

## **Furnace Community Council Meeting**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Present:** Ruth Tott, Sharon Macinnes, Ann Dodd, Ronnie Dodd, Louise MacKeller, Kenneth Mackeller, Edith Mackellar, Martin Wilson, Peter Hogbin, Andy Henderson, Eva Paterson. The Meeting was chaired by Mark Boston.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Jan Brown, Councillor G Corner, Sue Campbell, John Campbell

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Approved: Ruth Tott. Seconded Martin Wilson

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Peter reported that one of his first jobs is transferring the bank to Bank of Scotland. Sharon agreed to be the second name on the account. He also is moving all the process to online banking and no cheques will be issued or accepted in future.

Total in the bank is £2219.19 including administration grant money from A&BC and microgrant money.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Martin Wilson reminded the community to be aware of 'scammer's knocking on doors to do pathways and roofs. Also regarding vigilance over ever more sophisticated phone call scams. The Citizens Advice, in conjunction with Argyll and Bute Council, are running a scheme offering telephone screening installed for vulnerable residents. CC will contact CAB for more information.

A seasonal reminder during lambing time to dog owners not to let their dogs off the lead anywhere near fields with sheep or cattle. The fines can be very hefty on top of the stress and possible death to the animals.

The monthly police report issued 6th March covering February advises that there were 38 calls in the month. The top three demands were; Road Traffic related (9 calls) – involving collisions, accidents and offences, Abandoned 999 Calls (5), and Assist the public (4). Two of the calls received resulted in crimes being recorded. Martin pointed out that there was nothing related to Furnace area.

### **VANDALISM**

The bus stop is yet again being attacked by someone stubbing cigarettes out on the plastic. Given the bus stop took over a year to be repaired after the last damage and the Council threatened taking the bus stop away due to the ongoing problem The Community Council requests that the SCIO move ahead with their plans to install CCTV.

### **ROADS**

It appears that the long awaited installation of additional speed limit repeater and village nameplates signs are being installed this week.

Concern raised over rear steer vehicles. Mark Boston has sent a cam recording of one such large lorry whose back end swung out onto oncoming traffic to the company who owns the lorry directly. Martin advised anyone with footage to send to the police, dial 101.

### **GRANTS**

Application has been received from Fynest Friends Baby, Parent and Toddler Group for £250 to purchase sensory equipment for their toddler group. This was agreed.

## **WINDFARM**

Blarghour Wind Farm – Developer has submitted a revised application to reduce the number of towers from 17 to 14 by increasing the turbine tip height to 180m (was 136.5m). Capacity of this system would be 80MW (was 50MW) generating over £400k a year for the local area.

Shared Ownership – Zoom meeting held to inform community groups of the chance to make an investment in a commercially owned renewable energy project. A Scottish government aspiration.

Caitlin Quinn S&SE Networks Community Liaison Manager to be invited to CC's June meeting. TBC

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Concern was raised from the floor about the implementation of car parking charges on Forestry Commission land. This flies in the face of open access as well as being another barrier stopping people taking part in healthy exercise, good for the body and mind. The CC will write to the relevant body expressing concern. But also urges and advises residents to use people power and write to their SMP, raise a petition and make a noise.

## **CLOSURE OF FURNACE SURGERY**

No response to-date from the Partners of the Lochgilphead Medical Practice. The CC has sent a 'chaser letter' to the Partners & the Practice Manager requesting a response. NHS Highlands have been copied also.

At the request of the CC, Cllr. Garret Corner is following up with the Head of the Primary Care at the HSCP (A&B's Health & Social Care Partnership) and we await their response.

A Freedom of Information request letter is currently under preparation.

## **CORRESPONDANCE**

A&B Planning group – No new applications posted during past month.

Following our contact with West Loch Fyne CC (Crarae, Minard, Lochgair & adjacent areas) suggesting informal information & best practice sharing meetings they have expressed an interest – date for a meeting to be agreed. Martin suggested it would be useful to pass over contacts in various organisations such as BEAR etc.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) – have invited us to take part in the 2023 Opinion Survey – any interest/issues? Ann Dodd raised concerns over 'sludge' entering the loch.

A&B Citizens Advice Bureau have received funding to deliver Energy Efficiency Advice sessions on a 1-2-1 or group basis. There was thought to be some interest in seeing if we could organise a group session in the hall.

## **AOB**

A question from the floor was raised about which organisation is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the Fire Hydrants located in remote areas. The fire service is responsible for registering, servicing and maintaining the Hydrants.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Furnace Community Council meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month. The next meeting is Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm