



Minutes of the meeting held on

10th June 2020

(A virtual meeting held via Zoom)

I. Present/apologies for absence:

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

II. Declaration of interest in any items of business

None

III. Approval of Minutes of last meeting:

Approved.

An amendment has been requested by Sandy Kelso representing the Sports Club for the February minutes as follows:

Original text –

A representative from the Sports Club informed the community that they were in the process of creating a Trading Company and that only the shop will remain a charitable business. All profits would go back into the Sports Club.

Requested change –

The Sports Club will continue to be a charitable organisation but the catering and bar will be run by the trading company which the Club will own. Like every other company, it will be liable for tax but this could be reduced significantly if profits are gifted to the Sports Club. Because of the difficulties caused by rural isolation, the shop is considered by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator as a charitable activity

For the sake of clarity both versions of the minutes for February will be available on the community council website.

IV. Stirling Councillor's Report

- Councillor Lambie commended the excellent support work done by volunteers in the villages including the Finty Resilience Group and submitted the following report by email prior to the meeting:

Stirling Council Update:

- **Communications:**
 - **Councillor Group and Admin:** Meetings using Microsoft Teams every Monday morning.
 - **MP/MSPs:** Meetings using Zoom - Monday Morning
 - **Community Councils:** To date I have attended 6 CC Zoom meetings Balfron x 3, Croftamie, Killearn and Strathblane

- **Stirling Council Planning Panel:** Approved a 31 Unit Housing Development in Kippen. Members commented favourably re. the quality of location maps, photos etc. therefore maybe reducing the reliance on site visits which are expensive, nor guaranteed to get full attendance, and difficult during lockdown.
- **National Park:** I have attended a virtual full board meeting, an LRB (Local Review Body) meeting, and a Planning Committee Meeting: Kilmun Pier Extension for Western Ferries, new pathway at RSPB reserve near Gartacharn, both of which were approved.
- **National Park Community Councils:** A virtual meeting was held on 27th May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 Lockdown Easing. One of the biggest concerns came from Luss CC in Argyll and Bute Council who were in objection to any opening of carparks, especially as no facilities would be opened.
- **Stirling Council Waste Collections:**
 - **Waste Services:** I am pleased to see the restarting of the Brown bin collection and thank residents for their patience over this.
 - **Balfron Recycling Centre:** There are concerns that this has not reopened, although residents can use Callander, but not for garden rubble. The feedback is that Callander performed quite well. Colin (Cameron) has suggested a booking system for Balfron which if combined with proof of address could be a solution. I've been in contact with Cllr Jim Thomson (Environment and Housing Committee Chair) and Kevin McCormack (Waste Manager)
 - **Callander Mon to Fri 5pm until 7:30pm (last entry):** "Household Waste Recycling Centres to begin to reopen. Sites must operate safely, ensuring physical distancing is maintained, and should only be visited when absolutely necessary to minimise journeys." Scot Gov.
 - General waste sealed in double-bagged black sacks
 - **Polmaise Monday to Friday, 9am until 2:30pm (last entry):**
 - Garden Waste
 - Cardboard
 - General waste (landfill)
- **Stirling Full Council Virtual Meeting:**
 - **COVID-19 Response**
 - Economic development have been very good at getting payments to businesses
 - PPE (personal protective equipment) has been good. Stirling Council has been held up as an exemplar in Scotland
 - **COVID-19 Financial Planning**
 - Council may have to set an alternative budget in October
 - Loss of regular income: Planning Fees, Car park charges, Fishing Permits etc.
 - **Recording of Meetings for the Public:** These are now posted on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/stirlingcouncils>
- **Police:** I have contacted Chief Superintendent Alan Gibson (Forth Valley Area Commander) about COVID-19 operations particularly at Balmaha and Finnick Glen.
- **Finnich Glen:**
 - Looking at ways to close the Glen without breaching the Land Reform Scotland Act (Have raised this with SNP group, Bruce Crawford MSP, Alyn Smith MP, Keith Brown MSP)
 - Other options: Yellow lines and Clearway signage.
- **Carpark Closures:** Residents will be aware that Stirling Council has closed all of its carparks. This was on the advice of agencies such as the Police and National Park as too many drivers are disregarding the 5-mile distance guidelines. We may have to make this a legal limit.
- **Balfron Bank of Scotland Closure:**
 - This was raised at Killearn CC where I quoted from the newspaper article that no closure was planned during the epidemic but I have not seen this in writing.

