

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council AGM

The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge

With an option of a video link

Tuesday 27th June 2023 7pm

1. Members Present in person

Patrick Haston, Simon Hargreaves, Craig Lightbody, Mark Hindley and Christopher Joyce

Public Present

Cllr Chris Balance, Catriona Fraser, Tony Foster, Kit Cameron, Neil Robertson, Gordon Batchen and Sharon Ferguson (Admin)

Apologies – Gill Gray and Cllr David Fraser

2. Co-option of members

Both elected members agreed to co-opt Craig Lightbody, Mark Hindley and Christopher Joyce

3. Adoption of minutes of previous AGM 2022

Proposed – Patrick Haston, Seconded – Simon Hargreaves

4. Chair's Annual Report

Just when we thought that the turmoil caused by the COVID pandemic was coming to an end, the war in Ukraine caused further chaos. The sharp and sustained rise in fuel prices and the subsequent rise in inflation has hit everyone hard, and the worst off have once again been hit hardest. Our community has responded strongly once again, with the Community Trust and the Knockie Trust in the lead, ensuring that community funds were directed to support the vulnerable. It's at times like these that the strength of our local community is most evident, and I'd like to thank all those who have once again given freely of their time to help their neighbours.

The Community Council has supported these activities, and continued to deliver the ongoing work of representing the interests of the area. However, the completion of the beautiful new public toilets in Foyers has been the highlight of the year for the council. It represents the culmination of many, many years of hard graft by so many people. These have been built with grant funding from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund, with some additional funds from the Community Trust, the Highland Council and the Stronelaig Fund. Most of this money came from outside of our community and gives us a facility that will be of lasting benefit to locals as well as visitors. The issues with people using our public spaces, paths and even gardens to relieve themselves was unsustainable, and the provision of a safe and sanitary waste disposal for mobile homes should cut the dumping we have seen.

The Community Council provides our area with a voice in the business of the Highland Council. We are able to raise local concerns on planning issues, particularly on the large, complex cases such as the windfarms and hydro schemes. We have also been able to respond to concerns raised by individuals about specific planning applications. We continue to work with the Highland Council roads department to ensure that repairs to roads in our area are prioritised, and that the winter gritting is done on time and effectively.

We've had a bit of turnover in our membership, and while it's been sad to lose people it's good to get new people on board.

And our micro-grant scheme continues to be popular, providing access to up to £500 for community groups to take forward beneficial projects.

Elections come up at the end of this year for the community council, and I'd encourage you to put yourself forward. It's a fantastic way to learn more about our community, to add value and to meet new people.

Patrick Haston

Chair of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council

5. Approval of Annual Accounts

Annual accounts were shared on the screen and talked through - All approved

6. Election of Office Bearers

Chair: Patrick Haston (Proposed Simon Hargreaves, Seconded Christopher Joyce)

Vice-Chair: Simon Hargreaves (Proposed Craig Lightbody, Seconded Mark Hindley)

Treasurer: Mark Hindley (Proposed Simon Hargreaves, Seconded Craig Lightbody)

End of official AGM (normal CC meeting followed)