

FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (FCC)
MINUTES FROM BOTH THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND
MONTHLY MEETING

6.30 PM THURSDAY 30 MAY 2024

AGM

1. Welcome

Attendees: Mark Boston (Chair), Peter Hogbin (Treasurer), Ruth Tott, Louise MacKellar, Kenneth MacKellar, Paul Melnyezuk, Andy Henderson, Cllr Garrett Corner.

Apologies: Sharon MacInnes, Sarah Nixon, Cllr Jan Brown.

2. Adoption of previous AGM minutes (30 March 2023)

Proposed: Andy Henderson. Seconded: Louise Mackellar
and all agreed.

3. Convenor - Annual Report - See attached

Martin Wilson will not be continuing as Convenor, but will remain on the Committee. The Annual Report was prepared and delivered by Mark Boston (Chair and Secretary).

4. Treasurer - Annual Report - See attached with detailed spreadsheet.

5. FCC Elections - March 2024.

Peter Hogbin and Sarah Nixon, who had been co-opted members, were elected.

6. Date of Meetings - as detailed in the Annual Report.

7. AOB - Mark expressed appreciation for the attendance and support of the Mid - Argyll Councillors.

May 2024 Ordinary Meeting

1. Attendees and apologies as listed for the AGM.

2. Adoption of minutes from April's meeting

Proposed: Andy Henderson Seconded: Louise MacKellar
and agreed by all.

3. Matters arising - updates given as part of discussion of relevant items on the agenda.

4. Treasurer's report - already covered in AGM.

Worth noting that Inveraray Primary School pupils sent a nice letter of thanks for the contribution that FCC made to the cost of their school trip.

5. Police Report - the area covered is Furnace, Inveraray and Minard and the latest report for March/April notes that there were 65 calls and of these, 12 crimes were recorded. These crimes included road traffic, drugs, animal related calls and dishonesty. No press releases were made. Clr Corner will contact the Police Officer responsible for the Community updates to ask if more details (obviously without names) can be given.

6. Roads Update - Bear Scotland have had a meeting with the operations team and while they can't give an exact timescale they hope that staff will be on site next week to complete the outstanding signing works and re-site those that have been put in the wrong place.

The state of the work being carried out on the Furnace bends, and the crumbling at the edges of the road opposite to the river, is of concern. Some of the work relates to a problem with the water supply to the Fish Farm. Mark will write to raise our concerns and to ask about a completion date.

7. Micro Grants - no new applications yet but there are ideas.

8. Furnace Surgery - GP Partner/PPG update - Mark has been asked to be the Stakeholder representative on the interview panel and represent

Furnace, Inveraray and Minard patients. He will liaise with other CC members to finalise the stakeholder questions to be asked during the interview. There will be 4 members on the interview panel and the other 3 will represent, HSCP, NHS Highland and Primary Care. The interviews have been provisionally set for 13 June and the announcement of the appointed new GP is expected in late June.

The first meeting about establishing a Patient Participation Group (PPG) was held in Furnace Hall on 28 May and was well attended. The next meeting will be on 9 July in the Nichol Hall, Inveraray, and it is hoped that people with a range of skills, and including parents and young people will be interested in joining the Group. Future meetings will be held about 3/4 times a year.

Results from the resident questionnaires are currently being compiled by the Primary Care Team (HSCP) and are expected to be published at the end of June / early July.

9. Environmental - no new issues.
10. Correspondence - no new planning applications in May.

Caitlin Quinn, Scottish and Southern Customer Liaison Manager, has offered to come to a future FCC meeting to inform and update us on progress in upgrading the 275kV substation network. It was agreed to invite her to a meeting in few months time.

A Westlochfyneside Community Councillor has asked for support to persuade ALDI to come to this area and those interested are encouraged to also add their support individually.

11. AOCB

Ruth thanked Mark for all the work that he has been doing and for acting as Chair as well as Secretary.

As Martin has resigned as Convenor, Peter proposed that Mark should take on that role officially, this was agreed by those present but Mark, has yet to confirm that he will take the title of Convenor.

There are places for 2 new FCC members - new blood is always welcome and anyone interested should talk with Mark.

An Suidhe Windfarm Community Trust Panel - we should confirm that Martin and Sarah are willing to remain as the Furnace representatives.

Ruth has set up a dedicated FCC email address (furnacecommunitycouncil@furnace-argyll.com) to facilitate contact with the CC and also between CC members.

This was Ruth's last meeting as she and Paul will be moving to Melbourne and the FCC would like to place on record their appreciation and thanks to her for the all her hard work and the contribution she has made to the FCC one the past years. We wish Ruth and Paul every success for their new venture and journey down under. Mark presented Ruth with a bouquet of flowers, and wine and chocolates to represent our appreciation.

Next FCC meeting - 27 June 2024, 6.30 pm, Furnace Village Hall

Annual Report – May 2024

Introduction:

I am pleased to report that Furnace Community Council (FCC) continued to meet each month during the past year to co-ordinate, discuss, take action & also disseminate information on matters of local importance to members of the community it serves.