- I have contacted Chiara Cavaglieri from Which? Investigations and suggested adapting the local office or Stirling Council buys the bank building. Stuart Oliver (Economic Development) also has these suggestions.

V. Police Report

- Report submitted by email prior to the meeting by PC Steven Graham.
- **ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:** A lot of calls have been received in relation to people not adhering to Government advice on Covid-19. With the slight relaxation of the guidelines there has been more people attending the villages so we have been very busy dealing with these and the number of vehicles in the area. Fintry is no different in that regards with parking issues encountered near Todholes Farm. Recently a large number of youths were dispersed at the Fintry Loup.
A male was bitten by a dog while walking along the B818 towards Fintry. The owner of the dog was traced and was cautioned and charged with owning a dog dangerously out of control.
- **ROAD SAFETY:** There has been no reportable RTC since the last meeting. Complaints have been received regarding speeding in the village. We will be out again with the radar gun in the near future.
- **THEFT:** 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. A couple of these incidents have been reported recently. On one occasion the males were traced and checked out. No issues. On another occasion, there was a report then in the morning damage was found to a frame of the door Turns out to be old damage and there was no evidence of a crime.
- **MOBILE DEVICES:** When you see my colleagues out and about, you will start to notice that the majority of us are now carrying some additional technology with us! The devices are part of the Police Scotland "mobile working" project and we are one of the last divisions to see the rollout. In short, all operational officers are being issued with electronic notebook/PDAs in order to speed up routine tasks, and ensuring we don't need to return to the office as often during the course of a shift. It has taken some getting used to, for tasks such as noting statements etc., but some of the features have proved advantageous. Each officer can now carry out their own checks on the street using national databases, without having to wait for a slot to talk to the Area Control Room. Historically, on busier nights it was often impossible to get air time to carry out checks owing to ongoing incidents elsewhere. We can also get emails on the go whilst out and about, and carry out numerous pieces of paperwork that are required in the course of a shift. With the current restrictions, I now only need to return to the office for my lunch/dinner, and the rest of the shift is spent where I am best placed, and that is within the local communities. Hopefully that will explain why you will see officers sitting on their "phones" at the side of the road from time to time! We are either answering emails, speaking with local residents, or obtaining details of the incident we are being sent to. It is all subjective of 4G signal of course, and so far, there are only a few spots that the devices don't seem to work.
- **COMMUNITY MESSAGE – POLICE SCOTLAND FORTH VALLEY DIVISION**
I just wanted to reach out and introduce myself as the Superintendent for Partnerships in Forth Valley Division. In the last 27 years, I don't think I have worked through such a unique situation as the current Coronavirus pandemic. Whilst there is understandable anxiety around what the future might bring, a real positive from this has been the evidence of community spirit across the whole Forth Valley area.
I would just like to take the opportunity to thank you personally for the high levels of compliance with Government guidance we have seen locally. This all helps protect the resilience of NHS and hopefully save lives.
For policing, playing our part in supporting the critical role of our partners in Public Health to protect our communities from Covid-19 is a vitally important piece of work. We are really keen to get an understanding of how people are feeling at the moment

across our communities and how we might use this to develop our policing approach over the forthcoming months.

To this end, I would really appreciate if you could spare a few minutes to follow the below link and complete the survey. The survey can be completed from your perspective as a resident or your employment, whichever feels most relevant in terms of feedback.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021>

Best wishes and please look after yourselves.

