

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25th JANUARY 2011**  
**AT THE FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Members present:

Mr A. Sutherland (Chairman)

Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer)

Mr K. Fraser

Mrs J. Hunt

Mr A. MacPherson

Mr J. Sharp

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)

Mr D. Forbes

Mr M. Houston

Mr S. Hunt

Mr F. Ross

Also present:

Mr N. Kirkland

Mrs S. Hartley

Councillor D. Hendry

Apologies received:

Councillor M. Davidson

Councillor H. Carmichael

### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of meeting held on 23rd November 2010 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr K. Fraser

Seconded: Mr A. MacPherson

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2010 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr A. Sutherland

Seconded: Mr D. Forbes

### **2. Community Project - Gorthleck**

Sarah Hartley, the Project Manager, had kindly come along to update members on progress with the Project. She gave a brief history of the long term aim to provide a community space in Gorthleck in an area opposite the Hall. The initial idea had been to provide some play equipment, but the Project had now expanded to include some seating, a picnic area, and an area for ball games. Funding of £48,000 had been obtained for this, most of the money coming from the Community Trust, Lottery Funding, and Leader Funding, and a small amount from the Ward Discretionary Budget. Funds obtained will cover purchase and installation of equipment, but community involvement is still needed for some work on the project. Volunteers are needed to help with creation of paths, some planting/landscaping, and to give technical advice about some aspects.

An open meeting was held on 18th January to present information on the Project, and to get suggestions on what people would like. Some useful feedback was obtained. There will be a meeting of the Steering Group shortly to make the final design decisions. Equipment suppliers have quoted six to eight weeks for delivery and installation. It is hoped this can be achieved in April, with a view to opening by the end of May/beginning of June. Some money has been allowed for an opening celebration. Mr Eric Law has kindly offered to set up a web site for the Project free of charge, to cover the construction period. Information will also be posted on the Community Web Site.

The Chairman thanked Sarah for coming along and presenting all the information.

### **3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

#### **(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing**

No new information has been received. It is known that there are further delays due to cutbacks in funding. The Secretary will try to get more information on the likely timescale for this project.

(b) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge

No new reports have been received.

(c) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers

The Secretary will make further enquiries about possible sources of funding. Additional quotes for the work may be required by some funding providers.

(d) Broadband Provision

Cllr. Hendry reported that the bid by South Loch Ness Tourist group for funding had been unsuccessful. It was again noted that replacement of one section of old overhead cabling with overhead fibre-optic cable would go a long way to solving our local broadband problems. BT will not do this. Reports have been seen of a community forming their own company to pay for installation of fibre-optic cable. Cllr. Hendry will make enquiries as to how this worked and whether it might be a possibility in this area.

(e) Care in Strathnairn

Due to pressure of work Mr Houston has been unable to pursue this item. Mrs Grant agreed that she would be willing to take this on, and make further contact with the organisers in Strathnairn.

(f) Bottle Banks - Whitebridge

Information is awaited about land ownership in the area. The Secretary will make enquiries.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Highland Council Correspondence:

Leaflets re Fair Trade Zone

email for information - Tenders invited for Highland bus routes

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received:

British Waterways Scotland - Newsletter

ASCC - Notice of Biennial Election

Leaflet - Pinpoint Presentation

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Account balances were reported as follows:

Ordinary A/c - £1296.00 (including £362 in grant money for Fraser Monument)

The Treasurer reported that the Community Trust had kindly provided funds for the Stratherrick Senior Citizens' Christmas/New Year dinner. Any surplus will be held in the CC account for the Senior Citizens' Fund, as before.

Project A/c - £14,158.58

#### **6. Planning Matters**

New applications:

House, garage etc. - Plot to NE of Craigniche House, Foyers (Full)

House - Garden ground adjacent to Dhuhallow, Errogie (PIP)

Members are familiar with both sites so no site visits were required. There were no objections to either application. However, it was noted that we should mention access at the Errogie site, which is adjacent to a dangerous corner, and also the possible problems with drainage at this site.

#### **7. Fire Brigade Report**

There were no new Fire matters to report. Mr Kirkland reported that initial enquiries

are under way regarding the possibility of setting up a First Responders unit locally, with first aid/paramedic training.

