

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23rd JULY 2013
AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK**

Present

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| Charles Stephen (CS) Ward Manager | Margaret Davidson (MDA) H.Councillor |
| Iain Brown (IBR) & Ian Bateman (IB) | Whitebridge, |
| Liam MacNally (LM) & Catriona Fraser (CF) | Gorthleck |
| Morag Cameron (MC) & Sally McGuire (SM) | Glen Lia, Foyers |
| Martin Donnelly (MDO) | Foyers |
| Roz Rowell (RR) | Torness |

Apologies – None

Agenda

1. Introductions

All were introduced to the meeting. CS intimated he will act as chair until one is appointed and recommended a short meeting to allow those present to read the information pack provided by him on THC Framework for CC, the CC constitution and the Councillors Code of conduct before taking forward new business.

2. Election of Chairperson

Iain Brown was elected Chair Unanimously, nominated by MC seconded by LM
At this time CS stood down from the chair of the meeting.

3. Election of Secretary

Sally McGuire was elected Secretary unanimously, nominated by LM seconded by CF

4. Election of Treasurer

Liam MacNally was elected Treasurer unanimously, nominated by MC seconded by SM

5. Adoption of Constitution/Standing Orders/Code of Conduct

All present agreed to be bound by these and to read them before the next meeting at which they will be formally adopted and signed by the **office bearers.(AP1)**

6. AOCB

6.1 Minute Secretary

CS indicated HC provide ~£250 /annum towards secretary costs.

Motion to employ a minute secretary was proposed by MC, seconded by RR and adopted unanimously. **MC** will advertise the post (notice boards, Web) seeking applications, pay and duties TBC. **(AP2)**

6.2 Outstanding Invoices

6.2.1 Cleaning of Foyers Public toilets £800, cost of this is to be recovered from THC Comfort Scheme.

Payment proposed by MC, seconded by MDO, unanimously agreed.

Treasurer will raise invoice to THC, then pay the cleaning invoice ASAP. **(AP3)**

6.2.2 Community Website £598, this to cover the hosting and administration of the web site for the period June 13 – June 14, the cost of this to be paid by our Trust once the CC has agreed to pay it.

Payment proposed by MC, seconded by MDO unanimously agreed.

Treasurer will advise the Trust to make payment. **(AP4)**

6.2.3 Play Park Insurance of £163.61 is overdue, THC awaiting payment until new CC in post.

Payment proposed by MC, seconded by MDO unanimously agreed.

Treasurer to make payment ASAP **(AP5)**

6.3 Election of bank Signatories

It was agreed that LM, SM and MDO will be signatories for CC cheques.

Treasurer to source signatory's form and set up signatories to enable payment of above invoices ASAP **(AP6)**

6.4 Petition - LM presented the CC with a petition, signed by 21 community members, requesting a public meeting to discuss commitments made by the Trust at their AGM. As per the CC constitution (meeting to be called within 14 days) the **chair** agreed to hold the public meeting on Monday 5th 7pm **(AP7)**

6.5 Dunmaglass Wind Farm - progress and community benefit payments. MDA advised SSE have taken over this scheme from RES and will honour RES commitments to Community Benefit, also that she has persuaded SSE to look at the community benefit offer, possibly to bring it in line with other schemes.

It was agreed they be invited to attend and give a presentation at a CC meeting on the 6th August, Stratherrick Hall.

MDA to contact SSE to invite them and request they contact the Chair to make arrangements. **(AP8)**

6.6 Forestry Commission, South Loch Ness Forest Design Plan – MDA advised that she had been in discussions with FCS whilst the CC was in abeyance regarding the consultation process to be undertaken by FCS for this plan, along with harvesting and timber transport over the next few months within in our area.

It was agreed the **chair** will invite them to attend and give a presentation at a CC meeting on the 27th August, Stratherrick Hall, running a Public drop in session at the Stratherrick Hall during that day. **(AP9)**

6.7 Albyn Housing Development Gorthleck – MDA advised this scheme was now moving forward and she has persuaded them to hold a Public drop in session during the day leading up to a presentation at a CC meeting.

It was agreed **MDA** invite them to attend the September CC meeting to make an update presentation to the CC, running a Public drop in session at the Stratherrick Hall during that day. **(AP10)**

6.8 Loch Ness Marathon – **MC** indicated they are looking for volunteers to help with the event and will put a notice with contact phone number on the Community Web site **(AP11)**

6.9 SSE Challenge Fund SM provided a leaflet on the new fund for none profit making organisation to bid into. Substantial funds may be available, **SM** undertook to look into this and report. **(AP12)**

6.10 Community Social Care Treasurer and MDA wish the CC to invite THC Social Care Department to a meeting to discuss provision within our area. This will be arranged for a future date to be confirmed. **Treasurer** to discuss with Social Care Officer **(AP13)**

6.11 Community Transport Needs MDA gave a summary on work to progress a report on the transport needs within the South Loch Ness area (includes Our Trust and Ft Augustus company area) utilising a fund secured from THC. CC members **(IBR, RR, CF)** will be meeting with the contactor in the following couple of weeks, after which a public meeting will be held to try and gather wider thoughts on the transport needs within our part of the study area. **(AP14)**

6.12 Fly Tipping at the Foyers Intake road entrance; SM raised concern over this, this was reported to THC as should any fly tipping be found within our area.

