

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28th FEBRUARY 2017
AT FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 19:30

1. Present

Kim Burton (KB)	Catriona Fraser (CF)	Martin Donnelly (MDo)
Gordon McAndie (GMc)	Liam Longbottom (LL)	Phil Crowe (PC)
Margaret Davidson (MDa)		

Apologies

Dr Jean Davis, Ian Bateman, Jennie Devlin

2. Adoption of last minutes

Minutes of the last meeting held on 31st January 2017 were adopted.

Proposed by GMc, seconded by LL

3. Matters arising

- The abandoned car has now been moved from Gorthleck
- 3 new defibrillators are now installed and ready for use at the Foyers Stores, The Loch Ness Campsite and The Whitebridge Hotel. Further training has been arranged for Tuesday 11th April from 7pm at The White Bridge Hotel. Book places via SFCC Secretary Kim burton on 486297 or kim.burton2@icloud.com
- Deer fence at Boleskine Graveyard
GMc still in the process of obtaining prices for new fences – issues with the gate

4. Reports

- Fire – Nothing to update. 1 new recruit and a further 2 possible recruits. The Fire Service is in the process of making the initial training easier to attend, by making it shorter duration and more local venues. Communication received from John MacDonald, Fire Scotland LSO – Highlands, that 4 companies have registered an interest carrying out the work to install toilets at the Foyers Fire Station. Quick quote documentation has been sent out and it is hoped that the toilets will be installed by the end of March/early April.
- Trust – PCo Steve Watson returned to work at the beginning of March on a phased return. SFCC & SFCT chairs are to have a meeting with the new community benefit negotiators to aid with transition into their new roles.
- BCC – Has been undertaking the 2nd part of their feasibility study over the past few months and will be holding an open day at their new Lower Foyers unit on Saturday 18th March to share the findings of their report, have a look around the new unit and have a cup of tea. The unit will be open from 10am -12noon. All welcome.
- Police Report – 1 road traffic hazard and 2 incidents relating to driver behaviour. 1 public protection matter and 1 report of theft. During this period there were also 3 advice/assistance incidents and 1 firearms offence. The police continue to monitor speed in areas previously identified as concern areas. There were reports at the last meeting of a card skimming device on the cash machine in Fort Augustus. Police have confirmed that a very sophisticated skimming device was located in the cash machine near the shop. This has now been removed and an International Police Investigation has been mounted.

5. Renewables

- Stronlaig – Liaison group are still looking at ways to stop construction traffic going across the Strath. A camera is to be installed at the site entrance to capture vehicles turning right towards the Strath instead of left towards Fort Augustus. Corrina Scholes will communicate to smaller contractors (waste skip lorries etc..) that the designated route is

via Fort Augustus and not across the Strath. Traffic Management of the road works on the Fort Augustus hill have been improved meaning no delayed school pick-ups and drop-offs now. All are advised the keep reporting construction vehicles speeding across the Strath to Catriona Fraser.

6. Roads

- Improvements to laybys between Dores and Foyers are still ongoing.
- Aberchalder Road end crumbling at the edges and would appear was never finished off properly. MDo to investigate.
- Communication received from John Taylor of The Highland Council stating that the road between Dalcarg and Chapel Bridge would be looked at in due course.

7. Planning

- No new planning applications this month

8. Correspondence

- Alistair Chisholm and John Duncan from the South Loch Ness Heritage group attended the meeting following communication that had been received relating to the proposed re-location of the Gorthleck War Memorial to make it more accessible to people. It was unanimously agreed by all at the CC meeting and previously at the SLNHG meeting that the war memorial is to stay in its present location with no upgrade of access to summit of outcrop or handrails. The only addition to the site that is intended and accepted by the community is the provision of an information board at road level containing pictures of the inscriptions on the memorial. MDa to ensure this is communicated back to THC.
- Email communication received re: work to be undertaken on the pass of Inverfarigaig involving the use of traffic management in the form of stop/go boards. The work is required to stabilise 2 boulders above the road and remove a couple of hundred metres of fencing adjacent to the road. The work will be undertaken by BAM Ritchie and is expected to take around 2-3 days to complete. Work is expected to be undertaken during week commencing 13th March 2017.

