

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2024

1. **Attendance:-** Phil Nilsson (Chair), Eva Paterson (Treasurer), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Adele Sinclair, Carol Watt, Sue Campbell, John Campbell, Christine Crawford, Ronnie Dodd, Margaret MacIntyre.
2. **Apologies:-** Sharon MacInnes, Lynda Syed and Peter Hogbin.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:-** Approved.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:-** Two names were incorrectly spelt - those present included Peter Hogbin whose surname had been incorrectly stated as Hodgkin, and in the section about the cycle path David Bowen's surname had been stated as Byrne. Other matters arising, including follow up, will be mentioned in the relevant sections below.
5. **Treasurer's report:-** Balance: £31,930:- including £2,000 from the Social Club and £21,862 ring fenced (plants £1,388, Garden, £2,750 and Shop and Bungalow £17,724).
6. **Hall:-** Christine asked who owned the car parking area in front of the Hall as she didn't think that that the Hall owned it. However, the SCIO has paid to tarmac this area and no one else is claiming ownership. The main problem about the car parking is that at times access to the defibrillator is often blocked as is access to the bus shelter and the post box. Phil suggested that if the SCIO owns the ground we could mark out usable parking spaces.
John also noted that a new law in Scotland made it illegal to park on pavements.
7. **Shop and Bungalow:-** Given the demand for the food which the Shop offers and the limited space for tables and chairs at the back of the Shop, Cindy and David are interested in exploring the possibility of a tea room extension with space for 8 tables, and the required toilet facilities. John highlighted the importance of the contribution that Cindy and David make to this community and pointed out that if planning permission was given, the SCIO would need to raise funding for an extension. It was suggested that the funding given by An Suidhe Windfarm Community Trust for garden at the back of the Hall might be diverted to contribute to the cost of an extension, but Andy pointed out that grants are given for specific projects and cannot

be transferred without the permission of the funding body. Phil would want Cindy and David to prepare a business plan.

N.B. Grants from the An Suidhe Windfarm Community Trust, and most funding bodies, are based on an application for a specific project and including a detailed costing. When the project has been completed every penny spent has to be accounted for. It is not acceptable for any part of the grant received to be diverted to another project without negotiation with the grant awarding body.

The Bungalow is in need of a considerable amount of maintenance work and needs to meet the New Scottish Government's 'Repair Standards Statutory Guidance for Private Landlords' by March 2023. Douglas Watt is to be asked to check the work which has to be carried out to meet these standards and Alastair Mirrles will be asked to do the electricity testing.

8. Cycle path from Lochgilphead to Inveraray:- Phil and Peter met with David Bowen who represents those hoping to make a cycle path from Lochgilphead to Inveraray. This project is in its very early stages but would like Furnace to be responsible for the section from Furnace to Auchindrain. Phil would support such a project in principle as it would put Furnace on the map and be good for the village and the Shop. When more is known he will keep us updated. Peter pointed out that taking the cycle path through Kenmore might have issues and also that there would be safety issues for any part of the cycle path going through the Leacainn Walk.

9. Events:- It was agreed that the Shinty Cup 100 year Celebration was a great success and a great community celebration including representation from neighbouring Shinty Clubs.

Margaret, who had fainted at the event and had been taken to A&E, has no recollection of what happened but she wished to apologise to anyone at the event and to the Ambulance staff for any disruption and concern caused.

10. Social Club:- Nothing to report other than as noted in the Treasurer's Report £2,000 has been transferred to the SCIO.

11. Leacainn Walk:- The sign at the Wolf Stone has broken again and Ronnie will check what repairs, if any, are needed.

12. Garden Project:- This is the Plan to tidy up the area behind the Hall and facing the Fyne Homes houses:- Christine had heard a rumour which is going around that this area is to be a 'beer garden' and she was concerned about the level of noise and the disruption caused to residents. It was made clear that the plan was to tidy up the area, tile the ground, have some seating and plants, replace the fencing and make a proper disabled

car parking space. Eva pointed out that it wasn't licensed to be a beer garden and this wouldn't happen.

Christine also pointed out that Fyne Homes residents had not been informed about the plans and neither had Fyne Homes. It was agreed that this should have been done and will now be rectified.

It should be noted that the plans for this area were agreed at a previous SCIO meeting and Lynda Syed then successfully applied to the An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Trust for funding. She had also successfully applied for Council funding for plants to enhance the village.

13. Information for new residents:- Volunteers will be needed if this project is to get off the ground. Sue suggested that any information pack produced could also be included on the Furnace Website.

14. AOCB:-

War Memorial:- Christine mentioned that the War Memorial Garden needs to be tidied up and asked if this is the responsibility of the Council or the Community. No one at the meeting knew the answer and so this will be checked out. For many years the garden has kept in very good condition on a voluntary basis by Gill Telfer and Margaret Millar and deserve the appreciation of the community for that care and effort.

Film Night:- The future of the Screen Machine is still uncertain but it was agreed that we should explore what would be required to restart the Film Club and what the annual Licence Fee would be.

Furnace Website:- Phil is still exploring what changes might be advisable to update the website but he thinks that only minor changes should be needed.

Changes to the Constitution:- Andy is still to check what is required to add the 4 postcodes which had inadvertently been omitted but this should be straightforward.

Dog Fouling:- Peter said that the situation has improved.

15. Date of next meeting:-

7 pm, Thursday 21 March 2024.