Mandy Paterson

Superintendent

Partnerships

Forth Valley Division

- **SHEEP WORRYING:** In a neighbouring village a sheep suffered bite marks to its rear legs. This was possibly caused by a dog out of control in a field which contained a large number of sheep. No one has yet been identified as being responsible. 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. Find out more below in the 'Staying legal' sections below. 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.
- **THE SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE:** The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) offers guidance for people enjoying the countryside with their dogs and says: "In exercising access rights, you must keep your dog(s) under proper control. You must also ensure that your dog does not worry livestock." The Scottish Outdoor Access Code says 'proper control' means different things in different situations, but when around sheep you should:-
 - Not take your dog into a field where there are lambs. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land. In open country, keep your dog on a short lead (2 metres or shorter) when there are lambs around and keep away from them.
 - Keep your dog on a short lead or under close control if you need to go into a field where there are sheep. The SOAC defines 'under close control' as close at heel and responsive to your commands. Stay distant from the sheep.
 - Keep your dog under close control in more open country where there are sheep and stay away from them.
 - The SOAC reminds dog owners that in some cases a farmer has the right to shoot a dog that is attacking their livestock.
 - If you are handling a group of dogs, make sure that they do not cause alarm to livestock.
- **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. 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 www.facebook.com/policescotland
www.twitter.com/stirlingpol www.twitter.com/policescotland

VI. Treasurer's Report

- **General Fund Account**

Fintry Community Council had an income in the financial year ending March 2020 of £7,141. The Stirling Council Administration grant was £610 and the remaining money came from grants which were awarded for the Second Resilience Hub to be based at the Menzies Hall. This money had not been spent prior to the end of March. However permission was given by the funding body for any money to be used as part of the local COVID-19 Pandemic response. The spending will be detailed in the Resilience report. A postcode lottery grant was received in January 2020 and this money was spent on the bulbs and additional planting for Cicely's Way.

The accounts have been audited and the signed copy of the accounts is attached.

- **Foundation Fund**

The foundation fund received £34,658 from the Kingsburn fund in Oct 2019. This was added to the surplus from the previous year to give a total spend for the year of £40,855.

The spending to March 2020 was £18,904.

The spending is summarised in the table below;

Group	Amount awarded	Purpose of grant & outcomes achieved
Strathendrick Welfare	£250.00	Hampers for families in Fintry identified as low income
Menzies Hall	£500.00	Musicians for 2020 Fintry Family Ceilidh and Cleaning of hall after function
John Aitken	£250.00	Purchase of Eco-efficient heating system for new self-catering residence as part of tourist development
Fintry Bowling Club	£500.00	Purchase Lawn mower to maintain bowling green for community use
Fintry Flower Show	£100.00	Purchase plants and soil for community flower beds
Menzies Hall	£371.00	Purchase new notice board for display community information
Adrian Wild	£245.00	Purchase equipment for local fitness classes
Cicely's Way Completion Project	£7581.00	Work carried out to complete Cicely's Way including additional soil around path and planting of bulbs etc to enhance walkway
Defibrillator for Hall	£1529.00	Purchase and installation of a defibrillator for Church Hall to be used by lower Fintry residents
Community Resilience	£1446.00	Initial Community support and improvements to community garden to grow vegetables for local people
Community Transport	£1716.00	Funding for Weekly shoppers bus and the Christmas bus
Administration	£259.00	Website, Printing and Stationery

Fintry Path Maintenance	£4157.00	Including mowing of community garden, Riverside path and Cicely's Way.
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- COVID-19 response**

As discussed in the Resilience Report the Fintry Community Council has been able to respond well to the ongoing pandemic. This was in part due to the availability of the Kingsburn Fund. Since the crisis started additional money has been applied for which is detailed in the Resilience report. After 3 weeks of self-isolating a hot meal of fish and chips was delivered by volunteers to the elderly. This was provided by the Fintry Inn (as this was the only business supplying this service at that time). The cost for this was £400 and was covered by the Kingsburn fund and a local donation as agreed by the Chair. Additionally, Food boxes were prepared for households who had been self-isolating and local businesses were asked to supply goods and services as detailed below. The cost for this covered a grant from the Scottish Well Being Fund.

