

## Furnace Community Council Meeting

28/09/2023

1: Welcome and apologies.

Present: Mark Boston (Chair), Peter Hogbin (Treasurer), Sharon MacInnes, Ruth Tott, Martin Wilson, Cllr. Dougie Philand, Sarah Nixon (Minutes).

Kenneth MacKellar, Louise MacKellar, Andy Henderson, Ronnie Dodd, Phil Nilsson

Apologies: Ann Dodd

2: Adoption of minutes from July's meeting.

Proposed: Martin Wilson           Seconded: Louise MacKellar

3: Matters arising:

- Blocked foot path near surgery. FCC (Furnace Community Council) has contacted Argyll & Bute operational services and have been told that the local inspector will be investigating – there is concern that the overgrowth may be an invasive plant species so would need controlled removal.
- Land near to Bridge Terrace which has been cleared recently (Galloping Brae) - It is thought that this is a private road/area, and it could be ACHA or Argyll Estates who own the land. Enquiries to find out who is responsible for the land remain ongoing.
- Telephone call screening – MW has been in contact with PC Laura Evans (community liaison officer) who states that they are trying to source funding for the most vulnerable members of our community. Any other interested households would need to purchase their own devices. MW will continue to liaise with Laura Evans. MW also commented on how contact with some organisations could trigger nuisance telephone calls, presumably due to the sharing of contact data.
- Lampost fixtures/fittings (Christmas lights) - MW is still waiting for a response to his enquiries about this. DP asked him to be sent details of communication so that he can follow up.

4: Treasurers report:

£72.19 was transferred from the Virgin Money bank account to the Bank of Scotland account. The Virgin Money account was then closed. £27 unaccounted for, has been listed as office expenses.

£38.40 has been paid for this year's memorial wreath which has left a total of £3,333.79 in the current account (£1,841 of which is restricted as it is micro grant money).

PH proposed that the FCC open an easy access account into which £3,300 is invested. This would allow the CC (Community Council) to benefit from a greater rate of interest, which could yield around £150 per annum at the current rate. The CC agreed to this proposal and an easy access account will be opened with the Aldermore Bank.

## 5: Police report

MW advised that a parked vehicle has been vandalized on Queen Elizabeth, and residents are urged to be vigilant. The benches in the play park which were recently re-painted, have also been damaged.

There was an assault at Bridge Terrace which has been dealt with by Police Scotland.

The recent spell of bad weather has damaged a number of trees in the area between Lochgair and Furnace, and Furnace and Inveraray. Residents are advised to be aware that there may be debris on the roads during bad weather.

MW also advised attendees that the quickest way to get a response when contacting the police for a NON EMERGENCY issue, is by using the online contact form. [Contact Us form | Police Scotland](#)

## 6: Roads:

- Completion of the signage works on the A83 is still outstanding. A number of new signs have been installed near to the village, and comment was made that some of these are incorrect or have been placed in the wrong place. Due to time constraints MB suggested that a separate meeting could be arranged to discuss these issues.
- Speeding in the village. There has been a second anonymous complaint submitted to the CC relating to speeding on Queen Elizabeth's Drive. The complainant states that speeding remains a problem in the area and suggests that sleeping policemen are installed on the road. The complainant does not wish to speak to the police about the matter. Due to the anonymous nature of the complaints, there is some difficulty in knowing how to proceed. It was agreed that ideally, people should, in the first instance, contact the police about speeding issues in the area. People can choose to remain anonymous when contacting the police, and they have more power to deal with such issues.
- MB advised that he will identify the cost of obtaining 20mph advisory stickers that residents could attach to their wheelie bins so that the CC could then decide whether to proceed.
- MB urged residents who wanted to highlight particular issues of concern affecting the village to contact the CC directly (preferably in writing – if possible).

## 7: Micro grant applications:

There have been no new applications.

## 8: Furnace surgery closure:

MB – Advised attendees that in light of recent discussions, we still need clarification on whether a final decision has actually been made regarding the future of the surgery. The GP practice in Inveraray has not yet provided the CC with the information requested (data about how many residents from Furnace and Minard access services at the Inveraray surgery) citing staff absence, holidays and other pressures as all impacting this work.

Argyll and Bute health and social care partnership (HSCP) welcome feedback and involvement from the local community at the locality planning meetings they hold.

MB continues to communicate with relevant parties about the above issues, but the partners at the practice have yet to come back with their requirements/needs, or proposals, for offering limited services from the Furnace Surgery.

It was suggested that a freedom of information request could be submitted but MB urged caution as the request would need to be very specific and may not get the information required.

DP agreed that he would contact Evan Beswick (Head of Primary Care A&B HSCP) to request clarity over the issue – MB to share recent communication with DP.

9: Environmental:

David Bowen wished to attend a CC meeting to discuss a potential cycle route between Lochgilhead and Inveraray – PH advised him to reschedule as today's meeting was time constrained.

10: Correspondence:

No new planning applications have been submitted.

SSE networks report that planning for sub-stations has been approved at the following sites: An Suidh, Crarae, Craig Murrail and Crossaig.

A poster has been received by the CC providing information about registering to vote and the Electoral Roll. This notice has been posted on the notice board outside the hall.

11: AOB:

Panel members for the An Suidhe wind farm trust panel were appointed by CC members. The council consider that attendance of the trust panel meetings is very important, as it allows us to support applications from the village, and also see what other applications are being made.

SN and MW agreed to be panel members. There is to be a briefing on 16/10/2023 to discuss what is involved. AH to send details to SN and MW.

MW highlighted and attendees thanked Sharon MacInnes and Eva Pattison who were involved in the painting of the benches at the play park.

RD urged local residents and the FCC to write letters to Humza Yousaf in support of the screen machine which is under threat of operational closure. RD will draft a suitable letter and forward to MB for submission on behalf of Residents and FCC. AH encourages all interested parties to also write individual letters as well.

RD raised the ongoing issue of parking charges at the local forestry sites. There is an online petition which can be found at: <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2042/signatures/new> and residents are encouraged to lobby to have these charges removed.

The next community council meeting will be held on 26/10/2023 at 6:30pm in the village hall.