

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2016
AT GORTHLECK HALL 19:30

1. Present

Iain Brown (IBR) Kim Burton (KB) Catriona Fraser (CF)
Martin Donnelly (MD) Graham Taylor (GT) Stewart Goodwin (SG)

Apologies

Gordon McAndie Ian Bateman Margaret Davidson
Dr Jean Davis Aros Mathieson

2. Adoption of last minutes

Minutes of the last meeting held on 26th January were adopted.
Proposed by MD, seconded by GT

3. Matters arising

- Etape – Road maintenance to be completed before the event on 24th April
- Minutes – KB now taking minutes of the meetings as the new Secretary
Ensure meeting minutes & dates are notified & distributed accordingly - KB
- Gritting – Most gritting now been carried out in a timely manner, however, issues are still occurring with the gritting of the Loch side road through Foyers.
- Broadband – No new updates this month re: community broadband
- Noticeboards – to be repaired by local builder Shaun Burton
- Toilet Block (Falls of Foyers car park) – Agreed that the toilet block would be opened again this year, at end of March. Continue to look into the possibility and cost of building a new larger toilet block and/or a storage shed for welfare equipment required for the upkeep of the toilet block.

Obtain price(s) for construction of new toilet block & storage shed - KB

4. Reports

- Fire – In the process of installing a toilet block (Funded by RJ McLeods)
 - Trust – Community open day being held on Thursday 3rd March between 14:00 – 21:00 in Gorthleck Hall. To discuss community ideas for the future. All welcome.
Post a reminder on community Facebook page – CF
- Now accept & process grant applications every 2 months instead of every quarter.
- BCC - £60k grant approved by the Community Trust enabling the group to employ a Care Manager and secure building premises as a base to work from.
The Highland Council has awarded BCC £15k over 3 years (i.e. 3 annual payments of £5k). This is on top of the £8k already secured from the Trust. BCC are investigating the use of the Trust money to enable BCC to transport individuals to Raigmore, using volunteers, which is not allowed under THC Transport Scheme Grant. The car scheme commenced in December 2015 and is increasingly being taken up each month. Trips to Raigmore are an identified need which BCC hopes it will be able to address before long.
 - Treasurers Report – See attached Treasurer’s Report.
Progress changing of Signatories – MD
Investigate possibility of on-line backing – MD
 - Police Report – See attached Police Report.

5. Renewables

- Torness
 - Dunmaglass Bridge closed 23rd, 24th & 25th February for tarmac works. Good to see that this was carried out in conjunction with SSE as there were no reported roadworks on the Torness Road during these closures.
 - 2 week road closure between Calanour Jct & Torness cattle grid from 25th April – 6th May for tarmac works
 - Calanour Jct is to be re-surfaced using temporary road works. Dates TBC.
 - SSE continue to formulate a plan for installing new passing places on the road alongside Loch Ticklish
- Dell – awaiting outcome of Stronlaairg planning decision before any further progress will be made.
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- Knockie – still unresolved issues with Community Benefit agreement
Respond to the latest CB agreement offer (not adequate) – IBR
- Aberchalder – Nothing to report this month
- Garrogie – Schemes now up and running but still no Community Benefit Agreement

6. Roads

- New lay-by at Flicherty to allow for the transportation of the bigger turbine blades
- Errogie Corner – Due for completion May 2016. The residents *have* been consulted with by the contractor. May require a 1 day closure for taring works – CC will notify community as more information becomes available. Lay-bys to be installed opposite existing driveways to prevent drivers using the driveways as lay-bys.
- Timber Transport Road – Some routes not linked, roads lead to dead-ends in places
Letter to the HC requesting explanation and future plan/dates for link up – IBR
- HC has secured £500k from Scottish Government for improvements to the A82 – likely to have a knock-on effect resulting in increased traffic to the South side of the Loch. CC to monitor and update the community as more information becomes available.
- Complaints received from residents in Errogie re: speeding drivers that become abusive when requested to slow down.
Request Aros Mathieson to conduct random speed checks – IBR
- CC campaigning for the Highland Council to install “flashing speed/smiley face” signs in numerous villages within the community (similar to the sign in Dores)
Letter to Highland Council requesting progress update - IBR
- Foyers residents campaigning for junction and road to Lower Foyers to be reduced to 30mph. Road regularly used by walkers and residents using the bus service and doctors.
Letter to Highland Council – IBR
- Speed limit and access road issues still to be agreed for the new houses to be built in Lower Foyers.

Continue to post road closure updates on the community Facebook page - CF

7. Planning

- 1 application in the last month – renewal of housing application of new cottage at Croftdhu. No objections raised by the Community Council.
- Noted that the old tin church at Errogie has been sold.

8. Correspondence

- Communication from IACCF (joined up meeting of local community councils) – no meeting until April as the Townhouse is not yet ready to host the meetings.

- South Loch Ness Trail – E-mail from Graeme Ambrose requesting support to continue with future phases of the South Loch Ness Trail. No objections raised. Proposed by IBR, seconded by MD.
Letter to Graeme Ambrose of SLNT confirming support from the CC – KB
- Letter from Small Communities Housing Trust requesting update member details
Update CC member details & return – KB
- Correspondence received from the Forestry Commission informing of a planned quarry blast in the area. Concerns raised by local residents.

9. Up & coming events

- Etape – Sunday 24th April. Road closure map & times can be found on the Etape Loch Ness website.
- Loch Ness Marathon – 25th September. Road closure map & times can be found on the Loch Ness Marathon website.
- Loch Gu Loch – 1st October. No road closure for this event.
- Deloitte Ride Across Britain – affecting routes in Gorthleck on 17th September. No road closures.
- Man – v – Horse – Sunday 17th April. Starts & finishes in Dores.

Further events and dates will be notified as they become available to the CC.

10. AOCB

- RJ McLeods still have funding to give to community groups – groups should apply direct to RJ McLeods site office at the Corriegarth windfarm site BEFORE the end of March. Any funds not claimed before the end of March will be donated to a charity of RJ McLeods choice.
- Currently recruiting new fire fighters. Only have a 3 week recruiting window. Anyone interested should contact the Foyers Fire Brigade direct.
- Residents concerned that the agreed planting on the ground underneath the new Falls of Foyers car park has not yet been undertaken.
Letter to Highland Council requesting timescales for this – IBR
- Lower Foyers Residents Association raised concerns over the condition of the roads and pavements around the Riverside houses. Flooding has caused the tarmac to lift in many places. Also, tarmac lifting on the Bailey Bridge. Excess rattling from the Bailey Bridge causing a nuisance. Advised residents to lodge complaints with the Highland Council to support the concerns raised.
Letter to Highland Council raising the concerns – IBR
- Update requested on the repairs to the original stone bridge over the river in Lower Foyers. Requires capital funding & involvement from the Heritage Group to progress.
- Concern raised by CF that the letter of complaint received by Jan Thompson at January's meeting had not yet been circulated to all CC members.
Circulated letter of complaint to all CC members – IBR
- Inverfarigaig Centre – Open day held on 6th February to discuss possible community purchase/use of the building and land if released by the FC. Lots of ideas raised but no commitment to form sub-group to progress further at this time. Agreed that the CC and other local community groups have an interest in the site from a community aspect.
- Links to be re-added to the SFCC website for; BCC, Boleskine Environmental Network, Trust website.
Update links on SFCC website – KB

11. Next meeting

Tuesday 29th March at 19:30 in Gorthleck Hall.

Meeting closed at 21:15