

FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (FCC)

Minutes - THURSDAY 28th November 2024

AGENDA:



1. Attendees: A Henderson, R & A Dodd, M Boston, S MacInnes, P Hogbin, L & K MacKellar, Clr G Corner, S Nixon
2. Apologies for absence – L Henderson
3. Adoption of minutes from previous meeting
Proposed: R Dodd Seconded: A Henderson
4. Matters arising:
 - River Leacainn (Old Stable) embankment – There has been no response from Bidwells thus far, despite chasing. Cumlodden Estate office has been contacted, and a site visit to inspect may be required. Establishing land ownership in this area of the village has been problematic.
 - Provision of public footpath handrailing – reply from A&B land register records suggest that ACHA control the land. The potential benefit to older users has been recognised, and it is therefore suggested that ACHA be approached initially. Dependant on ACHA's response, other potential funders/local supporters may need to be approached to progress the project. At this point, S MacInnes stated that the SCIO are happy to try and source funding for materials etc. if necessary.
5. Treasurer's report:
 - See detailed report (appendix 1) showing position as at 28th Nov 24: Total (all funds) £1,561.56 [£995.43 lower than last year (£2,556.99)].
6. Police report: - no report has been provided since August of this year.
MB has sent a chaser email to Sgt Matt Shaw.
7. Roads:
 - Embankment reinforcement works are again taking place at Furnace bends, with associated traffic control measures in-place.
 - Signage – Noted; still awaiting installation of the Cumlodden name place sign.
 - Excessive speeds on Queen Elizabeth Drive – Residents are asked to escalate any reported incidents to Police Scotland. CC letter to Clr Philand requesting his assistance remains outstanding.
8. Micro Grant applications/update:
 - Application from Furnace Bowls Club received, approved & a payment of £300 made.
 - Notification received advising that a microgrant payment from An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund is currently being processed and should soon be received (£1,121.29). Note; evidence detailing this year's activities to be compiled and submitted.
 - Acknowledgement received following the CC's grant award to the "*Somewhere In Scotland*" **WWII Project** from Inveraray & Furnace Primary School Pupils. Performances Wed 4th & Thu 5th Dec. See poster for more details.
9. Furnace Surgery – update
Changes since last CC meeting:
 - The building now has a working telephone line and broadband connection.

- The surgery has been used for some non-medical 'test clinics' which identified a few maintenance issues which will need to be resolved before the surgery building can be fully used.
- The Patient Participation Group has issued an Autumn Newsletter and also setup a new Email address: ppg@furnaceinveraray.org.uk. If you would like to know more, or become a member then please either send an email, or contact a member of the committee: Pamela Spalding, Lynda Henderson, Peter Hogbin, Mark Boston.
- Members of the PPG continue to work on a number of ideas e.g. assist the re-opening of the Furnace surgery and looking into funding opportunities to further its work e.g. financing the operation of the "special bloods testing machine" now available in Inveraray, but not a NHS Highland funded test.

10. Environmental:

- State of village recycling area – cover under AOCB.

11. Correspondence:

- Planning (validated applications this month):
 - **Up to 22 wind turbines, with blade tip heights of up to 200m and Battery Energy Storage System and compound (BESS)**  Approximately 4.5 Km West Of Inveraray And 17km North East Of Lochgilphead Between Eredine To The West And Furnace To The East Argyll And Bute Ref. No: 24/02160/S36 | Received: Wed 20 Nov 2024 | Validated: Wed 20 Nov 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision
 - **Installation of air source heat pump**  3 Leacainn Terrace Furnace Inveraray Argyll And Bute PA32 8XS Ref. No: 24/01436/PP | Received: Fri 02 Aug 2024 | Validated: Tue 19 Nov 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision
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- Note; An Suidhe (Foundation Scotland) Wind Farm are asking members of the public to let them know what they think about the community support scheme by completing a online survey which can be accessed via the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/4HNsixrWG8>
 - Caitlin Quinn (SSE Community Liaison Mgr.) would like to attend a future CC meeting to provide an update on SSE's Sub-station upgrade works. It was agreed that she would be invited to attend either the January or February meeting of the CC.
 - No response yet following the CC's "potential risk of flooding notification" query, submitted to A&B's flooding enquiries group on 23rd October [Incident reference: 241023-000595]. Chaser email sent.