6.13 Bins at Foyers Shop SM expressed concern at the overflowing bins at Foyers shop, **MDA** indicated she has discussed this with the relevant HC manager, she will go back to him regarding the option to increase the number of bins, it was thought provision of a recycle bin may be the solution (reduce amount put in the green bins) **(AP15)**

6.14 Foyers Footpath Concern was expressed at the condition of the footpath reinstated by the Hydro scheme works between upper and lower Foyers. MDA agreed to talk to Stewart Eastoff THC access officer to look into this issue. **(AP16)**

6.15 Missing road signs and Fly Tipping RR indicated there were road signs (road narrows) missing at Loch Ceoglais, also fly tipping was occurring where a bin stand (no bin) was located. **MDA** will discuss these issues with relevant HC managers. **(AP17)**

6.16 Eon Morriston Wind Farm Chair intimated he had attended the Eon Morriston Liaison Group meeting where use of Wire Frame software (provides views of what can/cannot be seen) was very effectively used to allow the communities to advise Eon on what turbine locations would be preferable to them with regards to landscape impacts. Chair to attend future meetings.

6.17 Dell Wind Farm Chair indicated he had been in discussion with FALK (Dell Wind Farm). They plan to submit a planning application within the next three months and would like to attend a CC meeting to give an update/engage further with the CC on their proposals. **IBR** will discuss presentation options with the project manager on his return from holiday. **(AP18)**

6.18 Foyers Campsite LM and community members expressed concern over traffic safety at, and compliance with planning consent, at the new Campsite in Lower Foyers.

After discussion MDA undertook to talk to the planning officer to request additional signage be erected to indicate the Campsite entrance/circus is not suitable for caravans, also compliance with working hours restrictions.

Chair would source information from the planning officer **(AP19)** and arrange a site meeting with him (CC and community members) to discuss any identified non-compliance with the planning consent. **(AP20)**

6.19 Errogie Corner A member of the public indicated the vegetation within the garden grounds at Errogie corner had become so overgrown it had the potential to be a road hazard due to reduced visibility for road users.

It was agreed the **SM** would contact the land owner to have this resolved, failing a response from them to ask THC to deal with the vegetation. **(AP21)**

6.20 Inverfarigaig Pass Concern over the use of the Inverfarigaig pass by HGVs taking aggregate to the campsite and those following Sat Navs getting stuck and causing damage to the bridges was expressed by members of the public. IBR indicated appropriate transport plans would be requested for future developments; unfortunately the Sat Nav issue is one little can be done about.

6.21 A82 Diversion A member of the public intimated he had become aware of plans by THC to utilise the South Loch Ness road to divert traffic from the A82 to relieve pressure when work is being undertaken on the North side of the Loch. It was agreed the rat run potential was a significant concern and the CC undertook to investigate this issue further with the relevant HC department. **SM** to arrange a meeting with Tec Services **(AP22)**

6.22 Gorthleck Play Park MC raised the issue of the grass cutting and maintenance of equipment at the Gorthleck play park. **MDA** undertook to seek clarification from THC on criteria required for them to adopt the Play Park. **(AP23)** THC carry out an annual safety check, **CC** to identify a suitably trained person to carry out the weekly check and source training for this if required. **(AP24)**

6.23 Torness Sub Station There was discussion around the locating of this substation, a more suitable site ~500m to the east of the presently proposed location with less visual impact was suggested. It was also noted that SSE did not appear to be taking on the community's comments regarding this site.

It was agreed with the SSE exhibition imminent this item should be discussed at the next CC meeting, **IBR** to put on agenda **(AP25)**

6.24 Vote of thanks The new CC wished to express the community's appreciation of the hard work done by the previous Community Councillors - in particular Mark Houston as Chair, whose Firework Displays were greatly enjoyed by all.

6.25 Email CF circulated an email from A Sutherland for consideration.

N.B. The person whose initials are highlighted is responsible for completion of the relevant Action point

Date and Location of future meetings

5th August, Stratherrick Hall - Public Meeting to discuss Trust Petition

6th August, Stratherrick Hall - CC meeting with SSE Dunmaglass presentation

27 August, Stratherrick hall - CC meeting with FCS Forest Design

Plan/Timber transport presentation, public drop in session during the day 1-7pm at Stratherrick hall

24th September, Stratherrick Hall - CC meeting with Albyn Housing

presentation, Gorthleck housing development, drop in session during the day 1-7pm at Stratherrick hall

Future meetings will alternate between Foyers school and Stratherrick hall