The Community Council relies principally on the efforts and support of its office holders, local elected councillors, regular meeting attendees, and members of the general public.

Additionally, organisations such as the local Furnace SCIO, A&B Council, Police Scotland, Bear Scotland, Foundation Scotland, SEPA and others have also assisted FCC from time to time and their help is much appreciated.

All, existing office holders remained in place over the past 12 months with both Sarah Nixon, and Peter Hogbin also joining FCC, initially as co-opted members.

In February 2024, when A&B Council announced their intention to hold mid-term elections, concluded in March, both Sarah and Peter were elected as officers.

Current FCC duty holders and their assignments are as listed below:-

Martin Wilson – Convenor

Peter Hogbin – Treasurer

Mark Boston – Secretary

Sarah Nixon – Minute Secretary

Ruth Tott – Officer

Sharon McInnes – Officer

Activities:

FCC undertook numerous activities throughout the past year, some examples of which are as listed below:

- **Furnace Surgery Closure**
 - Continue to challenge the Partners of the Lochgilphead Medical Practice (LMP) and the A&B HSCP over the continued closure of the Furnace Surgery.
 - Conduct a resident's survey and present the findings to both the LMP & HSCP.

- Co-ordinate activity with adjacent CC's in order to secure a HSCP led survey of patient's 'wants & needs' and obtain representation on the interview panel for a replacement GP, following LMP's decision to hand-back the contract.
- Instigate the establishment of a Patient Participation Group (PPG) and produce a member's handbook in conjunction with local CC members.
- An Suidhe/Foundation Scotland – Continue to manage & administer the micro-grant scheme, making awards totalling £1,050.
- Roads
 - A83 continue the dialogue & maintain pressure on Road Transport Scotland & Bear Scotland to fulfil the agreed speed reduction road signage works.
 - Conduct a litter pick at Furnace Bends with help & assistance from both residents & Bear Scotland (June).
 - Procure 20mph wheelie bin stickers for use in village.
- Community Council liaison – Propose and initiate cross community council information sharing and coordination activity with both WLF (West Loch Fyne) and Inveraray CC's. Joint working examples to-date include; 1). Supporting WLF's (Aldi) alternative supermarket shopping initiative campaign. 2). Engagement of replacement Practice GP and establishment of a PPG.

Meeting dates and calendar:

Furnace CC holds its meetings each month in the Furnace Village Hall. Meetings take place at 6.30pm on the last Thursday of every month (except in the month of December) when residents are welcome & encouraged to attend.

Closing comments:

Furnace CC would like to place on record their appreciation and thanks to the mid-Argyll Ward Councillors for their ongoing support and attendance at meetings during the past year.

FCC currently have two vacancies and would welcome anyone with an interest in contributing to the community in which they live, considering joining the team. If you would like to know more then please make contact whereupon further details of the role & its responsibilities will be provided.

..... Mak P. (Secretary) - Furnace CC

Treasurer’s Report May 2024 – (see spreadsheet for detail)

Total Net Assets as at 31st March 2024 are: £2,556.99 which is an increase of £337.70 over the same period last year.

The above total is made up of monies held in the Bank of Scotland Current Account £14.05 and £2,542.94 held in the Easy Access Account.

Bank interest £16.99 was earned.

Argyll & Bute Council grant monies of £422.30 to support the Community Councils work was received during the year.

Additionally a sum of £1,257.60 was received for the Micro Grant fund from the An Suidhe Wind Farm developers with grant awards totalling £1,050 being made in the year.

Total expenditure for the year was £1,359.19 (includes £1,050 grant monies) of which £309.19 was associated with secretarial, office, memorials & miscellaneous repair costs.

..... **Treasurer - Furnace CC**

Furnace Community Council
Income and Expenditure
for the year to 31st March 2024

	2023/2024			2022/2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
INCOME				
Village and activities	0.00		0.00	185.00
Wind Farm Micro Grants		1257.60	1257.60	1119.45
Argyll & Bute Council	422.30		422.30	422.50
Bank interest	16.99		16.99	
Total Income	439.29	1257.60	1696.89	1726.95
EXPENDITURE				
Memorials	38.40		38.40	38.40
Repairs and renewals	61.00		61.00	188.37
Grants	0.00		0.00	300.00
Micro Grants		1050.00	1050.00	250.00
Office expenses	59.79		59.79	129.17
Secretarial expenses	150.00		150.00	0.00
Total Expenditure	309.19	1050.00	1359.19	905.94
Net movement of funds	130.10	207.60	337.70	821.01
Reconcilaition of funds				
Total funds brought forward	1135.50	1083.79	2219.29	1398.28
Total funds carried forwards	1265.60	1291.39	2556.99	2219.29

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024	2023/2024	2022/2023
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on hand	0.00	
Virgin Money Current Account	0.00	2219.29
Bank of Scotland Current Account	14.05	
Bank of Scotland Easy Access Account 1.3%	2542.94	
Debtors	0.00	0.00
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	0.00	0.00
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2556.99	2219.29



Peter Hogbin
Treasurer



Lynn Johnstone
Independent Examiner

dated 1st May 2024