Organisation	Goods/Services	Cost
Courtyard Café	Dairy Products, Fruit and Veg	£1,246.16
Overton Farm	Eggs	£77.00
Sports Club	Ready Meal	£504.00
Fintry Inn	Pies and Cake	£490.00
Greenloft Naturals	Soap	£100.00
	Total	£2,417.16

We are grateful to the local businesses for their support providing goods and services at cost where possible for this project and hope they will continue to support us if required with our ongoing support of the vulnerable groups within our community.

- Planned spend for 2020/2021.**

We have a surplus from last year of £22,000 and the expected amount from Kingsburn is £24,000.

Total £46,000. Proposed spending as below:

Foundation Scotland Budget	Description	Budget
Commissioned Service	Community Transport Scheme	£2,500.00
Commissioned Activity	Continued Path Maintenance	£5,000.00
Commissioned Activity	Maintenance of resilience fund assets	£1,000.00
Fintry Special Project	Community Garden & Resilience Fund	£5,000.00
Fintry Special Project	Menzies Hall Resilience Hub	£10,000.00
Fintry Special Project	COVID-19 Hardship Fund	£7,000.00
Micro Grants-A	Individual Grants £250-500	£2,500.00
Micro Grants-B	Individual Grants £250-500	£2,500.00
Main Grants	Constituted Groups £500-2500	£10,000.00
Administration Fee	FCC Admin work	£500.00
	Total	£46,000.00

VII. Planning

- There is an application to erect a single storey extension to the side of the house at 13 Menzies Drive for Mr. David Russell.
- An application for a 2-storey extension at 11 Menzies Avenue for Mr. Joe Norman has been approved.
- An application to build a 1.5 storey house and garage for Mr. Jim Chesney on land adjacent to south east of Buckingham Cottage has been approved.
- An application from Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Burns for a side and rear extension to the house at 4 Menzies Avenue has been approved.
- An application from Mrs. Katie Rodgers for an extension to the Cafe Shop and Courtyard Cafe has been approved with conditions.
- Planning permission for four new houses at Gartcarron Water Treatment Works has been renewed with conditions.
- An application for a sawmill manager's house at Dovetail Studios, Kippen Road has been refused.
- An application to convert three Portacabins to provide temporary accommodation at Dovetail Studios has been refused.
- An application has been made by Murgitroyd Forestry Investment for the formation of a forestry road at the Mount Farm.

VIII. Resilience Update and Report

- Fintry Resilience Team
- COVID-19 Pandemic 2020
- Michele Bennett - Resilience Co-ordinator
- Ken Smith, Sue Wallace, Hendy Spence, Lorna English
- Sub group Jean Marshall (Balgair Residents), Catherine Taylor, Helen Johnson (Knockraich Resilience Centre)
- As an established resilience group with procedures in place and volunteers ready, we were in a position to mobilise our resilience plan without delay when Stirling Council advised us to activate our plan based on Scottish Government advice. This allowed us to quickly ensure that our older and vulnerable residents in the community have enjoyed uninterrupted access to food, medication and emotional support to help in shielding or self-isolation. We are continuing to target our support and resources to those at greatest risk, including individuals who are house bound or have limited mobility, those who may have no immediate relatives in the community or surrounding areas and other vulnerable individuals including their carers as well as those who have found themselves facing significant life changes due to the unprecedented times we find ourselves in. Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council and Falkirk Council, Volunteer Services and other Community Councils are using Fintry Community Resilience Team as template for helping communities during COVID-19. We are also working closely with other local resilience teams in the area along with Trossachs Search & Rescue to ensure we can continue to supply the best possible assistance to the community. We have appropriate and regular contact with Stirling Council community development officers and refer any concerns to them immediately. We also have appropriate child protection policy in place.
- **Achievements to date:**
- In early March letters were hand delivered to each household in and around Fintry offering various services including prescription uplifts, food shopping setting up online deliveries etc. along with a hardship fund letter.
- **Ensured access to food:** We have set up a door to door shopping service. Local residents are able to contact us directly or we contact them by telephone or email. This also gives people emotional support and increased contact reducing isolation anxiety and reassures them they have not been forgotten. The volunteers visit a range of shops to try and cater for individuals as far as possible and adhere to the government guidelines for facilitating this service. We also ensure the individuals are able to collect

the shopping from the doorstep without direct contact with ourselves ensuring social distancing is maintained throughout. The Resilience Group have also supplied and delivered Fintry Food boxes which we purchased from local suppliers within the village which helps our local economy. To date the team have carried out 357 grocery deliveries.

