

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25th SEPTEMBER 2012
AT THE FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)	Mrs E. Merther (Secretary/Acting Treasurer)
Mrs M Cameron	Mr K. Fraser
Mr L. MacNally	Mr A. MacPherson
Mr A. Sutherland	

Ex officio members present:

Councillor M. Davidson	Councillor D. Hendry
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Also present:

Police Sergeant A. Blakey	Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Brigade)
Mr R. Evans (Highland Council TEC Services)	

A meeting took place in the Town House on 29th August 2012 regarding road closures during laying of the new water main to Gorthleck. This was organised by Cllr. Davidson and Mr Charles Stephen, with representatives of Scottish Water and contractors George Leslie. All members of the CC were present, together with CC members from Strathnairn. SW and contractor representatives, and Jenny Stewart of Strathnairn CC attended tonight's meeting for follow-up on the earlier discussions. There was further discussion on: road closures; diversion routes; access for school buses and emergency services; time-scales for work on the different sections; better provision of information to the local community; improvements in signage; the need for additional gritter resources on diversion routes.

SW agreed to creating the necessary passing places on the Newlands road, and to paying for additional gritter resources. They have already agreed to the CC request for roads to be opened overnight and at weekends, and are making greater efforts to keep members of the community informed about work schedules. The CC expressed the view that there should be one closure at a time, rather than two at the same time. Cllr. Davidson suggested SW might find it cheaper to open the roads and stop work over the winter, rather than pay for the resources to keep diversion routes open. SW will continue to consult with the CC and TEC Services.

On completion of discussion SW representatives left the meeting, and the Chairman continued with the normal business of the meeting.

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The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing sincere condolences to the family of Matthew Ricketts, who tragically died in a car accident at the weekend.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of 28th August 2012 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr A. Sutherland

Seconded: Mr A. MacPherson

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Affordable Housing Scheme - Gorthleck

Report on the HSCHT 'surgery' in Gorthleck now received. Further information needed on proposed time-scales. HSCHT have their AGM and Open Day on 28.9.12 at the Town House.

(b) Foyers Public Toilets

Paperwork still awaited from HC. Cllr. Davidson will enquire.

(c) Parking - Foyers Shop and Cafe

Cllr. Davidson reported discussions are ongoing. Purchase of land etc. will make this expensive and she has requested its addition to the Capital Programme. HC are

looking at the project. Funding will need to be found and, ideally, HC to take responsibility for the facility, which is essential for this popular tourist location.

(d) Foyers Schoolhouse

Cllr. Davidson, Mr Stephen, parent representatives, Mr Sutherland for the C Trust and Mrs Merther for the CC looked at the building last week. There was discussion on possible alternative uses for the building, but it was felt to be unsuitable for a community, multi-use facility. Provision of such a facility in Foyers will be a much bigger, long-term project. There will be further consideration of the future of the schoolhouse.

3. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence

Request for new insurance application form from CC
Road closures & restrictions A82 during transformer movements (Circulated)
Notice of meetings on budget consultation (Circulated)
Notice on Universal Home Insulation Scheme (Circulated)
Notice of meeting on Foyers School house

Other Correspondence

Correspondence on Scottish Water road closures
Notice of Heritage Group meeting 2.10.12 (Circulated)
Copy of community transport bid - Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston CC
Forest Management Strategy A82 corridor - Summary of feedback received so far, and notice of public drop-in sessions
Cheque from C. Trust for Community Web site and publication of Minutes
Loch Ness Marathon magazine and notice of road closures
Notice of Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust AGM (Circulated)
SSE - email regarding P & J article on Stronelaig wind farm (Circulated)
Copy letter - GRCA in relation to street lighting
Danny Alexander MP - Annual Report
Notice of Product Exhibition - Glasdon Products
Inverness Area Community Councils Forum - AGM for 2.10.12 and Minutes of last year's AGM
Mr Main - email regarding new footpath behind old BA factory building

4. Treasurer's Report

Ordinary A/c: Balance: £1647.52 (includes £362 grant for monument survey)
 Cheques written and still to be cleared:
 £360.00 - Web site admin. 1 year
 £170.00 - Boleskine Bulletin
 Cheque paid in and still to be cleared:
 £908.00 - C Trust grant for Web site and BB
Project A/c: Balance: £7066.71 (unchanged)

5. Planning Matters

(a) New applications:

Demolish and erect replacement dwelling - Bochruben Farm, Torness

Change of use - Former Errogie Church, Errogie (amended application)

Members were familiar with both sites. Site visit already made to Errogie Church. Plans and applications were studied and no objections raised.

