informed FWCC that a group had been set up to look at speeding around the Inchmarlo area.

11. Education and Youth

Nothing further to report. Play Park group were contacted for an update but there has been no response.

12. Community Matters

Maintenance of Old Graveyard at Strachan

There was a discussion about the on-going maintenance of the Strachan Graveyard. Secretary Ms J. Randalls has been in communication with Landscape Services at Aberdeenshire Council regarding public liability and was informed that this is the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council.

It had been previously suggested that the graveyard be sowed in wild Flowers and AC are willing to help with the planting and seeding process if the Community Council wishes to go ahead. Some concerns were raised about fallen headstones. It was felt that, although the last interment was in 1969, there is still a reasonable level of maintenance for the benefit of friends and relatives who still visit the graveyard, including people from abroad following an ancestry trail.

There was a suggestion that a plaque could be erected to explain the sowing of the graveyard in wild flowers. There is also a book which was published delineating the various graves which could be made available to visitors.

Ms Jill Randalls will contact Landscape Services to discuss the possibility of a joint venture with the community.

13. List of Correspondence

Secretary Ms J. Randalls provided a concise update of incoming and outgoing correspondences during the previous month. All correspondence had been forwarded to Community Councillors.

14. Any Other Business

Nothing further.

15. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.16p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 29th March 2018 at Strachan Hall.