

Fordyce, Sandend & District Community Council meeting

Thursday 20th October 2022 – 7.30pm

Present:

Cameron Ewen (CE)	Community Councillor - Chair
John Anderson (JA)	Community Councillor - Secretary
Claire Meadows (CM)	Community Councillor - Treasurer
Audrey Stewart (AS)	Community Councillor
Jane Winfield (JW)	Community Councillor
Jenny Taylor (JT)	Community Councillor
Joanna Anderson (JoA)	Community Councillor
Marion Timmins (MT)	Community Councillor
Stewart Adams (SA)	Aberdeenshire Councillor

Apologies:

Bertie Robertson (BR)	Community Councillor – Vice Chair
Ivan Owen (IO)	Community Councillor
Ruth Pirie (RP)	Community Councillor
John Cox (JC)	Aberdeenshire Councillor
Sandie Cummings (SC)	PA to Banff and Buchan Area Manager

Abbreviations;

Aberdeenshire Council – AC

Southern and Scottish Electricity Networks - SSEN

Fordyce and Sandend Community Council – CC

Sandend Amenities Council - SAC

1. Chairman Cameron Ewen opened the Community Council meeting at 7.30pm.

Apologies given for BR, IO, RP, SC and JC.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting Thursday 25th August 2022 acceptance proposed by JW and seconded by MT.

3. CM gave a report confirming that all signatures for transferring the account to her control had been received. A telephone banking system test was scheduled for the 21st October. The Direct Debit mandate for the Information Commissioners office, (ICO), registration had been presented to the bank and the balance currently stood at £6709.76 in credit. A test of the telephone banking system had been arranged for the 21st October all under CM's auspices.

4. Correspondence: Following the invitation to the QEII Memorial Service it was decided that there was no attendance from Fordyce and Sandend CC.

5. Police Report; No Police report had been received for the intervening period.

6. Matters Arising

a. QEII Memorial Service See above section 4

b. Growing Living Greenspace Initiative – CM reported that the proposal from AC had been circulated to the wider CC and comments had been invited. She had received two comments suggesting that the roadside verge at the narrow part of the road should not be planted as it was use as a pavement. It was agreed that the proposal should be printed and circulated to the wider community in Sandend CM, AS and JT volunteered to do this. AS advised that 'Colin Birch' would carry out printing/copying at reduced prices to the CC.

c. Dunes Protection Update - JA reported that he had been in contact with Alison Simpson of AC regarding the continued erosion of the dunes at the West end of Sandend bay. The dunes have eroded back to the material installed for remedial purposes some decades ago. It was reported that the response from AC was less than hoped for and not particularly helpful. Funding for a study had been applied for but had not yet been approved, or refused. JA is to continue to engage with AC on the issue.

d. Seaview Road Slippage – JA reported that he had been in contact with AC regarding concerns raised about the slippage in the bank to the sea adjacent to the road approximately opposite 56 Seaview Road, Sandend. The initial response from AC was singularly unhelpful. Further photographs were taken and sent with a more in depth e-mail. This subsequently resulted in a more positive approach from AC. SA requested to be copied on dialogue with AC regarding the slippage and advised that Alistair Miller – Roads Dept. was the person to contact. JA to continue to monitor situation and maintain dialogue with AC.

e. CC Noticeboard – JA reported that there is little by way of interaction between the various elements of the Sandend community. For example, not many people from the village/harbour area look at the village hall notice board. The notice board adjacent to the beach by SUDS is not really on the primary route for local people and visitors going on to the beach. JA stated that he would be happy to mount a noticeboard on the campsite fence adjacent to the path from the car

park to the beach. JA stated that he had written to the Harbour trust to identify if there was a place where a noticeboard could be erected/fastened, but had not received a reply. AS to give JA Alan Esson's telephone number to enable dialogue. CC to contact wind farms to ascertain if they would sponsor two, or more new noticeboards. SA stated that a good point of contact was Roger McMichael at Oceanwinds. roger.mcmichael@oceanwinds.com

f. Resilience Planning – AS reported that she had attended a workshop on Resilience planning and had received information on the sort of things required to be considered. AS reported that SSEN were moving away from the provision of generators for community spaces and for individual residents with support needs and were now recommending battery packs which required little or no maintenance. This is one of the areas that would require consideration in developing the Resilience Plan. It was agreed that the work to establish a Resilience Plan should be divided up amongst the CC members. Other members of the CC were invited to take part. The Sandend village component is to be undertaken by CM, JT, AS and JA. JA will also establish contact with the farms and more rural residents to enable their concerns and requirements to be considered.

Apologies had been received from the CC Councillors who live in Fordyce village. Hence, it was not possible to determine who will lead on the Fordyce component of the Resilience Plan.

g. Crows – JA reported that as requested, he had been in contact with AC and they do not have a facility to assist with crows. They also do not have a policy of including crows as vermin. Crows can be shot under a general licence, but the landowners permission is required and other safety issues must be complied with. BR to liaise on this issue.

h. Slippage of Tiles – JA reported that as requested, he had been in touch with AC regarding BR's concern about the tiles falling from Fordyce castle roof. They responded that the castle does not belong to AC and that contact should be made with the castle owners. The CC asked JA to write to the castle owners concerning the tiles slippage.

7. Local Updates and Reports

a. JA spoke to the CC about the need to develop a Community Action Plan. AS stated that this had been a topic of discussion at the Crudie School meeting of CCs. It was agreed that the CC would develop a plan and volunteers were sought. AS, CM, JT and JA all volunteered to assist in the Sandend component development. There were no representatives of the CC who live in Fordyce village present so it was not possible to secure volunteers for the Fordyce component. Within this it was agreed that there is a need to create a CC Website to promote dialogue with the wider community. This is to be further discussed at the next CC meeting.

- b. CE reported that BR had raised concerns regarding the state of the bridge in Fordyce and that this needed consideration by AC.
- c. CE raised concerns that there was not enough attention being paid to the impact of rising fuel costs on rural communities. He asked that this be taken back to AC by SA and raised at every opportunity.
- d. AS reported that she had raised concerns with AC about there being no provision of a bus shelter in Sandend. In particular this is for the children who are picked up each morning by the school bus. AC have offered no assistance with the provision of a shelter and in fact have stated that there is no budget line for provision of bus shelters for school children. JA stated that he is currently trying to make contact with The Sandend Amenities Council, (SAC), Chair to explore how the CC and SAC can work together to promote the local community. JA suggested that this might be something that could be installed at the end of the village hall under SAC's auspices. SA advised that Alistair Miller at AC should be contacted regarding this.
- e. JA stated that he was printing out quite a lot of paper etc. for the CC and whether there was the potential for some assistance in the costs associated with this. He was advised to submit relevant invoices to the Treasurer for consideration.
- f. The CC were advised that a micro bakery had been established in Fordyce and to promote the business where applicable.
- g. CE advised the CC that farmers were not receiving the Fuel Allowance, despite the farm house being a family home and he had written to David Duguid MP to raise concerns on behalf of farmers.
- h. The CC was advised that rural internet coverage was still poor. SA advised that the Digital Engagement Team at AC should be contacted with regard to concerns. It was not determined who was to do this.
- i. SA advised the CC that that AC were currently considering how to deal with a £50 million budget shortfall this year.
- j. JA to contact Duncan Leece to speak to him about Community Action Plans and Resilience Planning. AS and CE to attend meeting.

8. Updates from AC Councillors

SA advised the CC that that AC were currently considering how to deal with a £50 million budget shortfall this year.

9. Any other business – Covered under Local Updates and reports

10. Next meeting to be held Thursday 23rd February 2023 in Fordyce village hall.