

# FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (FCC)

THURSDAY 25th July 2024

## Minutes

1. Welcome – attendees: Ann Dodd, Ronnie Dodd, Louise MacKellar, Kenneth MacKellar, Peter Hogbin, Mike Masino, Anne Masino, Andy Henderson, Lynda Henderson, Mark Boston, Jan Brown, Garret Corner, Phil Nilsson, Sarah Nixon.
2. Apologies – N/A
3. Adoption of minutes from previous meeting:  
Proposed: A.Dodd Seconded: P.Nilsson
4. Matters arising:
  - The 'Old Stables' vacant property by Leacainn water – Sarah has written and has now received a reply from the councils empty homes officer (Douglas Whyte), who advises that he will try to establish who owns the property and remind them of their obligations.
  - Argyll Estates have responded to the CC's letter confirming that they have agreed to the erection of a 4x3m shed on a section of ground adjacent to Galloping Brae. They have also provided an updated plot plan which infers that the section of land adjacent to the footpath where vegetation can obstruct the footpath, was disposed to Argyll County Council in 1963, but further investigations are ongoing.
  - M. Masino has reported the overgrowing vegetation obstructing the footpath to A&B Council and has received a response on 24/07/2024 stating that no further action is required because "it has been passed to a contractor" Copy of correspondence passed to MB who agreed to follow up)
  - FCC members/Roles – Mark Boston has taken on the role of convenor, SN agreed to be secretary and PN to be co-opted as a new member.
5. Treasurer's report:  
Cash in hand June £2,459.84 after payment for wreath - £2.58 interest earned over the last month.
6. Police report:
  - Police report for area LB43 in June indicates 29 calls being reported & 21 crimes being recorded.
  - Do attendees agree that the new style of report meet our needs? If not, how might it be improved? feedback - report does not provide detail of local crime, or reported incidents, so is of little value to community
7. Roads: No further progress to report, chaser email sent to Bear Scotland and we are awaiting their reply.

**Micro Grant applications:** No new applications.

8. Furnace Surgery:
  - The new, incoming GP & his team responsible for the provision of general medical services to Furnace & Inveraray residents with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August.

- Dr Coull, plans to introduce appointments from the Furnace surgery building and is currently working through arrangements with A&B HSCP.
- We have asked A&B HSCP for a status update on the release date for the community survey they conducted – its findings are still awaited and are now a month behind plan.
- Members of the newly formed Patient Participation Group held their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting last month. The meeting was well attended by Furnace/Minard residents who had an opportunity to meet and ask questions of Dr Coull, lead Strachur Practice nurse Eleanor Earnshaw, and Strachur's Practice manager Anne McLachan. The PPG team will work with the new medical service group when they take up responsibility on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug and anticipate holding their next meeting in Sep/Oct – final date to follow.
- MB agreed to contact Dr Coull to check how he is getting on regarding the handover.

9. Environmental: (M & A Masino) highlighted concern over 'failing' concrete flaunching on North embankment of the river Leacainn. Clr Jan Brown is already aware and is following up.

Noted, that if this were to fail under high volume, flood conditions it is likely to cause substantial damage to the riverbank and has also the potential to damage properties located on the downstream, South bank side of the river. MB agreed to examine current condition and follow up with SEPA/SW as appropriate.

- JB requested that residents sent pictures of the hazard to her so that she can pass them on.

10. Correspondence:

- We have now received information (via USB memory stick) in relation to the proposed Balliemanoeh Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme. If you would like to make comment or receive a copy of the environmental impact assessment (EIAR) then please let FCC know. Please note that the closing date for comments is: 26<sup>th</sup> August.
- Foundation Scotland are running a workshop in August for anyone who would like to know more about the Micro-grant award system, how it operates and is managed. If you want to participate then please let FCC's Secretary know before 8<sup>th</sup> Aug.
- SSEN have recently provided details of their Powering Communities to Net Zero fund which may be of interest to anyone wishing to submit a qualifying application - contact FCC Secretary for more detail.
- No new Planning Applications approved, or validated during the past month.

11. AOCB:

- AM – Drains are completely silted up at the lower end of the burn.
- PH – some progress has been made in the potential development of a cycle path in the area. MacLeod's have been contracted to survey the burn and the leicann walk for a potential path on the north side of the river.
- Jan Brown had completed her epic walking challenge in her bid to raise funds for the MS centre in Lochgilphead. HOWEVER – she has now decided to increase the amount of walks from 26 to 30! She has so far raised £1810 Here is a link for anyone wishing to donate.

[Karen McCurry is fundraising for Multiple Sclerosis \(MS\), Mid-Argyll \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Karen-McCurry)

- FCC agreed that they would donate £200 to the cause

**Next meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 - 6.30pm, Furnace Village Hall**