

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2010
AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)
Mr M. Bateman
Mrs L. McAdam
Mr A. Nicol

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mr K. Fraser
Mr A. MacPherson

Also present:

Councillor M. Davidson

Councillor H. Wood

Apologies received:

Mrs K. Grant
Councillor H. Carmichael

Mr A. Sutherland
Councillor D. Hendry

1. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th August 2010 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr A. Nicol

Seconded: Mr M. Bateman

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Cllr. Davidson reported that there are likely to be further delays with the Gorthleck scheme into the next financial year, due to the current budget cuts. She will request some further discussion with HSCHT and Albyn Housing regarding the housing mix.

(b) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge

Mr Bateman reported that the initial work on the bridge is almost complete.

(c) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers

The Secretary is continuing with enquiries as to possible sources of funding for renovation.

(d) Broadband Provision

The Secretary has sent a further letter to the head of BT in Scotland (copied to other involved parties) expressing our concern about the very unsatisfactory situation in this area. An acknowledgement has been received from MSPs, but so far no response from BT. Cllr. Davidson reported that Graeme Ambrose for Destination Loch Ness is proceeding with an application for funding for wireless broadband around the Loch. This would benefit not just Lochside communities, but customers further 'inland'.

(e) Care in Strathnairn

The Chairman is making further enquiries about this.

3. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence:

Quality Awards 2010

Update on bus shelter for Lower Foyers - should be in place by the end of the year

Update on right of way through Knockie Estate - confirmation of previous correspondence

Leaflets and poster - Highland Archaeology Festival 2nd-17th October 2010

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received:

Inverness Area CC Forum - Minutes of Meeting of 24th August 2010 (circulated)

NHS Highland - Links for August Team Update (circulated)

NHS Highland - Patient survey results

Loch Ness Marathon - details of road closures for 3rd October 2010

Loch Ness Marathon - Invitation to Reception at finish

Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme - Newsletter

British Waterways - Newsletter

No Need for Nuclear - Newsletter

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had sent her apologies.

5. Planning Matters

(a) New applications:

Alterations, extension, new garage - Old Chapel, Foyers (Full)

Change of previous outline permission for two houses to one house - Land at Cnoc An T-Sionnach, Whitebridge (PIP)

Site visits had already been undertaken. There were no objections.

(b) Other planning matters:

Forestry Consultation re felling licence at Croftdhu, Errogie. Members were concerned that any damage to the road due to the timber extraction should be made good. The Chairman will take photographs of the road in its current state in case these are needed.

A copy of the Highland Wide Development Plan has been received. The Chairman will look through this for any items of which the CC needs to be aware.

6. Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland was not present, but no new matters had been reported.

7. Policing Matters

No Police representative was present. Enquiries will be made about the possibility of a Police representative attending some of our meetings. Members feel that Police contact with the CC can be very valuable.

8. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

Culvert, Calanour junction - Mr A. Fraser was present at the meeting. He reported that the culvert has now been replaced, and road surfacing should be completed shortly.

Junction to Lower Foyers - Concrete blocks have now been removed. Mr Fraser reported that the ditch at the foot of the rock face will be cleared shortly, to reduce the risk of falling rocks rolling into the road.

Surface damage/pot holes road to Lower Foyers - After further complaints by the Secretary and Mr Nicol, the two largest pot holes have been filled. However, the entire road surface in this area needs attention, and the ditch needs clearing to prevent the constant stream of water across the road at this point, which is the

cause of the problem. A very large 'sink hole' at the edge of the tarmac slightly lower down also needs attention.

Tree clearance - It was noted that trees have still not been cleared back from the roadside after last winter. The Trinloist and Loch Bran roads were mentioned in particular, but the same problem applies to most roads in the area. Questions were raised about arrangements for road gritting and snow clearance this winter. Cllr. Davidson will try to arrange a meeting with Richard Evans to clarify matters. The Forestry have done some clearance on the tunnel road, but it is not known if they have completed this or if they are working elsewhere in the area. Cllr. Davidson will make enquiries.

Cllr. Davidson is making enquiries about provision of a speed limit through Errogie.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers

Cllr. Davidson reported that although the bridge is on the list for replacement, it has a low priority, and we need to emphasise the importance of a replacement to maintain a viable community in Lower Foyers. She also pointed out that the only feasible land available for further housing in that area will not be developed as long as the community is without a permanent bridge. It was also suggested that a flood alert monitor should be provided for the bailey bridge. Cllr. Davidson will look into this.

(c) Other Roads Items

(i) A complaint about water running across the road adjacent to 'An Clachan' in Gorthleck had been received. This will be reported.

(ii) The Chairman reported that a section of culvert under the road about 350 yards below Bochruben Farm on the corkscrew road has badly collapsed and needs attention. This will be reported.

(iii) Cllr. Davidson reported that funds had been provided from the Ward budget to improve the Vennel road, where there had been serious problems last winter.

9. Water and Sewerage

Complaints were received about the disruption caused by Scottish Water in their handling of work on the water main. Customers received notices informing them that water would be cut off from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on three successive days, with no mention of provision of emergency supplies. This was done at very short notice, forcing businesses and other premises to close. People attempting to contact Scottish Water could get no information and no response to emails and phone messages. It was agreed that the CC will write expressing concern and dissatisfaction at the way this matter was handled.

10. Community Project - Gorthleck

The Chairman reported that two funding sources are now guaranteed. The final application to the Trust is now going in, and if this funding is secured then the first work should go ahead before Christmas.

11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland had reported by phone that negotiations on Dunmaglass and Corriegarth are ongoing.

Cllr. Davidson reported that a meeting between communities has been suggested to agree some standard procedures to deal with these situations.

12. Any Other Competent Business

(a) Mrs McAdam reported that Scottish & Southern Energy had received a formal complaint about the state of the footbridge adjacent to the fish farm in Lower Foyers. This had resulted in a full survey, and the bridge is now closed. It will be replaced at some time in the future, but it is not known when this will be done.

(b) Mr Bateman noted that Remembrance Sunday this year is on 14th November. The Chairman agreed to lay the wreath at the War Memorial in Gorthleck on behalf of the CC. Mr Bateman will ask Mr John Campbell to obtain the wreath as usual.

(c) The Secretary reported that she had been contacted by Mr Bruce Ferguson of the Forestry Commission asking for suggestions on how to improve visitor experience on the Forest Estate. They would like suggestions about additional facilities for the area. If members send her any ideas they have she will forward them to Mr Ferguson. He has already spoken with Graeme Ambrose of DLN.

(d) Cllr. Davidson reported that the Glenlia residents hope to obtain Leader funding for their park/recreational area.

(e) The Chairman reported that arrangements for the next Community Council election are in hand. The election will take place in November, on a date to be fixed. The final meeting of the current CC will be in October.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th October 2010 at the Primary School in Foyers.

The meeting was closed at 8.30 p.m.