



Fintry Community Council

8th March 2024

19:30

Menzies Hall

- **Present/apologies for absence:**

Group/Organisation	Representative
Fintry Community Council Reps	Michele Bennett (MB - Chair Moir MacKay (MM) Ian Rodgers (IR) Jacqueline Garvie (JG) Ronnie Garvie (RG)
Stirling Councillor	Cllr P Henke
Members of Public (MoP)	4
Police	Apologies
Apologies	Helena Rodgers

- **Declaration of interest in any items of business**

None

- **Approval of Minutes of last meeting:**

Will be approved at the next meeting

Councillor's Report

Planning Application for

Cllr Henke raises that a planning application appeal was put in for a house dovetail which was rejected. The FCC were not notified of the appeal by the council as we did not comment on the original application.

FCC advised Cllr Henke there was no objection to the house being built. Date of next planning meeting is 14th March 2024.

Rural Housing

Cllr Henke believes that more houses should be built rurally. MM states that whilst she agrees, they should not be expensive mansions and should be financially accessible.

Cllr Henke brings up a proposed bill which would reduce new rural housing developments by 30%. MB raises that large swathes of Fintry are inappropriate for housing of any kind because of Fintry's position on the flood plain. The FCC are examining rural housing development potentials and options but cannot comment on this yet because it is in very early stages with the landowners.

Stirling Council budget cuts

MB is concerned with the budget. She believes that lots of everyday services were given cuts. Cllr Henke states that Stirling Council were looking for £18m, and that he believes a very good job was done at not cutting anything that was essential. MB raises that the fact that grass verge cutting has been slashed is not right because rural areas pay the same amount of council tax but get less than urban areas in Stirling. Cllr Henke agreed.

Libraries

MM questions whether libraries experienced cuts. Cllr Henke confirms that libraries are not being shut but are instead being modernized. £100k is being removed from the Stirling Council library budget but is being put back into the libraries through renovations. £98k is being saved through closing the library's head office. The FCC disagrees heavily about the head office closure.

Written statements to the council

MB states that trying to get through to the council is difficult as putting requests and complaints in writing is difficult for some older people. Cllr Henke argues that council employees need to protect themselves from being misinterpreted.

Roads

MB asks Cllr Henke whether the FCC will get notifications from the roads department as they have not been getting them. She states that Fintry were down for

streetlighting fixes last year, Cllr Henke requests to be emailed so that he has the request in writing.

- **Police Report - report submitted**

See attached

Treasurer's Report

The FCC will need to put £8,000 towards the for our contribution towards the landfill grant this was agreed. MB is hopeful that all funding will be secured by September 2024.

Currently the FCC is awaiting replies from 3 different grant bodies.

Insurance documents for FCC assets needs to be completed MB/JG will take forward

Wind farm fund

MOP queries the status of the Kingsburn fund. MB responds that the fund is nearly at a maximum spend as its year end and has been very well subscribed to this year.

Resilience Update

Earlsburn turbine fire

MB informs the FCC that the Earlsburn wind turbine had caught on fire, but the incident has since been resolved. The entirety of the site was down on the 28th of February as a safety precaution and an investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing. This will not impact the FCC because the Community Council earns income in regard to the installed capacity of the turbine, instead of the actual amount of electricity produced. On Saturday 9th March a few turbines were restarted, and the rest are expected to be put back into operation in the 5 weeks after that.

Cicily's Way

The development of phase three will be more complex as kerbing and tarmacking are required for this section.

Cllr Henke asks who will do the work for Cicily's Way. MB confirms that the path will be completed by private contractors. Private contractors are best value rather than getting work commissioned internally by Stirling Council, so far more affordable for this project.

IR inquired David Robertson, a Dyker, about his services, however, he is fully booked for 2024. He is still due to come out and assess the Cicily's Way project despite this.

MB asks the MOPs present at the meeting if they would consider writing to the FCC in support of the Cicily's Way extension in order to show how important the project is to the community and therefore support the grant applications.

Community Garden

The community garden will begin to be sown with seeds in the next few weeks. Topsoil has been ordered, and moss is being cleared away from the buildings to prepare it for Spring and Summer.

Prescription runs

Prescription runs are still continuing.

Tree planting

More trees are to be planted throughout the village in the next year. Loch Lomond fisheries trust will be coming out near the end of March to take a look and make recommendations.