(Cllr. Hendry took no part in planning discussions.)

6. Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland reported the Brigade was involved in a number of call-outs. As previously reported, crew numbers are healthy.

7. Policing Matters

Sgt. Blakey noted that speed wires had been deployed in several locations. Mrs Cameron asked if further speed checks could be done in Foyers. Sgt. Blakey advised plans are in place for more speed checks.

Under recent re-organisation the local station will be part of the new Highland Local Policing Area. This will not mean any changes from the community point of view. A commitment to local policing has recently been expressed.

Local Officers have been involved in attending a number of road accidents.

Crime levels in the area are very low.

The Chairman enquired whether the local Station has been notified about the SW road closures, and the potential delays this can cause for emergency services. The local Station has not been advised.

8. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding matters:

Calanour junction priorities - Priorities and safety issues at this junction were discussed. Mr Evans noted the overwhelming local view that the priority should be changed, and the project design will be reviewed. The Chairman noted this item has been ongoing for over three years.

Bridge parapet and drainage problem, Inverfarigaig pass - Still outstanding. Mr Evans will follow up.

Aberchalder causeway - Mr Evans advised new materials will be obtained for repairs. Mr Kirkland reported additional damage at expansion joints on this bridge in need of attention.

Damage to B852 due to increased traffic - Following meeting of 29th August SW have taken photographs and damage will be monitored. SW will be required to provide funds for repair work if further deterioration during project.

(b) Other roads items:

Secretary reported loss of signs at junction of Inverfarigaig pass/Glenlia roads. Posts still there but signs missing. Mr Evans will report.

Cllr. Davidson - 'Corkscrew road'. Patching of the worst areas would last a long time in view of low volume of traffic. Mr Evans advised TECS are looking at the best way to do this.

Cllr. Davidson - Bridge in Lower Foyers. In the Capital Programme for 2016. Asked can this be brought forward to allow design to be done. Project would then be ready to take up slippage from other projects.

Cllr. Davidson - Dores/Foyers road. Should there be a bid for funding for improvements /better passing places on the narrow sections?

Errogie corner re-alignment. Funds available for this. Mr Sutherland will meet with TECS to discuss best route.

Mr Kirkland - Winter gritting of Fire Station access. Agreed this should be a priority and Cllr. Hendry advised should be included in priority routes to be agreed shortly.

9. Water and Sewerage

SW matters discussed earlier.

10. Community Project - Gorthleck

Final paperwork still awaited from HC.

11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland reported North British Windpower are blocking discussions on community benefit in relation to Corriegarth. Cllr. Hendry will request a more senior member of HC to investigate this further.

Having been approached by community members on Trust matters, Mrs Cameron requested an outline of the relationship between the Trust and the CC. Mr Sutherland explained: The Trust is an autonomous body, a company limited by guarantee. The principal shareholder is the CC, which can appoint a minority group of Directors. The Trust Articles of Association are currently under review in view of the changing demands and circumstances since the Trust was set up, and approval of the CC will be sought for the changes. Enquiries on Trust matters can be referred to any Director of the Trust.

12. Any Other Competent Business

Mrs Cameron - Loss of road markings at junction to Nursery in Lower Foyers. Secretary will request replacement.

Mr Kirkland - Enquiry on 'Safe Routes to School' in Gorthleck, and provision of 'smiley face' speed warnings. Cllr. Davidson advised project seems to have stalled. Will enquire.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd October 2012 at the Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck.

The meeting was closed at 8.10 p.m.