

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2011
AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK

Members present:

Mr A. Sutherland (Chairman)
Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer)
Mr K. Fraser
Mr A. MacPherson

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mr D. Forbes
Mr M. Houston
Mr J. Sharp

Apologies received:

Councillor H. Carmichael
Councillor D. Hendry

Councillor M. Davidson
Police Constable A. Mathieson

1. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2011 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr D. Forbes

Seconded: Mr K Fraser

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Cllr. Davidson notified the meeting by email that she had heard nothing new from Albyn Housing for three weeks. She will be in touch with them.

(b) Broadband Provision

No new information had been received.

(c) Bottle Banks - Whitebridge

Cllr. Davidson had been in touch with Richmond Clements of Waste Management (Recycling). He responded that provision of a further recycling point at or near Whitebridge would not be economical, and that the Gorthleck and Foyers sites both lose money. However, he reported that the area will be getting kerbside collection for recycling from next April, and in the meantime encouraged the Whitebridge residents to use the existing recycling points. Members welcomed the news about kerbside collection.

(d) Care in Strathnairn

Following the attendance of Mr Paul Davies and his colleague from Care in Strathnairn at the last meeting, further discussion took place. Members recalled that Mr Davies had previously indicated willingness to extend the Care in Strathnairn scheme to cover this area, provided that we gave funds to cover the work in our own area. It was agreed that it seems sensible to join with an existing scheme where the infrastructure and expertise already exists. With winter approaching it was felt that this would not be a good time to try to organise a public meeting. Members agreed that a good first step would be to send out a suitable questionnaire in the next issue of the Boleskine Bulletin to try to gauge community response to the proposals, and the possible level of demand. The Secretary will draft a questionnaire. She will approach Mr Davies for suggestions on the right questions to ask, and will also enquire whether the option of joining their Scheme is still available.

(e) Firework Display - Gorthleck

Mr Houston reported that the opening of the Gorthleck Play Park/Community Space will be linked with the firework display on Saturday 5th November. There is money in the Project Fund for an opening event. Pupils at Stratherrick School are making some

posters. There will be a marquee, hopefully some music, and food will be supplied by the Whitebridge Hotel. A display of photographs showing development of the site is planned. The Chairman suggested we might have a piper for the official opening. The evening will conclude with the firework display. Mr Houston has costed this at £1850. It was agreed that as many members of the CC as possible will attend to help with the set up on the day.

(f) CC Elections November 2011

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Highland Council web site. Members wishing to stand for re-election were reminded that forms must be submitted by 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday 4th October. No late forms will be accepted.

(g) Old Right of Way Footpath - Lower Foyers

Mr Forbes had been in further contact with SSE and had shown them the route of the old footpath. They were quite happy for this to be reinstated, and indicated that the work will be carried out once the work on the new pipeline allows.

(h) Parking - Foyers Shop & Cafe

No new information had been received.

3. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence:

Notice - Cessation of ASCC

Notice - Invitation for tenders for Standby Snow Clearing Services (enquiries will be made about proposed arrangements for clearance at Schools and the Fire Station)

Contract recommendations - Local bus routes

Other Correspondence and Circulars received:

Inverness Area CC Forum - Draft Minutes etc. (circulated)

Highland Small Communities Housing Trust - Notice of AGM (circulated)

Equality & Diversity Group Newsletter

Beinneun Windfarm proposal - opportunity for community participation

Notices/Leaflet - Zero waste Scotland

4. Treasurer's Report

Account balances were reported as follows:

Ordinary A/c - £1666.02 (including £362 grant for Fraser Monument)

The Treasurer had queried the unusually large balance noted at the last meeting. Apparently the Project Manager had paid a project cheque into this account in error. This has now been corrected.

Project A/c - £4842.75.

5. Planning Matters

New application:

House and garage 250m. SW of Cuil na Sith, Errogie (MSC)

Mr Houston declared an interest.

Members had already carried out a site visit at the PIP stage of this application. The detailed plans were studied and there were no objections.

6. Fire Brigade Report

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

7. Policing Matters

No new matters had been reported.

8. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

Bus shelter Lower Foyers - This has now been successfully installed and is very welcome.

Access road to Foyers Burial Ground - Work has been done to remove grass and earth build up in the centre of the road. Unfortunately the process of scraping this away with a digger has left new depressions for water to gather. Very small amounts of stone scalplings have been put down in a few places, but a lot more surface work is needed to provide an acceptable surface. Enquiries will be made as to whether further work is planned.

Ward Forum meeting 22nd September - Timber extraction & transportation. Our other outstanding roads items all came under the remit of this meeting. As well as Forestry officials, Mr Mike Stephens of HC TEC Services attended, and members took the opportunity of showing him some of the problem road areas. The meeting was very well attended by community members, indicating the strength of feeling about a number of items. The ongoing closure of the Inverfarigaig pass is a major cause for concern locally. Cllr. Davidson chaired the meeting on the 22nd, and members agreed with her closing comments that we had not received satisfactory answers to many of the issues raised.

The Chairman will draft a letter to Mr Julian Fryer of the Forestry Commission to attempt to get some more helpful information from FC.

Members agreed that on the broader roads issues a further meeting with Neil Gillies of TEC Services should be arranged. Many of the issues raised at the earlier meetings with him in 2009 have still not been resolved, notably liaison between HC and FC regarding responsibility for damage to HC roads.

It was noted that there are significant amounts of money coming from wind farm developers for road works. Members felt that CCs in the relevant areas should have more control of this money, rather than HC having total control.

9. Water and Sewerage

There were no new matters to report.

10. Community Project - Gorthleck

Mr Houston reported that Sarah Hartley, the Project Manager, had resigned from her post before completion of the project, which has caused some difficulty. Mr Houston and Mrs Fiona Kirkland will manage the remainder of the work.

He reported that insurance is being arranged and will cost around £120 per annum. Project funds will cover this for a year or so, after which the CC will cover the cost.

The site is not adopted by HC at present, although this situation may change in future. In the meantime the CC will be responsible for maintenance, which may require some fund-raising in future.

He also reported that there has been some vandalism at the site, and he is looking at the best way of monitoring the site to put a stop to this.

11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

The Chairman reported that the rate of community benefit from Dunmaglass will be

set shortly.

He noted that if the Stronlarig scheme goes ahead there will need to be further negotiations on community benefit. The possibility of investment in one of the turbines was mentioned.

12. Any Other Competent Business

Mr Fraser reported that warning signs for a recent charity, sporting event passing through the area had not been removed after the event. While members agreed they were happy to see these events, they felt organisers should be reminded about clearing up notices etc. afterwards. The Secretary will contact HC about this.

Mrs Grant reported that the Safe Routes to School application for Stratherrick School is about to go in. Money is available to provide a pavement/cycle way for children, and a new cycle shed will be provided at the School. Members agreed they would like to see plans of the proposed route when available.

The Secretary reported local concern about Mr Eric Law's letter in the Boleskine Bulletin regarding the cost of setting up the Community Web Site. It was felt to be unfortunate that the CC had not been approached for its response before this letter was published. The Chairman had met with Mr Law to discuss his concerns long before publication of the Bulletin, and Mr Law was satisfied that matters had been handled properly. A letter will be sent to the Bulletin for the next issue.

Another matter raised was the publication of apparently official items in the Bulletin with no name or attribution attached. It was felt to be inappropriate to publish items anonymously unless there was a very strong reason for doing so. A letter will be sent to the editorial team.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th October 2011 at the Foyers Primary School.

The meeting was closed at 9.00 p.m.