12. AOCB:

- Rubbish left at recycling bins (near the shop) - It was noted that the area surrounding the recycling bins at the side of the shop was currently "an eyesore". The bins are overflowing and people appear to be dumping general household waste at the site – where there are no facilities for this. PH suggested that someone could be paid on a monthly basis to keep the area clear and presentable. MB suggested that this could be a community led initiative.
- Report following discussions at the SCIO AGM meeting - PH appraised attendees of some fairly "intense" discussion at the recent SCIO meeting the content of which he had found to be perturbing. These discussion's related to hall charging, hall use by the Community Council, and also the work of the newly formed PPG.

- RD also advised that during the SCIO's meeting he had suggested making a donation to assist the work of the PPG but that this had been rejected, at this time. Also, there had been discussions about the CC in relation to their holding of funds etc.
- MB then circulated a copy of a guidance note that he had prepared previously so as to clarify the roles and responsibilities of both the CC and SCIO organisations (see appendix 2).

Attendees agreed that moving forward, the CC and the SCIO should be working in a collaborative manner for the benefit of the entire community.

- PH asked whether there was interest in a visit by Leslie Sherwood of Balfour Beatty to explain future funding opportunities for community – agreed that an invitation would be sent.

Please note: no monthly meeting will be held in December. Next FCC meeting – 30th January 2025.

Merry Christmas Everyone from the FCC

Appendices:

Appendix 1:

Furnace Community Council Income and Expenditure for the year to 31st March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	2024/2025 Total Funds	2023/2024 Total Funds
INCOME				
Village and activities	422.30		422.30	0.00
Wind Farm Micro Grants		0.00	0.00	1257.60
Argyll & Bute Council	0.00		0.00	422.30
Bank interest	18.26		18.26	16.99
Total Income	440.56	0.00	440.56	1696.89
EXPENDITURE				
Memorials	44.50		44.50	38.40
Repairs and renewals	0.00		0.00	61.00
Grants	250.00		250.00	0.00
Micro Grants		1078.00	1078.00	1050.00
Office expenses	63.49		63.49	59.79
Secretarial expenses	0.00		0.00	150.00
Total Expenditure	357.99	1078.00	1435.99	1359.19
Net movement of funds	82.57	-1078.00	-995.43	337.70
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	1265.60	1291.39	2556.99	2219.29
Total funds carried forwards	1348.17	213.39	1561.56	2556.99

Balance Sheet as at 26 November 2024	2024/2025	2023/2024
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on hand	0.00	0.00
Bank of Scotland Current Account	1.56	14.05
Bank of Scotland Easy Access Account 1.3%	1560.00	2542.94
Debtors	0.00	0.00
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	0.00	0.00
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1561.56	2556.99

Appendix 2:

Guidance:

The following information has been extracted from each organisations Constitution document.

It covers the purposes & areas of focus of each separate organisation and clarifies what each should do.

These organisations are: the *Furnace SCIO* and also *Furnace Community council* (FCC).

The purpose & activities of each Organisation are highlighted in **Yellow** below:

"FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO"

Community Definition and Purposes

4 The organisation has been formed to benefit the Community of Furnace, Argyll and surrounding area as defined by the postcode areas PA32 8XN, PA32 8XX, PA32 8XS, PA32 8XU, PA32 8XZ, PA32 8XY, PA32 8WD AND PA32 8YA ("the Community"), with the Purposes listed in the sub-clauses hereto ("the Purposes"), to be exercised following the principles of sustainable development (where sustainable development means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs), namely:-

- 4.1 The advancement of citizenship or community development (including rural or urban regeneration)
- 4.2 The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are predominantly intended.

Powers

5 The organisation has power to do anything which is calculated to further its purposes or is conducive or incidental to doing so.

"FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL" (FCC)

1. **Name** The name of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL shall be FURNACE (referred to as "the COMMUNITY COUNCIL" in this document).

2. Area of the Community Council

The area of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL shall be as shown on the map attached to the local authority's Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils (hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme").

3. Objectives

The objectives of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL shall be:

a) to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community which it represents, to liaise with other community groups within the area, and to fairly express the diversity of opinions and outlooks of the people;

b) to express the views of the community to the local authority for the area to public authorities and other organisations;

c) to take such action in the interests of the community as appears to it to be desirable and practicable;

d) to promote the well-being of the community and to foster community spirit;

e) to be a means whereby the people of the area shall be able to voice their opinions on any matter affecting their lives, their welfare, their environment, its development and amenity.
