

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26th AUGUST 2014
AT STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK 7.30pm

1. Present:

Liam MacNally (LM)

Catriona Fraser (CF)

Morag Cameron (MC)

Sally McGuire (SM)

Katie Ellam (KE)

Highland Councillor Margaret Davidson (MDa,) Drew Hendry (DH)

Apologies – Iain Brown (IBR). Ian Bateman sent his apologies Via Chair Iain Brown

2. ETAPE – Presentation – Malcolm Sutherland

Malcolm Sutherland presented an up-date on the Etape for 2015. The improvement in communications high is on the Agenda for 2015.

DATE - no longer May w/end but last w/end in April – SFCC unanimously accepted this change.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – following data from last year's event, Traffic Management will be altered to improve road closure times etc.

ENTRIES – 2014 entry nos. were 1250. In 2015 this will rise to 3600 – only 10mins diff in set-off times.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT – want more groups to be involved in support roles – monetary return on help given.

DELL WIND FARM

Meeting scheduled for tonight to be postponed to give community more time before consultation period ends 30 September. Meeting to be scheduled in 2/3 weeks for this item and any other unfinished business

3. Police Report - no Officer present MDa informed SFCC that Aird & Loch Ness Area to have one sergeant based at Muir of Ord. Policeman still based at Fort Augustus station.

4. Adoption of minutes

Minutes of 24th June 2014 were adopted following some discussion.

Proposed Morag Cameron. Seconded Liam McNally.

AP Secretary to try to get in touch with every local group in the Community to make sure they are aware of new website and can have their own page. MC

5. Matters arising

Community website – Some discussion took place concerning CT website. Trust has decided to have separate website. CC assured everyone that it was a community website and CC had a website with email address within the many websites available to any group within the community. Eric has stated he will give free training to any group requiring it. At conclusion secretary to ask Eric to have a link to CT on Community Website. Secretary and Treasurer are both Administrators and can edit CC webpage. A discussion took place on how to keep web pages up-to-date for CC. Perhaps a monthly up-date on what is happening in the community.

AP Catriona volunteered a news blurb on SFCC area on home page AP

Bus t/tables – CF still awaiting confirmation of new Whitebridge changes to bus service

AP -CC to request again that bus time tables be put up at bus stops. MDa

Request that Glenlia bus shelter is replaced as promised. MDa

Defibrillator – now installed at Stratherrick Hall. R.J. McLeod and SSE provided funding for heated wall mounted cabinet

Treasurer: Project a/c balance £1823.74. (Previous £1849.02) No income, THC Play Park Ins. (July and Aug £25.28)

Ordinary a/c balance £4492.51 (Previous £3391.31) Income - £526.67 HC Foyers Toilets; £500 RJMcLeod Foyers Toilets. Cheque cashed £452.14 [£1200 ring fenced for Transport Survey, £362 for Fraser Memorial, £2000 for Foyers Toilets (leaving working balance of £403.84)

6. REPORTS

Eon – nothing to report

Dunmaglass – Ian Bateman not present so nothing to report.

Corriegarth – progressing as previous report. Errogie corner – bend will be straightened but due to landlord issues, the road will remain single track.

CF had attended meeting at Farr Hall regarding Sockich Bends up-grade. HC plan to close this section for 4 months from Sep – Dec. Diversion via Brin. CF had raised concerns regarding increase of HGV traffic via Loch Ceo-glas and the lorries turning toward Dunmaglass at Calnour junction.

HC looking into improving road in these areas before commencing work.

FORESTRY COMMISSION – FC requesting letter of support of new forestry road through Balaggan which would remove timber lorries from road. MDa encouraged SFCC to send letter. CC agreed

Secretary to send letter of support

9. Sub groups- item brought forward on Agenda as MD needed to leave by 9pm

Firewood – KE & LM reported that a site had been offered for storage of community firewood at Chapel Bridge.

BCC – MC reported that this group had now become a SCIO and is now working in conjunction with NHS Highland, Social Work and Highland Home Carers. 4 local Carers have come forward and are at present receiving training. This is to be a flagship/model/pilot project with many CCs and groups throughout the region interested. Home care could be delivered in SFCC Area by end of September. Catriona said that they should no longer be considered a sub group of the CC now

Soup Drop In / Lunch Club/Handyman all progressing.