Planning

Planning application erection of dwelling house at garden ground of 43 main street, Fintry

Roads/Paths

Buchanan Street Balfron

Buchanan Street in Balfron will be closed from the 25th-29th of March from 8AM-6PM.

Zebra crossing

Fintry is on the list to get a zebra crossing put in at the Cross

Cicily's Way

Fintry is on a reserve list for the first part of Cicily's Way to be paved.

Speed activation signs

The speed activation sign that was previously removed for repair has now been reinstalled in Fintry.

Speed survey

A speed survey for the Clachan end of the village will be done in May.

Correspondence

Letters of support received regarding the Cicily's Way extension

Letter received requesting bus trips – FCC responded and asked for trip suggestions.

Letter received regarding a member of the public – FCC to discuss.

Letter received informing the FCC that the Chief Executive of Stirling Council, Carol Beattie, is standing down

Letter received informing that a new train route from Stirling to London will be instated

Invitation to the Forth Valley/STEP Food and Drink Partnership received – Nobody from the FCC can attend.

A.O.B.

Licensing meeting

MM attended a licensing meeting about development in the Stirling area. However, the main topic of discussion was the University of Stirling and therefore there was not anything that would impact Fintry to share.

Affordable housing and local development plan

MB is seeking to arrange a meeting concerning discussion of the local development plan, potentially in the week beginning the 24th of March.

Regarding affordable housing and the plan. Many people want affordable housing in the village, can be currently discussed until agreement with landowners settled.

The FCC are seeking to develop and put out a survey concerning rural housing and community desire for it.

MOP questions what exactly affordable housing is. MB replies that it would be less expensive homes, but also 2–3-bedroom homes because many elderly folk in the village would like to downsize but are unable to at the moment due to lack affordable housing stock.

Scottish Art Trust competition

Groups can enter portraits. MB to put information up on the Community Council noticeboard.

Rural Forum meeting

MB will attend a 28th March online meeting about the rural forum. Discussion was held about how good rural forum meetings are for connecting people. Cllr Henke was not present at the last one so has no comments to make. MB states that she believes that urban areas may again have been prioritized.

Mail complaints

MB asks MM whether she advanced regarding the complaints that mail from Balfron was not being delivered. RG states that he was told that the warehouse is short-staffed and so every so often the days that they can post may skip. But most people in the village do appear to be getting their mail so there is little that can be done.

Rugby club parking

IR inquired regarding the issue of cars parking on the side of the road when spaces at the Sports Club fill up. Verges on kippen road etc used to be coned off to prevent parking but now this doesn't seem to be happening IR will discuss with Strathendrick rugby Club. Warnings on Facebook or pinned up on the noticeboard would be helpful.

Day trip bus

MB requests MM to find out where people would like to go on day trips so buses can be arranged with community involvement.

Event day

The FCC along with FDT would like to put on an event day Saturday 15th June 2024 in the Community Garden. The event will involve a children's picnic and activities. The police or fire service could possibly bring out a car or a fire engine for the children to see.

Repairs

RG asks about the progress on the repair of the shelter roof. MB responds that a MOP will be repairing it during the summer, he was delayed because of the frost.

Life rings

RG raises that it would be good to attach string to the life rings down the Endrick so that people can be pulled in instead of just being aided to float. MM will take this up.

Fountain at Cross

MOP asks what progress has been made in getting a fountain put in at the Cross. MB states that the FCC has put in applications for a fountain at the Cross, but all have been rejected. There is very little funding for historical refurbishment. MB will put in another application. Currently the fountain at Cross cannot be repainted, and no plants are allowed to be planted around it as its listed. Hopefully, even if a fountain cannot be funded, the Cross might be allowed to be repainted. The colour scheme might be black and gold as it was historically.

Trees

MB states that the coronation trees on Main Street are in now, but it would be good to look at getting more trees. The tree at the Menzies Hall is dead. In a few months the lights on the trees will be taken down and will be put up again for Christmas.

DRT

MOP queries the status of the DRT service. MB responds that it runs from around 10AM-6PM on weekdays only. She really feels that it's not user friendly the fact that it does not run the same service at the weekend, and the 2-week advance booking system that it uses. Cllr Henke adds that he also believes the level of service is shocking.

Date of next meeting

- **8th May 2024**