

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30th SEPTEMBER 2014  
AT FOYERS SCHOOL 7.30pm

1. Present:

Iain Brown (IBR),  
Liam MacNally (LM)  
Catriona Fraser (CF)  
Highland Councillor

Sally McGuire (SM)  
Katie Ellam (KE)  
Martin Donnelly (MD)  
Margaret Davidson (MDa),

Apologies – Morag Cameron (MC) Ian Bateman (IB), Hamish Wood (HW), Helen Carmichael (HC), Drew Hendry (DH)

2. Police Report – All quiet, traffic policing unit from Dingwall have been active with speed traps within the area.

3. Adoption of minutes

Minutes of August 2014 were adopted.  
Proposed Sally McGuire Seconded Liam McNally.

4. Matters arising

Community website – it was confirmed that all local groups had been contacted to offer them a free website, including associated web mail. This would include site creation utilising the template and training of their site editor, after this any ongoing editorial support if the group did not wish to take this on themselves would incur charges.

The CC unanimously gave a vote of thanks to Eric Law for the excellent community web site and ongoing unpaid work in its creation and that of the other ones.

**AP 2 CF will provide Eric with a new blurb for the SFCC website**

Bus Time tables – MDa will pass on new bus timetables to CC

**AP 3 SM to request that bus time tables be put up at bus stops.** and

Glenlia bus shelter - as THC had previously had a site visit and identified a location.

**AP 4 MDa to follow up with THC officers**

Socci Bends – Laybys on diversion route were in place but thought small for purpose, THC promised road improvements between Caolanour junction and Torness to facilitate the HGV diversion route had not been completed. This suspected as SSE will be required to undertake some of these improvements before starting construction of the Torness Sub Station.

Inverfarigaig Firewood – all contacts with local landowners had drawn a blank for a site to store and process the firewood, it was noted SSE have offered to cross cut the firewood for us, leaving the splitting and delivery.

**AP5 IBR to ask FCS to store the wood on site prior to delivery.**

Boleskine Community Care Group – First AGM to be held at the Stratherick hall on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Paths Sub Group – MDa confirmed Stuart Easthaugh will hold two community engagement events to gather information on needs within the area to form a report which can then be used to support future funding applications.

Foyers Toilet – There has been a change of cleaner and THC will close down the block for the winter at the end of October. MDa advised after discussion with THC Director on the need for this service provision that we needed to create a working group of CC and Trust members to take a funding project forward to try and secure an appropriate new facility. MD and IBR volunteered to be the CC representatives on the working group.

Roads – the excellent work undertaken by FCS, funded by Uniqueness (T Bid) was welcomed by all, it was intimated there were more to be cleared in the future. It was noted the ongoing periodic road condition survey had recently been undertaken by THC.

Marathon – overall this year it went reasonably well with the exception of the first water station at Whitebridge running out of water before half of the runners had passed. This resulting in abusive language from some to the volunteers – supply will be take-up with organisers for next year's event.

Trust – KE advised having not had a response from all CC members over the proposed meeting to present the CC communication report to the Trust. It was agreed she would present a letter which contained the five steps previous agreed by the CC and reiterated by IBR.

**AP6 KE to circulate the letter IBR had previous drafted with her prior to taking it to the Trust meeting.**

**AP 7 CF agreed to send Article with photo for inclusion about Rose Fortune in the next BB issue**

Forestry Timber Haulage Road – IBR confirmed letter of support had been provided to FCS.

Community Forest – no up-date

#### 5. Boleskine Bulletin – Future/AGM

The present volunteers will be standing down after the next edition and the meeting agreed the need for this or a similar publication is needed for the future, also the need for editorial control to be independent of all outside influences. Discussion then took place on issues such as - how it may be kept going (new volunteers, paid community coordinator/minute taker, paid editor), - format (as present, community newsletter, revised magazine layout...), - funding (advertising income, Trust/CC core funding).

**AP8 KE to take this issue to next Trust meeting to start discussion on possible future options including funding mechanisms.**

#### 6. Treasurers Report:

KE presented the attached treasurers report which cleared up some funding issues E.G. Discretionary fund and trust grant for work to the Fraser Memorial.

C thanked SM for her donation of the Secretary Honorarium to the CC funds.

**AP9 KE to initiate discussion with the Trust regarding Fraser Memorial Grant and annual funding of the three types of CC expenditure,** Statutory (Hall hire, Secretary admin costs) paid by THC grant, Annual costs (Foyers Toilet block, Play park maintenance) is it possible for this to be an ongoing allocation within Trust budgets and one off costs such as a mobile hearing aid loop for community events/meetings, would this need to be an individual application or part of the allocation supported by invoices to evidence reasonable costs.

Project a/c balance £1,655.74. No income, No Expenditure

Ordinary a/c balance £4,005.84 No Income, Expenditure Web site £100, Hall Hire £22, £1200 ring fenced for Transport Survey, £362 Fraser Memorial, £2,149.53 for Foyers Toilets] Leaving working balance of £403.84

Available working balance £172.31

#### 7. Reports

**Fire Brigade** – Neil Kirkland confirmed the Fire brigade will be organising the Fireworks this year and they wished the CC to provide the insurance cover for the event, to be held at the Stratherrick play park. MDa to follow up with Fire Brigade Inverness as to why they have not yet provided toilet facilities at the Gorthleck fire station.

**Trust** – KE provided a brief update on Trust activities including guidelines for relevant director's roles. The CC supported the guidelines for the CC/CT communication director

but requested it be amended to rectify the assumption that this person would always be a CC member which it may not be.

#### **AP10 KE to raise this point with the Trust**

BCC – See previous notes in matters arising

Foyers – Land purchase is ongoing, Slipway ongoing awaiting fish farm clearance before SSE can reengage on talks, Paths see previous note within matters arising, Sports facilities consultation will be held later in the year to bring a report together that can be utilised in future funding applications.

#### **8. Roads**

**Errogie** – Due to restricted land availability the Errogie Corner road improvement would be restricted to a new section of single track road removing the tight corner.

**Corriegarth** – CF advised that the principle contractor for the construction works would likely be identified at next week's Liaison group meeting and that

**Dunmaglass** – nothing to report.

**Torness/Sockich's bends/Forestry Road** – please see notes in Matters Arising

#### **9. Planning**

Dell Wind Farm – IBR proposed a motion to object to the planning application, seconded CF, Carried 4 to 2

#### **AP11 IBR to write objection letter siting reasons raised at previous community consultation meeting**

**Torness Grid Connections** – the planning application has been submitted and hard copies received if anyone wishes to see them please contact the secretary. Application is as per previous conversations.

**Torness Substation – THC** planning committee approved the application but required planning conditions such as installation of acoustic sound barriers around the transformers, planning gain in the form of road improvements (Caolanour junction, additional laybys and doubling of roads)

This prompted discussion on inappropriate driver behaviour of Balfour Beatty vehicles and timber wagons.

#### **AP12 IBR to raise issue with Marianne Townsley of SSE, BB H&S officers and the timber haulage group.**

Whitebridge No. 2 Thain Road Conservatory – CC agreed not to object to the application.

#### **10. Correspondence**

THC Winter Resilience - MC to be asked to take on the coordination role again this year.

THC Foyers Toilet Lease – Signed Lease and cheque to be forwarded to THC ASAP.

#### **11. AOCB**

IBR indicated that due to personal circumstances a couple of councillors may not be able to attend all future meetings, it was agreed that due to the limited time to the next election we wished them to remain as councillors providing input via email and attending whenever possible.

#### **12. Next Meeting.**

Tuesday – 28<sup>th</sup> October Stratherrick Hall 7.30pm