Open Day and tea dance proposed for Saturday 1 November at Stratherrick Hall.

Paths – MDa & SM met with SSE to plan an improved Path network. MDa planned to arrange a drop-in session, to gauge the level of volunteers willing to engage in this group, in near future with Stewart Easthaugh, HC Access Officer.

Foyers Toilets – lease still awaiting signatures. MDa to discuss with HC regarding urgent need for new toilet block

Land Purchase – application in hands of SFCT.- Peter Faye & Zoe Liffie are working with Bidwell's and Scottish Land Fund.

Sports facilities/playing field – on-going

Community Forest – no up-date

10. Planning – item 1 brought forward on Agenda as MDa needed to leave by 9pm

CC advised to check HC website on changes to Torness substation/Loch Ceo-glas application. MDa in discussion regarding revised transport management proposal. MDa

12. AOCB – item 2 brought forward on Agenda as MDa needed to leave by 9pm

Accident with empty timber lorry and car at Steadings Croachy.

request by MDa that concerns are raised at Liaison Groups. CF & IB

June MacKinnon (Paterson) has retired. CF had received requests from members of the community that the SFCC mark the retirement of June MacKinnon from Stratherrick Primary School after 37 years' service in the school. SFCC unanimously agreed to send a letter.

Catriona will Draft letter and circulate to SFCC members before sending
MDa left meeting

11. ROADS – item brought forward on Agenda

DH requested up-date on Pilot Project. SM reported that work on potholes etc. had been carried out but many were out with the “official” road surface. DH advised of the possibility of extending this scheme to cover drainage/verges/vegetation issues.

DH left meeting

7. Correspondence

Letter received from A Grant regarding access to Stratherrick War Memorial – passed to Heritage Society

Marathon (28/09/2014) – general info received. Looking for local groups to help. CC was informed that Church of Scotland has cancelled services that day.

8. Trust

KE gave up-date. SFCT progressing well with new policies in place on Finance/Grants etc. Open Evening had taken place and was very useful. Jane Brown director resigned from SFCT' Zoe Liffie has been co-opted as a Director with a remit to negotiate land deals. SFCT looking to improve communications with SFCC via our representative (KE).

Katie asked for a clarification of the CC position concerning the role of the 2 CB Negotiators stating that the CT does not recognise that the CTs chosen CBN is a CC negotiator not a Trust negotiator. She asked a CT Director present if this was the case, He agreed. Katie then asked, how do we proceed from here? Chair (SM) then explained the procedures for CBN was well documented(negotiating on behalf of the CC as the only democratically group elected by the whole Community and as such are the only group which can have negotiators) and the reasons the CT could not have a negotiator was also well documented. Sally then went through the procedures and reasons yet again. While discussions were on-going Chair was interrupted by Alex Sutherland on several occasions culminating in him standing up and shouting he would be heard. Chair refused to recognise him, he refused and continued to demand that he be heard eventually leaving the hall.

CB Negotiations – SM raised concerns regarding irregularities in regard to CB negotiation procedures from the trust negotiator the SFCT as a result of these reports and proposed that we remove from the CT the ability to select a trust director to the CBN team. CF proposed that we invite the SFCT Directors to a meeting to discuss procedures. KE then proposed that we give the trust another chance to accept CC position regarding CBN procedures. After further discussions Kate to ask if she could take letter back to CT regarding CB negotiations CC ran out of time and discussion wound up

AP - letter to be written to SFCT inviting them to come to a meeting to discuss the CC concerns regarding CB negotiations. A neutral chair to be appointed. Letter to be circulated to all members of SFCC before sending. KE

13.AOCB FROM PUBLIC.

Jeanette Colville wished the CC to write to relatives of the late Rose Fortune (retired District Nurse) to express our thanks for her work in the area. Idea that perhaps a news article should be sent to local press.

CF to draft letter and send to CC members for approval. Local press article to discuss at next meeting

14. Next Meeting. Tues – 9/16 Sept at Foyer's School 7.30pm. Meeting closed 10:45pm