- **Ensured access to medications and other support:** We offer door-to-door collection for prescriptions. In agreement with three of the local pharmacies there is a working process that allows us collect prescriptions from and deliver directly to the individuals. To date the team have collected and delivered 1,625 prescriptions.
- **Person-centred support to individuals:** We have set up a telephone befriending service where we provide regular check-in calls. We have also provided Fintry care boxes, age, gender and ability appropriate.
- **PPE Resources:** Have been supplied which included reusable face masks, hand sanitizer and soap to the elderly and vulnerable within the village and surrounding community along with a supply for children of Fintry primary school.
- **Community vegetables for the community:** We have set this up within the Community Garden and Fintry Primary school with the help of a group of volunteers who have worked tirelessly on setting this up. This will allow us to be able to provide a hot meal or fresh vegetables to elderly and vulnerable who are shielding. We also managed to acquire a free greenhouse for the school and community garden to use which has been set up in the grounds of Fintry Primary School. The Shed which we had been using is actually the Resilience Shed for the Village hall which will be transferred back up to the hall at a later date.
- **Schools:** Fintry Primary school has been supplied with six laptops for home schooling and they have been loaned out to various families. To date Balfron high school has yet to confirm if they need any laptops for Fintry school children. We are also supplying the school with secure boxes for each child during COVID-19.
- **Children's care boxes** These have been supplied to children within village in consultation with Stirling Council, Balfron High School and Fintry Primary School.
- **Hardship Fund:** Is being used by various families finding themselves financially vulnerable in this present time.
- In addition, Village Areas are being kept tidy by arrangement of the Fintry Community Resilience Team. The Fintry Community Resilience Plan will remain in place until the end of August 2020 when the situation will be reviewed in conjunction with Stirling Council.
- **Volunteers who have donated their time to the Resilience Team:**
- Willie Sangster, Iain Mackay, Anna Higgins, Stuart Higgins, Angela May, Josh Thornhill, Hayley Macmillan, Joy Moore, Gregor Nicholson, Gregor Kennedy, Anne Hislop, Sharon McMurtrie, Jackie Smith, Karen Milliken, Dawn Skelhorn, Scott Maxwell, John Maxwell, Natalie & David Russell, David Smith, Irene Kelso, Dawn Roberts, Julie Flisch, David Minard, Savana Minard, Drew Johnson, Graham Johnson, Calum Johnson, Euan Johnson, Emma Stirling, Beth Stirling, Cameron Taylor, Kate Shar, Mike Trent, Lauren Sims, Oscar English, Morven Dingwall (Fintry Primary School).
- **Grants obtained**
- All grants have been applied for and used in accordance with the guidelines set down by each provider.
- **Community Grants COVID-19 Stirling Council Community Response Fund - £500**
Food Boxes for the Elderly and Vulnerable
- **SSEN Resilient Communities Fund (2020 emergency response for COVID-19) - £1,500**
Fintry Care Boxes for over 70's wellbeing

- **Scottish Wellbeing Fund (Scottish Government) COVID-19 - £5,000**
Fintry care boxes for the over 70's and people with hardship for health and wellbeing throughout COVID-19
Stationery, paper, printer consumables
Fintry care boxes for young people (In conjunction with Stirling Council, Balfron High School and Fintry Primary School)
Volunteers PPE and contribution towards mileage (as per government guidelines)
Plants, compost plant, food containers and garden tools
- **FORCE 9 (£2,638.20 Specific use Donation)**
Vehicle hire (in lieu of loan vehicle) and Insurance
- **Stirling Resilience Grant £1,500**
Vehicle hire and insurance (in lieu of loan vehicle)
- **Foundation Scotland COVID-19 Funding £3,333 (Donation)**
Laptops for home schooling for primary and high school, boxes for primary and Nursery pupils

