

## Furnace community council meeting 31/08/2023

### Minutes

#### 1: Welcome/apologies for absence:

- Present: Mark Boston (chair), Sharon McInnes, Kenneth MacKellar, Louise MacKellar, Andy Henderson, Sarah Nixon and Phil Nilsson.
- Apologies: Ruth Tott, Peter Hogbin, Dougie Philand, Jan Brown

As the meeting was not deemed to be Quorate due to a number of FCC absences, no voting could be undertaken. It was agreed however to continue with the meeting.

#### 2: Adoption of minutes from previous meeting:

- Proposed: N/A Seconded: N/A

#### 3: Matters arising:

- The issue with the virgin money account is still outstanding as a second signature is required to close the account and transfer the funds to the main account. Action carried forward.
- The wreath for remembrance Sunday has now been received.
- Regarding the blocked footpath opposite the surgery - there has been no response to the letter sent to the council. It is thought that the land in question belongs to Argyll Estates rather than A & B council. FCC sent a reminder to the council on 29/08/2023.
- Call screening devices – Martin Wilson to update meeting following contact with ACHA and Fyne Homes.
- Installation of lamp post mounting brackets – no reported progress – Martin Wilson was to email Dougie Philand as Jim Smith has not responded.
- Feedback from the local Health and Social Care partnership planning meeting – awaiting update as Dougie Philand agreed to raise the issue of meeting the needs of the communities of Furnace and Minard.

#### 4: Treasurers report.

Account balance: £3399.19 of which £971.94 is micro grant money.

The treasurer has proposed that FCC open an easy access account in order to benefit from higher interest rates. The decision was deferred until the next meeting.

#### 5: Police report.

The local area (Furnace, Minard and West Loch Fyne) had 23 calls for service during the month of July. Of the calls received, there were 7 crimes recorded. These were broken down as follows.

- One communication offence
- Three common assaults
- One count of threatening or abusive behaviour
- One count of vandalism
- One breach of bail

There were no press releases about these incidents.

Attendees were reminded to be wary of cold callers. If you receive any unannounced visitors offering to undertake works, please report to Police Scotland.

#### 6: Roads:

- A83 road signage – no change. Jan Brown has requested an update – MB agreed that he will undertake an audit of the current signage and report back.
- Community speed monitoring group – awaiting update from Martin Wilson.

There was some discussion about the continuing issue of speeding in the village. The council discussed whether more signs should be placed in areas where it is a problem. SM pointed out that it was agreed in a previous meeting that any further speeding issues should be reported to Police Scotland.

#### 7: Micro Grant applications:

- No new applications have been received.
- The redesigned form is now available to simplify the application process. Completed forms should be returned to the secretary for processing.

#### 8: Surgery closure

- Lochgilphead medical practice manager has advised that the extraction of the relevant data requested by the FCC will take some time to produce due to the volume of work involved.
- MB had a call with Charlotte Craig (A&Bs Health and Social Care Partnership business development manager) as planned. The focus of the discussion was on ensuring that the needs of Furnace (and Minard) residents are known to the HSCP, and can be prioritised.

Charlotte outlined HSCP's interest in developing & delivering services in collaboration with local communities and so would welcome input & participation from the Furnace community if residents are prepared to get involved and support this action.

The removal of the surgery needs redressed – local residents have been given a raw deal throughout this process, there was no consultation about the closure.

- On 27/07/2023. Evan Beswick (head of HSPC primary care) confirmed that Patricia Morrison (primary care manager) had met with the Lochgilphead medical practice partners and stated, "We're awaiting further instruction from them as to what they'd like doing, and will take it from there. Our focus is to ensure that we're responsive to their needs around re-opening the surgery, and once that hurdle is over look at how we can extend the usage to welcome community and third sector users in."

MB to go back to Evan Beswick to ask whether or not the surgery is permanently closed, as this has not been officially stated, and find out who made the decision if this is the case.

MB mentioned Jeans Bothy in Helensburgh as an example of a successful community project ([Jean's Bothy \(jeansbothy.org\)](http://jeansbothy.org)) – website currently under construction.

MB pointed out that the community may well have to “roll up their sleeves” in order to make any future plans for the surgery to be successful. There is already a dwindling membership and interest in the community council and SCIO so we need to get the community engaged.

#### 9: Environmental issues

MB- there has been an area cleared adjacent to Bridge Terrace and the track leading up to the Leacainn walk, but it is unclear who is responsible for this. There is concern that there is Japanese Knotweed in the area and improper treatment of this can be very problematic. MB agreed that he would attempt to contact the land owner to find out what is happening and to ensure that any knotweed is being removed properly.

PN – there is an ongoing issue with dog fouling in the village. Residents are encouraged to report persistent fouling to A&B council. This can be done at: [Dog Fouling \(custhelp.com\)](http://DogFouling.custhelp.com)

#### 10: Correspondence

- A&B council have requested the input of the community council to formulate an emergency communications plan. Jan Brown has also highlighted this work. It was noted that the village did have an emergency pack kept in the village hall with resident details and supplies, but this has not been updated in a long time.
- Planning notice received – Alteration/extension of existing dwelling, including the erection of a garage with accommodation above at Braleckan, Furnace , PA32 8XN.

#### 11: Any other competent business

- David Bowen has made contact with the CC and would like to attend a future meeting to discuss his proposal of a new cycle way between Lochgilphead and Inveraray.
- Furnace SCIO are currently updating their membership register. Forms have been delivered to all homes in the village and residents are encouraged to complete and submit. Completed forms should be handed in at the shop by the 15/09/2023.
- Donations are welcomed for the raffle that will be held on the 07/10/2023 at the event being held to celebrate 100 years since winning the Camanachd cup.

Date of next meeting - 28/09/2023 at 18:30 in the Village Hall.