

Furnace Community Council Meeting
Minutes from meeting held 28/03/2024

1: Welcome and apologies for absence

Attendees: Mark Boston (Chair) Martin Wilson, Peter Hogbin, Sharon MacInnes, Andy Henderson, Louise & Kenneth MacKellar, Sarah Nixon, Phil Nilsson.

Apologies: Ruth Tott, Cllr Jan Brown

2: Adoption of Meeting minutes from 29/02/2024

Proposed: Martin Wilson

Seconded: Sharon MacInnes

3: Matters arising

- Following Council interim by-elections SN & PH are now fully elected members of FCC.
- West Loch Fyne shopping initiative letter – The WLF CC sent out a letter to potential supermarket providers. The response has been disappointing so far, there has been no interest from alternative vendors. It was generally agreed that there was a lack of competition locally, and residents were subject to high prices and reduced choice. Some discussion around whether the issue could be escalated to the national press.
- School transport service bus safety concern - awaiting further news/update? A response was received from the original community member who had raised the concern, but this was not in time to be discussed at today's meeting.
- NHS Campbeltown has held a new pharmacy public consultation query – research has identified that the responsibility for considering applications for pharmacy contracts under the regulations sits with the NHS Board. The regulations require that a joint consultation be undertaken lead by the NHS Board.
- Shore Road (footpath obstruction) & Bridge Terrace (Knotweed issue) - awaiting further information from Argyll Estates.

- ICE (in case of emergency) cards – MW has approached the Portsonachan CC for a copy of their template for these cards so that we can print our own.
- Further engagement discussions with adjoining CC's – ongoing 7.30pm tonight.

4: Treasurers report

Net change in funds during month:

- Micro-grant payments: Nil
- Other expenditure: Nil

Bank interest: £ 2.94

Total Net Assets: £ 2,556.99

(last month 2,554.05)

5: Police report

While there has been no official police report this month, MW informed the CC that there had been multiple road traffic incidents.

There have also been a number of break ins up in Oban – It is thought that gangs are travelling from outwith the area.

6: Road update

There has been no further feedback regarding the road signage since the meeting took place in December. It was noted that we may be more likely to get a response from BEAR Scotland if we address correspondence to their Perth office.

7: Micro fund grant applications: No new applications received

8: Furnace surgery update

- A&B HSCP have now sent a health care needs survey letter to all residents.
- Paper copies of the survey questionnaire have also been requested and are to be made available in the village shop.
- The closing date for responses is 7th April, so all residents need to complete the survey ASAP.

- The survey is per Patient (not household) and so the more people that respond the better as feedback received will be used by HSCP to influence the range of services that they offer Furnace.
- An engagement day is being held on Thu 4th April, between the hours of 11am – 7pm in the Village Hall. At this time residents will have the opportunity to talk with HSCP staff, pick up a survey form, and ask any questions they may have.

It is important that as many residents as is possible respond to this survey, as this is **Your** chance to influence the range & level of GP & Healthcare services that this Community receives going forward.

Once the survey has been concluded, HSCP have committed to sharing its findings back to the community in late April.

- A&B HSCP (NHS Highland) are to place an advert in the British Medical Journal inviting applications to provide GP services for our area. They are hoping to appoint new partners by 1st August but if this is not possible then they will continue to provide cover using locum GP's.
- Representation from each Community Council will be invited to take part in the interview process. The engagement of a new GP partner is a NHS Highland decision. Post meeting clarification: we have now been informed that only one community representative will be allowed to sit on the interview panel.

9: Environmental: - Nothing to report

10: Correspondence:

Planning: - No new applications this month

Other:

- Auchindrain Township – a draft conservation management plan is now available for review & comment. If you would like to receive a copy, let the Secretary know.
- Road Closure works with amnesty periods to allow Bear Scotland to carry out Tree Felling works on the A83 between Inveraray and Achadunan. From 8th April until 4th May between 1900 and 0600 hours each day.

- Eredine Windfarm consultation sessions held Wed 27th (Inveraray) & Thu 28th Portsonachan to provide update on planning application.
- Foundation Scotland (Eredine inform & inspire programme) are holding an on-line Infrastructure and connectivity session on 02/04/24 7.00 – 8.30. Contact the secretary if you would like to receive more information on how to participate.

11: Any other competent business

The Community Council AGM will be held in May.

MW plans to step down as Chair and would like to remain as a regular member of the CC.

RT will also be standing down.

PN to be co-opted onto the CC.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 25/04/2024 @ 6:30pm in the Furnace village hall.

All Welcome.