Ongoing applications

- Corra Foundation COVID-19 £2,000 (application sent)
- Fintry care boxes and Hardship fund
- Persimmon Homes £1,000 (application sent)
- Over 70s during COVID-19 (Wellbeing)
- Many comments of appreciation have been received for the work that has been done by the Community Council during the Covid-19 pandemic:
 - Hello
I would like to place on record our great thanks and appreciation for all the hard work that the Resilience Team are doing to help isolating and shielding people in Fintry.
We are among that group and really appreciate the deliveries of food and medicines that the team has brought for us. They are always kind and smiley and make you feel that it is not a bother to help us. I am sure they are working very hard and have their own lives to live too. So, I want to thank them very much.
Very best wishes
Bronwen and Alex Ellis
 - Dear Hendy,
Fintry Resilience Team
We have just had a bag of goodies, all very useful items, delivered to our front door.
Included in the delivery was:-
A large box of M&S - All Butter Scottish Shortbread Assortment
A bottle of Diageo Hand Sanitiser
A bar of very special soap
A bag of miniature chocolate bars
Two face masks and
A delightful floral card - "With best wishes from the Fintry Resilience Team".
There are two sides to this gift - one that all of the items are day to day useful items, but the second side is that there is a community thinking about those in "lockdown" and ready to help if needed. You can only imagine the feeling of security and belonging that gives to two octogenarians in "lockdown".
Thank you to everyone in the Fintry Resilience Team.
It is also interesting to note that the local Fintronians are observing the government's advice given the attitudes that are being demonstrated we are going to defeat the coronavirus and with the minimum of casualties.
 - Thank you to the Resilience Team,

Thank you for this wonderful box. A mere thank you doesn't seem adequate. What a surprise! I'm amazed at the kindness of all who contributed and I feel very humble. But thankful that in the darkness of a world gone mad there is still kindness and thoughtfulness. I have lived a long time and never ever imagined that this could happen. Please accept my very humble thanks and perhaps God willing we will meet again.

- Dear Michele,
Many thanks for the lovely box of 'goodies' delivered here the other day! It was a lovely surprise and I really appreciate it! You are all doing a great job at this difficult time. Well done!
- It was agreed that it would be good to have a get-together for everybody who has helped out once it is safe to do so.
- It is also worth noting that other local councils are using Fintry as a good example of how a resilience plan can be put into action.

IX. Loup of Fintry

- The police recently had to disperse a group of more than 200 people from the Loup. There is concern that the area will become as popular as The Devil's Pulpit and the problems that have arisen in that area will start here. A large amount of litter was left behind by visitors recently and was collected by Fintry residents.
- Some local landowners and farmers are becoming increasingly concerned by the number of visitors who are coming to the area, particularly during the current Covid-19 pandemic. It was proposed to create a sub-group with a farmers' representative with an aim to finding solutions which would enable people to visit the area safely without causing issues for the farmers and local residents. Karen agreed to join the sub-group.

X. Correspondence/Submitted Questions

- The following correspondence was received from Linda Pearson:
Old Folks' Hampers and Fish n Chips etc.
Let me start by saying that it was great to be able to secure the grant to be able to provide these treats to some of our more isolated and vulnerable citizens - I'm sure it really cheered them up during these bleak times. The team must've worked hard to secure the grant and that in itself takes time that's not always recognised.
In the interest of adherence to the community council's governance rules of openness, honesty, fairness, transparency and accountability, though, I'd like more details of the grant:

- where did it come from
- what was the criteria for spending it
- how much was procured?

