

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26th JUNE 2012
AT THE FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)
Mr F. Ross (Treasurer)
Mr L. MacNally

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mr K. Fraser

Ex officio members present:

Councillor M. Davidson

Also present:

Police Sergeant A. Blakey
Katie Briggs (Planner, IMF Local Development Team)

P.C. A. Mathieson

Apologies received:

Mrs M. Cameron
Mr A. Sutherland

Mr A. MacPherson
Councillor H. Wood

1. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of 22nd May 2012 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr K. Fraser

Seconded: Mr F. Ross

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Affordable Housing Scheme - Gorthleck

Latest information will be presented by developers on 28th June 2012 at the Gorthleck Hall. Residents will have an opportunity to discuss their requirements. There will be discussion with CC members during the evening.

(b) Foyers Public Toilets

Insurance is now in place. A clause will be added to the agreement to allow a three month notice of termination on either side. The Secretary has spoken to Mr Graham Bain, who has expressed willingness in principle to take on cleaning duties.

(c) Parking - Foyers Shop and Cafe

Land has been offered for lease or purchase for this purpose. More information is needed on costs and sources of funding. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

(d) Foyers Schoolhouse

Cllr. Davidson reported Mr Graham has decided to terminate the cluster arrangement with Stratherrick and Foyers Schools, and revert to responsibility solely for Stratherrick. This may mean appointment of a temporary Head Teacher for Foyers so the situation with the Schoolhouse may change.

(e) Community Web Site

Mr Holt has given details of his costs for renewal. The Chairman noted that he has done much work on a goodwill basis, and is overdue for payment. He will make further enquiries, and wondered if a local volunteer might take on administration to reduce costs. It was also suggested that we might initially renew for one year.

3. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence

email - Stratherrick & Foyers Schools - Cluster arrangement

emails - Discussion on possible community transport to Fort Augustus (circulated)

Other Correspondence

email - Procedure for adoption of C. Trust Minutes (It was noted that a false impression may have been given that Trust Minutes are approved via email. Mr Ross confirmed that they are approved at meetings in the usual way.)

email - enquiry on insurance for Playgroup event

email - Mrs Savill - Comments on bus services

email - Highland Folk Museum re removal of shinty pavilion (This has been done.)
NHS Highland Newsletter - available on line (circulated)
emails - Mrs Ellam re sound system (circulated)(Members felt this is unnecessary. The Chairman noted that in any case there are no funds available for this, and simply encouraged members to speak clearly.)
Forestry Commission - Forest Management Strategy: A82 corridor
email - Mr Steiner re Rock Ness (Enquiries will be made about some form of compensation for the Foyers community.)
email - Water and power connections to property (circulated) (Defer discussion to later meeting.)
Notice - South Loch Ness Heritage Group Field Day, 7.7.12, Inverfarigaig (circulated)
emails - Community Web Site

4. Treasurer's Report

Account balances were reported as follows:

Ordinary A/c: £1025.34 Project A/c: £7066.71

5. Planning Matters

(a) Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan

Ms Briggs gave a valuable presentation on the purpose of the Plan and some of the options. The current stage is of consultation with local communities and taking their comments. Members decided to make two comments on local development policies:

Foyers - Applications to be decided individually on their merits in relation to village/area as a whole, rather than areas designated for particular types of development.

Whitebridge - Concern about type and level of ongoing development in the absence of any services in some areas.

(b) New applications:

Replace heather thatch with cedar shingles - Bothy, Gorthleck House

Re-siting of telecoms equipment - NW of Garthbeg Bungalow, Gorthleck

Amended design - Log cabin N of Boleskine House, Foyers

House (agricultural need) - SE of Torness Cottage, Torness

New small hydro scheme Aberchalder burn - Easter Aberchalder (Mr Ross declared an interest.)

Information was circulated and discussed. There were no objections. In relation to the Easter Aberchalder scheme, a request will be made for requirements for the Aberchalder bridge to be safeguarded, and for any damage to local access roads to be repaired.

(c) Any other planning matter:

Conversion of former Kennels - Dell Estate, Whitebridge. Following a site visit there were no objections.

6. Fire Brigade Report

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

7. Policing Matters

A number of thefts of copper have taken place, largely from telecoms equipment. If residents know of such equipment in their area they are asked to have an awareness of the problem.

Housebreakers have been arrested in Fort Augustus.

Sgt. Blakey reported that speed monitoring shows most motorists are within speed limits. While accepting that perception of speed is not always accurate, the Chairman confirmed the CC would still like speed wire checks done, particularly in Foyers where a number of complaints have been received. Sgt. Blakey will make a request to TEC Services.

8. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

The CC has received no response, but Cllr. Davidson has obtained some information: Some areas of pot holed edges are being repaired with scalpings and rolling.

Some areas of drainage problems are being dealt with.

Boulders opposite Gorthleck Hall will be investigated.

Gate on the corkscrew road - Responsibility of the farmer. HC suggest they should delist this road. CC opposed to this suggestion and will write.

(b) Meeting to Discuss Proposed Improvements B862/851

Cllr. Davidson is seeking a date for this.

(c) Other Roads Items

Roadside vegetation throughout the area causing problems with vision and also obscuring road signs. Riverside side of bailey bridge in Lower Foyers, LH side - request for regular cutting of vegetation.

Bridge parapet in Inverfarigaig pass still in need of repair.

Need for co-ordination and sharing of information on proposed road closures, which could cause major disruption, during installation of new water pipe-line.

9. Water and Sewerage

Mr Fraser reported that the new pipe-line will now take an alternative, and shorter route to Aberchalder.

10. Community Project

Paperwork and final payment is still awaited from Leader.

11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Stronelairg windfarm developers have suggested a further meeting with CC members.

A small hydro scheme is proposed at Knockie, and a meeting has been requested.

The Chairman will make contact.

12. Any Other Competent Business

Cllr. Davidson - A meeting has taken place on transport links to Fort Augustus. Some form of community transport would be required. A further meeting is scheduled.

Mrs Hall - Presented some feedback on street-lighting switch-off period. Discuss at next meeting when all feedback received.

Mrs MacDougall - Enquiry on footbridge in Lower Foyers. Cllr. Davidson advised that new bridge is now on the Capital Programme for 2016, with possibility of trying to push this earlier, so further information awaited.

Mr Brown - Enquiry on changes to Trust constitution. Mr Ross reported this is in progress.

Cllr. Davidson - BT Broadband upgrade proposed, mostly for North side of Loch. She is trying to involve HC to get service for other areas.

13. Dates for Future Meetings

There is no meeting in July. Dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

28th August 2012 - Stratherrick Hall 25th September 2012 - Foyers Primary School

23rd October 2012 - Stratherrick Hall 27th November 2012 - Foyers Primary School

18th December 2012 - Stratherrick Hall

The meeting was closed at 9.40 p.m.