

Furnace Community Council

Minutes from meeting held 25/04/2024.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence:

Attendees: Mark Boston (Chair) Peter Hogbin (Treasurer) Sharon MacInnes, Ruth Tott, Andy Henderson, Clr Jan Brown.

Apologies: Martin Wilson, Sarah Nixon.

2. Adoption of minutes from March meeting:

Proposed: Sharon MacInnes

Seconded: Andy Henderson

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

- Highlighted concern raised regarding school transport service vehicles – following receipt of further information and investigation, it appears that the law requiring the fitment of seat belt restraints on some categories of vehicles registered before certain dates, does not require that they are fitted. As a result it appears that A&B council are not in contravention of any rule, or law by using these vehicles on the routes chosen.
- Shore Road (footpath obstruction) & Bridge Terrace (Knotweed issue) matter still under investigation by Argyll Estates. Follow-up letter to be sent.

4. Treasurer's report (PH):

No significant change in month with bank interest of £2.63 being added to account. Total Net Assets, currently £2,559.62.

Note; Total Micro Grant money awarded YTD is £1,050 – see separate sheet for details.

5. Police Report - No report received from Police Scotland this month - chaser email sent.

6. Roads - A83 + local village roads – A83 (no update or progress from Bear Scotland) – FCC to send chaser email.

7. Micro Grants – SCIO now have application form and are currently preparing it.

8. Furnace Surgery – updates:

- HSCP consultation sessions in Furnace & Inveraray were held on 4th & 5th April with in-person attendance levels being good.

- Further to recruitment timescale concerns being raised during the consultation sessions, attendees were told that the invitation to Tender notice, will be published in the BMJ (British Medical Journal) by the end of April. – meeting attendees agreed that we should contact HSCP’s PM to ensure that this date is on-track and will be met.
- It was noted that there had been a number of deficiencies with HSCP’s survey questionnaire (e.g. can only tick one box, size of text used on paper forms, can’t save a copy of the completed questionnaire etc.) and feedback on these deficiencies had been provided to Charlotte Craig. Survey respondees were also disappointed to learn that whilst the findings from the questionnaire will be used to inform HSCP and passed on to the incoming GP, they will not be directly used to influence the new GP engagement process.
- We now await feedback from the A&B HSCP project manager, Charlotte Craig following analysis of the data gathered.
- Joint liaison meetings have now taken place with representatives from both Inveraray & WLF CC’s and it has been agreed that a proactive approach in working with both the HSCP and the incoming GP medical practice would be most beneficial and a common PPG (Patient Participation Group) should be established asap – for further information see AOB.

9. Environmental – no new issues highlighted.

10. Correspondence:

Planning: - Auchindrain Borrow Pit Land North Of Auchindrain Furnace. Screening opinion for extended use of borrow pit required in connection with construction of An Suidhe substation.

Other:

- Scottish & Southern Customer liaison manager has offered to attend a future FCC meeting to inform & update attendees on progress in upgrading of the 275kV substation network upgrade.
- MAKI (Mid Argyll, Kintyre & Islands) are due to hold their next meeting on May 1st at 10.30am. FCC members are invited to attend this on-line meeting, if possible.

11. Any other competent business:

a. Emergency Community Plan development:

- There is an urgent need to develop a community resilience plan as the previous one has not been updated for years. A suitable template is available but a list of volunteers willing to work together to produce a suitable plan is to be established. The template and guidance are

available via the following link: [Making your plan | Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) - SM agreed to contact Lynda Syed to obtain a copy of the previous plan and to ask if she would be willing to join the team tasked with producing the new plan.

- b. Lochgilphead to Inveraray cycleway proposal (partly via. Leacain walk):
- PH informed attendees that an assessment of the proposed local route had now been carried out and that its findings had indicated that only the Brenachaille section would be suitable and that they would also require significant investment and development to produce a safe and acceptable route. Following some discussion and given the current constraints on SCIO resources it is felt that we could not take this project proposal forward at this point in time. - PH will make D. Bowen aware of the SCIO's situation.
- c. CC cooperation & joint working opportunities (note, also comments under bullet 8 above):
- A draft copy of proposed PPG Handbook has been produced and is available for review. This document explains both the purpose & aims of a PPG and the roles & responsibilities of its members. It also has a section on FAQ's as well as outlining the proposed PPG's Constitution as well as containing an example of a standing agenda and a proposed timeline for meetings. – see attached copy.
- d. Clr JB informed meeting attendees of recent A&B Council changes detailing that an all new Council with new administration and policy leads has been established with Clr Dougie Philand being appointed as Provost and Clr Jan Brown being appointed as Deputy Provost.

Furnace CC wish to congratulate the above personnel on their new appointments and look forward to working with them in the future.

Date of next meeting – (AGM) Thursday 30th May 2024 - 6.30pm, Furnace Village Hall