I understand that local businesses/individuals/parties benefitted from this grant by providing goods/services. I think this is great to involve local peoples/businesses. Again, for the sake of openness, honesty, fairness, transparency and accountability I'd like more details:

- which businesses/individuals/parties received money from the grant,
- how much did each get?

I know, from experience the hard work that goes on behind the scenes of FCC and that members are volunteers, prepared to give up much of their time because the community matters - and not many people in this day and age are willing to get involved. With the job, though, comes responsibility to be open and honest when we're talking about thousands of pounds. If I had procured a huge grant I'd want to shout about it!

I'd appreciate it if this letter is presented to the whole council during the virtual meeting and that it is minuted and recorded. I understand that the answers to some of these questions may not be immediately available at the meeting, specifically the financial ones, but I'd expect an answer in due course.

Hope to hear from you soon,
Linda

- **FCC Response**

Dear Linda,

Thank you for your letter with regard to the grants that the Community Council have received during this very difficult period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you acknowledged in your letter the Community Council Resilience Group have done a fantastic job in our community helping to reduce the impact self-isolating has had. In your letter you question why we had not published that we had received grants. The Community Council has not had a meeting since March in line with the Stirling Council Guidelines. We took the opportunity yesterday to have a virtual meeting yesterday by Zoom and this was our first opportunity to report on our current financials. The meeting included a Treasurers report which details all the grants that we have received and where the money has been spent. We also had an interim Resilience Report which summarized the support that has been provided to date. As the COVID-19 response is still ongoing more details will be reported at our next meeting. Your letter and this reply will be published in the minutes.

If you have any specific questions with regard to the spend please can you let us know and then we can make sure this information is provided at the next meeting.

Kind regards

Sue Wallace

- The following correspondence was received from Bronwen Ellis:

Hello

I wondered how you will run the virtual meeting so that everyone can be included who wishes to be? We choose not use any social media as we do not think that, on balance, it is a force for good.

The Zoom platform, that seems to be used by many groups during this situation, has proved to have very poor security and there are many instances now of videos with very dubious content being placed within the innocent user's material. So, we are not happy to use that platform either.

Have you plans of the way you want to progress this? Thank you.

Kind regards

Bronwen

- **FCC's reply is as follows:**

Thanks for your email, I hope you are both well.

Part of the reason we have not invited the public to this first meeting is due to the fact not all the members have used conferencing software like this.

This way it gives us all a chance to get used to it, decided on the process we would like to use and ensure that everyone is comfortable with it before moving forward.

Additional guidance around virtual meetings was sent out by Stirling Council in May, this allowed us to consider having virtual meetings with or without the public as its not mandatory to include them, I know Balfron CC doesn't invite the public.

I use a number of virtual conferencing methods in my line of work, and to be honest none of them are 100% secure. In addition, given the change in working practices in the current climate and more people working from home these conferencing systems and software are now a primary focus for those that wish to interrupt them. There are ways to help make them more secure and we will be enforcing these if we decide to pursue the virtual meetings.
I hope this answers your question.

Many Thanks

Ken

- The following correspondence was received from Moira and Iain Mackay:

Dear Sir,
Speeding in the village seems to be getting out of hand. The twenty mile an hour signs appear to being ignored. There is confusion on the Kippen Road coming into the village a thirty mile signs quickly followed by a twenty mile sign. Large vehicles like logging lorries, tractors and vans are especially noticeable by their speed.
Can this problem be addressed once more by FCC, the Police and Road Transport?
Regards
Iain and Moira MacKay

- **FCC's reply is as follows:**

Dear Moria & Ian,

I refer to you email regarding the above and would like to mention that the Community Council are concerned as yourselves with regard to the speeding in the village, both myself and Ken have been in discussion with the local Police in Balfour regarding this who have advised us that they will be carrying out more speeding checks within the village.

I have also been in contact with Stirling Council's Senior Road Safety Officer & Traffic Management Engineer in relation to 20 mph enforcement. Normally once these signs are in place after six months the Council do another road speed survey to see if any other traffic calming measures are required. Fintry was due to have this survey completed in August but of course due to COVID-19 this may not happen however it will be carried out at a later date. The Council hopes to be back working at full capacity by phase 4 or 5.

