

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25th March 2014
AT FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL, 7.30pm**

Present:

Ian Bateman (IB)	Iain Brown (IBR)	Whitebridge,
Liam MacNally (LM) & Catriona Fraser (CF)		Gorthleck
Sally McGuire (SM) Glenlia,		Foyers
Martin Donnelly (MDO)		Foyers
Katie Ellam (KE)		Boleskine

Councillor Margaret Davidson (MDA)

Apologies: Morag Cameron, Councillor Drew Hendry

Agenda

1. ETAPE update (round Loch Ness Cycle event) May 4th

Malcolm Sutherland gave an update on road closures for the above. Information will be posted on the website and the closures will be advertised on the relevant roads well in advance. Details will be (surface) mailed to 31000 households in the area on or around 7th April. Some discussion over road quality especially through the various road works. 1250 cyclists registered.

2. Adoption of minutes of 25th February

Minutes were adopted. Proposed: Martin Donnelly, Seconded: Liam McNally

3. (a) Police report.

No officer present. Emailed report was circulated. No major incidents. Sally McGuire to check with Police before posting this report on notice boards etc.

(b) Fire Report

Catriona Fraser spoke on behalf of Neil Kirkland. No wildfires reported, but one new recruit to the service. Several home fire safety checks have been completed – do make contact if you require a check. Ian Hepburn has completed 20yrs service. Secretary is to write a note of congratulation. Proposed by Ian Bateman, seconded Catriona Fraser, Unanimous.

(c) Treasurer's Report

Project A/C Balance,	£2,086.94	(Previous balance £2086.94)
Ordinary A/C Balance,	£1,561.53	(Previous balance £2,267.26)
Cheques pending	490 Boleskine Bulletin £252.00	491 CC Stationary supplies £78.95

4. Ratification of Appointment of SFCC representation to SFCT

Chairman outlined the procedure by which Katie Ellam had been selected as the CC nomination to join the Trust as a co-opted Director. Due to a request by a SFCT director to have the nominated person in place with new team. A unanimous decision by email out with a CC meeting was made which has to be confirmed at this meeting. Appointment of Katie Ellam as SFCC representative to SFCT: proposed Liam McNally, seconded Sally McGuire, Unanimous.

5. Matters arising

Green Highland Renewables, Knockie Hydro Scheme – Secretary is still awaiting receipt of the Information Memorandum which will be circulated on receipt.

Amendment to minute - Catriona Fraser wished it minuted that the SFCC minute regarding Sally McGuire's actions as a SFCT Trust Director published in the recent BB was not as agreed at the SFCC meeting on February 11th 2014. Minute to be amended to reflect this. Catriona to confirm her recollection of the the correct agreed minute with Chair.

Trinloist Road - TECS are in contact with FC regarding damage. Particular concern was raised about corner near Alan Beith's house where the verge is badly eroded. Public encouraged to report any Forestry Timber lorries emerging from the top of the Trinloist road.

Allt Na Goire Alex Sutherland confirmed that the fallen boulder is 75m upstream from the memorial Playpark (Gorthleck) - some maintenance required – Iain Brown & Liam McNally to sort Woodlands/Firewood – actively ongoing

BT Broadband - ongoing

Audibility – Cost of T loop and associated equipment ± £300. SFCC is to apply to SFCT for funding. Proposed Iain Brown Seconded Catriona Fraser, Unanimous.

Foyers Slipway – complications with decommissioning of Fish Farm, including the Gas storage tanks. The Indications is that the gas contract runs until 2016. Chair reckoned it will take at least 9 months for the decommissioning and resumption of the land by SSE before any consideration can be taken forward with the slipway proposal. Access to existing moorings: Chair to discuss this with Ian Hislop and further investigate access to Loch Mhor.

Community Council Pilot Scheme – Ian Bateman reported that a useful meeting had taken place with TECS. Introduction to the equipment and trial run on April 7th. Iain Brown & Sally McGuire are to attend. Ian Bateman to ask if Bob Main was available to join.

Foyers Land Purchase - An issue with the late registration as there is no evidence that the community has been trying to purchase the exact field in question. Nevertheless Margaret Davidson is proceeding with Scottish Land Fund application – she will discuss this with SFCT in due course.

Emergency generators - ongoing

Foyers Potholes - TECS reluctant to fix & thereby take on responsibility for these informal laybys. Maybe SSE & FC could be approached. Margaret Davidson will pursue this. She informed us that the road is part of National Cycle Route 78 (Campbelltown to Inverness) – this might add weight to finding a safe solution.

