

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28th January 2014
AT FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL, FOYERS 7.30pm

Present: Ian Bateman (IB) Iain Brown (IBR) Whitebridge,
Liam MacNally (LM) & Catriona Fraser (CF) Gorthleck
Morag Cameron (MC) & Sally McGuire (SM) Glenlia, Foyers
Martin Donnelly (MDO) Foyers
Councillor Margaret Davidson (MDa) THI

Apologies – Hamish Ward

Chair informed meeting that henceforth THC required the school premises to be vacated by 9.30

Presentations:

A. Dell Wind Farm.

Stewart Forsyth gave an update on the latest proposal due to be submitted to planning in March. Maps and visualisations were shown which will be posted on the Community Website. CC requests that folk make their opinions known so that they can respond to the application in a way that reflects the whole community.

B. Forestry Commission. Doug Mitchell gave a general review of the ongoing & future works. A new initiative is to appoint a Community Liaison Officer in each area as a first point of contact for folk who have questions on local FC operations. Our CLO is Kenny Haye. Contact details will appear on Website & BB.

The major harvesting operations continue with amendments to accommodate recent wind blow, wind snap, disease & felling near power lines. - FCS have withdrawn from carrying out the felling for the SSE Inverfarigaig Line works as they felt they could not guarantee the timelines previously indicated. Various road closures may be required but thought unlikely - Iain Brown will provide details as they become available.

Firewood options for non-commercial timber – under review along with scavenging licences etc. FC urged to get something sorted soon & feed back soon.

There are various options for replanting diseased (lodgepole pine) areas – greater emphasis on broadleaves.

Network C. SSE

Update on the upgrading of the main pylon line out of Foyers (strengthening and restringing the current pylons with double wires to increase capacity). Some forestry work involved & road closures in the Inverfarigaig area. The SSE closure is anticipated to be shorter than previously indicated due to less area being felled. This felling will remove trees from the bridge/junction area. Resulting in a complete closure for future felling by FCS being avoidable, either Glenlia or Inverfarigaig road may be kept open. SSE are proposing an onsite point of contact for updates, and access information. Iain Brown asked if the fibre optic cable on the top of the pylons could be utilised to bring fast broadband to the area. SSE has included fibre optic in the earth wire running on top of the pylons for their own operational use. Possibility of upgrading this for wider use – SSE to provide contact details for negotiation. CC Requested that SSE return with updates on closures, vehicle movements, Broadband options etc.

Torness Substation with connections to Dunmaglass & Corriegarth has been submitted to planning.

D. TECS – not available

Agenda

1. **Adoption of minutes of 17th December.** Proposed: Morag Seconded: Martin

2. Matters Arising

A. From November minutes:

Community Transport £1200 has been awarded to pursue this. Meeting on 7th February 3pm at the Fort Augustus Service Point. Roads, Corriegarh Road improvements, Iain to follow up.

Foyers Car Park £65,000 awarded from THC for this project. Approaching the SSE Sustainable Development Fund to rebuild the Foyers toilets? (Deadline for applications is 15th Feb). and how to keep the toilets open meanwhile – seeking a licence to occupy from THC while funding is being sought. CC expressed support for the proposals but highlighted it does not have the funds to take on a lease and that this was an option for the Trust to take forward. ? MDA is to liaise with (SFCT) on moving this forward. A community member highlighted the option to purchase the property adjacent to shop for a museum Purchase of property adjacent to shop for museum. , MDA to also discuss this with SFCT

Sustainable Housing Trust – expressions of interest still required – Highland Small Community Housing Trust personnel will be available at the Community Care day (1st Feb Stratherrick Hall)

Foyers working Groups: Various meetings due. Sports – Morag arranging a visit to the Tomatin's all-weather facility to discuss lessons learnt. Access – suggestion to liaise with South Loch Ness access group (Candy Cameron). MDA to convene a session to cover the various ongoing Foyers projects

Community Trust. Martin gave an update on the Articles group – and the technicalities of taking these forward at the SFCT AGM (Other matters arising & December Minutes Matters arising to be covered at next meeting)

3. Police Report

Constable Hannah explained that under a fresh initiative CCs would be regularly emailed with updates on policing in their areas. No serious matters to report locally, but theft in Fort Augustus, & some minor traffic incidents. Folk are encouraged to be in contact (dial 101) to report anything suspicious. Sgt Blakey has been promoted to Inspector in Inverness. It was noted that the policing levels were very low: CC to write and express concern on behalf of the Community.

4. Treasurer's Report

January Balance Sheet:	Balance	Previous Balance
Project account:	£2,286.94	£2,286.94
No income ¹		
Ordinary A/C	£161.53	£311.53 ²
No Income ³		

¹ Pending £200.00 Replace monies taken from Ordinary A/C for Play Park rent

² pending Including Cheques before 486 & 487

³ Cheques cashed 486, 487, 488 & 489 Total £263.00

5. Corriegarh Liaison Group

Catriona reported that there was no developer's website for this – but minutes will be posted on Community website. Contractor RJ McLeod keen to employ locals and also have a small fund for local projects to apply to - please visit Corriegarh Road Improvements site office.

6. Foyers Slipway

The Chair had been in discussion with SSE and advised the persons interested in this advised to get constituted. Could consider using the fish farm area if vacated (up for sale) & tie in with overall Foyers plan. Meeting closed 9.30pm

7. Next meeting Owing to pressure of business Chair convened an additional CC meeting on
11th February 2014 at Stratherrick Hall (7.30pm).