In relation to the log Lorries could you by any chance identify which company it is coming through the village as there is two contracts going on up the Crow Road at the moment.

Michele Bennett
Vice-chair

- The following correspondence was received from Moira Mackay:
Dear Sir,
Can you tell me what the council plans to do with the piece of ground that was the rose beds along the edge of the bridge opposite no 51 Main Street?
The gardeners cleared the rose bushes in February 2020 and nothing has been done with this ground.
I understand the council has other things on its mind at present, but surely they had some plans before the roses were removed.
Regards
Moira MacKay

- **FCC reply is as follows:**

Hello Moira,

In response to your email regarding the rose beds at the hall and cross Stirling Council has full intension of filling the beds with replacement flowers this work was due to be carried out in May but due to COVID-19 this has been delayed. In recent, discussions with the Council they have indicated that nearly all works will be delayed until phase 4 as most of staff have been re deployed in helping the elderly or delivering hot meals etc. or are shielding. We will keep you updated once we get more information.

Michele Bennett
Vice-chair

- The following correspondence was received from David Clark:

Good afternoon.

Can the community council explain why the Fintry Inn and the Courtyard Cafe have benefited from any grant money while the sports club has been left out?
While probably working within the grant money guidelines does the committee think it is morally acceptable to supply luxury food boxes to people in the village who clearly are not struggling financially while one in ten of the Scottish population are in food poverty.
Regards
David Clark

- **FCC reply is as follows:**

Dear Dave Clark,

Thank you for your question about the grant funding received by the Community Council. Your letter was discussed at our meeting on the 10th June. Your letter and this response will be published in the minutes.

As part of our COVID-19 response we applied for a grant to provide assistance to the elderly that were self-isolating. We were successful with that grant and we were able to provide a generous box of food to a number of households in our community. A number of local businesses were asked to contribute to this including the Sports Club. We were grateful to receive a home-made ready meal of a lasagna which was made at the Sports Club. The Sports Club invoiced the Community Council for this meal and

they have now received payment. The other businesses that contributed to this box were the Fintry Inn, Courtyard Café and Betty Aitken supplied eggs. The box consisted of essential items to provide a number of meals for households who had not been able to get to the shops due to the current restrictions.

We are aware at this very difficult time many households may be struggling to feed their families. This is why as part of our Resilience Response we have asked any household who require help to contact us. As part of this we have been distributing food to a number of families and we will continue to do so as required.

We thank you for taking an interest in the work carried out by the Community Council and urge you to volunteer if you feel you can be of assistance.

Kind regard

Sue Wallace

XI. Additional CC meetings

- There was discussion about how to hold future meetings. An invite could be sent to residents who have registered an interest prior to the meeting and microphones could be muted to reduce the amount of background noise. The meeting would be locked at 7.30 p.m. Although there have been problems on Zoom with people 'bombing' the meetings, this can be prevented if appropriate security measures are taken. Guidance issued by Stirling Council in May indicated that Annual General Meetings cannot be held unless they are open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for September so Ken asked the members of the FCC to think about how that meeting should be held. This will be dependent on Government guidelines regarding Covid-19.

XII. A.O.B.

- Angela noted that some of the council bins had not been emptied recently. Michele will make enquiries.
- Michele has spoken to Stirling Council regarding the DRT service. Many Fintry residents rely on this as their sole means to get to hospital appointments, go to the bank etc. It is hopeful that the service will be up and running again soon but would be restricted to one customer at a time unless they were from the same household.
- Angela asked why the high school children had not been issued with jotters in the same way that the primary school children had. Michele explained that this had been requested by the primary school but not by the high school but that she will check with the high school if they would like this to be done.
- Ken had spoken to Pam Campbell with regard to the mail box at the Sports Centre and possible contamination from Covid-19. Pam advised Ken to speak to the Post Office to see how they ensure the safety of their postal workers in this situation.

XIII. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 9th September, 2020