9. Up & coming events

- Boleskine Community Care Open Day – Saturday 18th March, 10am-12noon, Lower Foyers Unit
- Etape Loch Ness – Sunday 23rd April - road closure map & times can be found on the SFCC website and Etape Loch Ness website.
- Quest Loch Ness – 10th June
- Loch Ness Marathon – 24th September. Road closure map & times can be found on the Loch Ness Marathon website.
- Loch Gu Loch – 30th September. No road closure for this event.
- Deloitte Ride Across Britain – affecting routes in Gorthleck on 16th September. No road closures.

10. AOCB

- Changes to school and local buses – contract is changing to D&E from Easter. In addition the IRA are moving to a 4.5 day week meaning that there will need to be provision to bus the children home from the IRA at 12:30 on a Friday. This is currently in the form of a service bus. Further information will be posted once it becomes available to the SFCC.
- SSE Apprenticeship Scheme is now taking new applicants. Please visit the SSE website for further details and an application form.
- Quest Loch Ness have advertised on their website that they have a multi discipline event taking place from Foyers on 10th June. The Community have not been consulted on this new event, and have not been provided with any information relating to routes etc...

- **Broadband Update from the SFCT** – The SFCT have had a broadband team that have been attending meetings since November 2015 with Community Broadband Scotland to look at a solution for broadband issues in our local area but working as a larger team to cover the whole of our Highland Council Ward area (Aird & Loch Ness). This project, due to its scale would have needed a large amount of investment but came to a halt in November 2016, mainly due to the fact that despite waiting all that time, BT had still not made public which postcodes they would or would not reach with their superfast roll out. This was a problem as BT received large amounts of Government funding to do this project & areas cannot be double funded. It was at this point that the Directors from SFCT informed the larger group that we would be looking into a smaller scale solution for our own local area as we knew how important it was for many in our Community & how big a part it will play in the development of rural areas. We were also acutely aware of how long this project was taking. We are delighted to announce that we are about to start the roll out of phase 1 of our wireless broadband project. We have been working hard with a local business, 'Cromarty Firth Wireless Networks' (CFWN), to find the best location to start the roll out. This company are already running a very successful project similar to this on the Black Isle & now also cover Culloden Moor & the Beaully Firth. Initially, the feed will come from the high speed cabinet at Gorthleck & will be bounced to two receivers in the Whitebridge area in locations chosen by CFWN to give optimum coverage. This will be the 1st phase & will be tested fully before going live. This system will deliver speeds of up to 50Mbps, will be unlimited & will cost £30 a month. SFCT are investing an initial £8,413.50, and then there will be smaller amounts invested after this for the next phases. There is equipment & set up costs fee per household of about £300 but there is government grant of £260 that householders may be able to apply for. SFCT are also looking into ways to help. We will contact residents in households that may be able to get coverage from phase 1 & those who would like to can sign up & get connected. The aim once phase 1 is up & running is to continue right away to roll out to other areas & allow the system to grow organically depending on need. One of the receivers in Whitebridge has line of sight to Errogie & we already have plans to get it to as many of you as want it. Lower Foyers are now to get a new BT cabinet which will give coverage to that area & one of our plans will be to use that cabinet to reach Inverfarigaig. We are also aware of issues in Torness but hope to get over there either by Trinloist or over the hill from the Errogie direction. We also hope that we can pass the baton on, so to speak when we reach our Community boundaries or pass it across the Loch to enable adjoining Communities to join in. Finally, we will host an open day in the Stratherrick Hall (date to be arranged) once phase 1 is up & running so that any queries can be answered. We are hopeful of work commencing within the next 4-6 weeks.
- Concerns were raised by Glenlia Residents re: irresponsible dog owners allowing their dogs to roam freely at all hours, and leave 'mess' all over the place. The Police advised that they will get involved if dogs are roaming that are seen as a danger to the public, and if such dogs are seen then local residents are to note the dates/times, and get pictures if possible. 2 witness statements are usually required for the police to take action. The Council advised that local residents contact the HC's Environmental Services department and dog warden regarding free roaming dogs and owners not picking up after their dogs. Glenlia resident Tim Lucas has agreed to co-ordinate logging of incident and witness statements from the community. Tim can be contacted via the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Facebook page.

11. Next meeting

Tuesday 28th March 2017, Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck.

Meeting closed at 21:15