## **8. Policing Matters**

A letter had been sent to Sergeant Blakey regarding the matters discussed at the previous meeting. He has replied indicating that the routine dates of our meetings will be noted and, where possible, P.C. Mathieson will attend. He also offered to arrange for a Police attendance, if requested, at any meeting when we have a specific policing matter to discuss, even if P.C. Mathieson is unavailable.

He confirmed that there is still uncertainty about the final situation with rural Police Stations due to the cutbacks currently in progress, but at present there is no suggestion of Fort Augustus being closed, and cover for this area will continue as before.

## **9. Roads and Signage**

### **(a) Outstanding Matters**

Surface damage, road to Lower Foyers - The previous temporary repair has been completely destroyed by the recent snow and ice. Cllr. Hendry will enquire when more permanent work is likely. He noted that roads throughout the Highlands are in a bad state at present, and TEC Services are trying to carry out temporary repairs where damage is most severe. It was noted that Scottish & Southern Energy will be carrying out some major work later this year, which will mean the road being closed for some time. This might be a good time for TEC Services to carry out their planned work on this road. Cllr. Hendry will pass on this information. The CC is expecting to receive more detailed information about the SSE work in the next month or so.

Roadside tree clearance - It was reported that work has been carried out on the Loch Bran and Trinloist roads, but it was felt that a lot of debris had been left, and there is still clearing up to do. The Secretary will contact David Jardine of Forest Enterprise with a view to arranging a site meeting.

Errogie speed limit - This is going through the necessary legal process at present.

Bus shelter Lower Foyers - The Secretary has been informed that there is a bus shelter available in the TEC Services yard, and this will be installed when there is a window in the weather, and manpower permits.

Run-offs on Torness brae - It was reported that some of these have been done, but there are still more needing clearance. Cllr. Hendry will enquire.

Pot-holes Ardochy road - No report has been received about this. Mr Houston will make enquiries.

Winter gritting - It was noted that salt supplies are known to be low at present, and use restricted.

Mr MacPherson observed that the snow plough from Inverness was not blading low enough, and was merely packing the snow down. Lack of gritting at the turning area for the Torness bus was also causing problems. Cllr. Hendry will pass these on.

Mr Kirkland reported that the Fire Station road has still not been made a priority route. Cllr. Hendry will enquire.

It was reported that a good service had been provided in filling the grit bins around Riverside in Lower Foyers whenever requested.

### **(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers**

Cllr. Hendry reported that the cost of a new footbridge had been estimated at around £150,000. Agreement in principal on this project has been reached between the

Ward Councillors, and there is to be a further meeting with the bridge engineers for final approval. This will then need to go to Committee for funding approval. He will keep the CC informed of progress.

(c) Other Roads Items

Mr Forbes had noticed that two street lights in the cutting to the old bridge are still operating. A small saving could be made if these are turned off.

Mr Houston reported that the Forestry Commission has started timber extraction at Newlands, and deep mud is being left on the access roads. This is a hazard and is causing problems. It was noted that contractors have an obligation to remove this mud.

Mrs Grant reported that large numbers of timber lorries are using the Trinloist road and causing considerable damage to the road. The number of lorries is also causing disruption for residents. Lorries have been observed arriving three at a time, in convoy. On another day a resident saw fourteen lorries coming and going.

Cllr. Hendry will pass on the information on these matters.

**10. Water and Sewerage**

There were no new matters to report.

**11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit**

The Chairman reported that approval has been given to the Dunmaglass scheme. Negotiations regarding community benefit are ongoing.

He also reported that the next Community Trust meeting will follow the CC meeting in February, and that CC members are welcome to attend.

**12. Any Other Competent Business**

(a) Cllr. Hendry reported that the need for refurbishment of the Erroglie phone box has been reported to BT.

(b) Mr MacPherson reported that there had been problems with repeated breakdowns of the school bus from Torness, but it is hoped that the provision of a second bus has solved these problems.

(c) Mr Houston enquired about the situation at Foyers School following retirement of the Head Teacher. Mrs Grant reported that, following full consultation with parents at Stratherrick, it had been agreed that the Head Teacher at Stratherrick will cover both Schools in a 'cluster' arrangement. An additional teacher will be employed at Stratherrick to cover his teaching hours, and free him to administer both Schools.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd February at the Stratherrick Hall.

The meeting was closed at 8.40 p.m.