Community Benefit - Catriona Fraser wished to raise some matters of protocol regarding the way in which this part of the meeting of February 25th 2014 was conducted. It was confirmed/agreed that SFCC councillors should withdraw from discussions involving close relatives. Mr Sutherland acknowledged Margaret Davidson's apology for referring to him as a Maverick, taking being called a Maverick as a compliment. Furthermore, Secretary was to send apologies on behalf of SFCC to those whose actions regarding Community Benefit were discussed in their absence, namely Frank Ellam, Alex Sutherland and Graeme Ambrose. Proposed Iain Brown Seconded Catriona Fraser.

Foyers Streetlights THC are awaiting response from fourth resident in the affected area.

Secretary to write to clarify that the wish is for the lights to be switched off NOT removed, and to seek explanation as to why just switching off is not an option as correspondence seems to indicate.

6 Updates

Trust (SFCT) - Katie Ellam reported a very positive first meeting of the new SFCT Board with Ed Ley-Wilson elected Chair and Sharon Ferguson Vice Chair. A training session is planned for this week. SFCT Chair and SFCC Chair are due to meet 26th February 2014.

Boleskine Community Care (BCC) - Margaret Davidson reported that Debbie Jones (NHS) had been out to see various care projects in the area and had met with BCC, focussing on Home Care. There is a follow up on April 9th. Alex Sutherland commented that he had a contact in Community Care Work soon to move to the area. There was a query on the role of Social Services in the provision of Home Care. MDa confirmed that Social Services for adults were under the NHS umbrella. The general agreement was that there is an almost total lack of official Home Care provision in the area. The Soup sessions and Handyman projects are moving forward.

Foyers toilets – Chair reiterated SFCC cannot sign a lease with THC as they have insufficient funds to meet the obligation this would place them/me under. – SFCC to apply to THC discretionary fund and SFCT for assistance. The focus is to get the toilets open for Easter. While awaiting outcome of SSE funding.

7. Roads

Corriegarth Road closures between Fort Augustus and Daviot April-June - All encouraged to attend a public meeting with TECS, FCS and RJ McLeod to discuss this disruption and how to best manage the situation. It will take place in Stratherrick Hall Thursday 3rd April, 7.45pm. Meeting is to be chaired by Margaret Davidson.

Suggested solutions: financial compensation for loss of business, working at night only; use of traffic lights to give set lengths of delays; rather than outright closure.

Dunmaglass – There will be more quarry lorries than anticipated will be on the roads pending the opening of more suitable borrow pits on the Dunmaglass Estate.

Request for earlier notice on abnormal loads to be made. Ian Bateman to forward to Marianne Townsley (SSE).

Glenia/Trinloist emergency road closure - this will be closed for restringing of pylons any day now (28th March).

Foyers Coach House - concern over speeding traffic and turning traffic in the region of the old Foyers Hotel and Foyers Coach House. Request that signage be improved to reflect the blind summit. Also signs along the Foyers/Dores road to remind folk to use passing places to allow overtaking.

8. Planning

SSE Corriegarth-Torness connection - Objections from SFCC have been noted. Margaret Davidson to keep a close watch with particular regard to water supplies.

Renewal of Residential plot at Foyers Old Hall Site - SFCC raised no objection but would request that the school footpath access be protected. Proposed Iain Brown seconded Martin Donnelly

Windfarms in general. Iain Brown wondered if the SFCC should have a view on Wind Farm development – and handed the chair to Catriona Fraser, taking no part in the discussion.

Points was made that it was not for SFCC to have a view, but merely to reflect the community view. Various 'camps' within and without communities but very hard to determine an overall Community view. Probably best to assess each application on its own merits. Margaret Davidson reminded SFCC that there was Wind Farm Capacity Study lined up for Loch Ness next year. It was noted that siting of any substations was a key factor often overlooked. Catriona Fraser highlighted that grid connections should form part of any Renewable Schemes planning

application so the total impact of a scheme can be assessed by the community in the planning process.

9. Community Website.

Chair proposed thanks to Andy Holt for 4 months extra webhosting at no charge as a result of the CC change. To date Andy Holt has spoken to the Secretary and one tender to run the website has been received. Deadline for expressions of interest/proposals is the SFCC April Meeting. Ian Bateman to provide a link for community website near Bath as a gauge for comparison.

10. Minutes secretary.

Iain Brown has a possible lead.

11. AOB

Notice boards – waiting on quotes for extra notice boards. Was Suggestion that many notices could be reduced to A5 to give extra space. It was mentioned that Notice boards were for community information and sometimes it was impossible to find space for CC and CT minutes, notices, etc. Other notice boards needed for adverts

Litter Pick Vote of thanks to all participants for latest Litter Pick. It was Alex reported an increase in builders rubble tipped over the edge. Folk requested to check that if they have building work done they remind the builders to dispose of rubble properly. Also a request for FC to dispose of dumps of old fence wire – Iain Brown to chase.

Next meeting, Tuesday 29 April 2014 7:30 at Stratherrick Hall

Chair's Signature _____ Date 29th April 2014

Chair's name printed Iain Brown