

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28th MARCH 2017
AT STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK AT 19:30

1. Present

Kim Burton (KB)	Catriona Fraser (CF)	Martin Donnelly (MDo)
Gordon McAndie (GMc)	Liam Longbottom (LL)	Jennie Davlin (JD)
Margaret Davidson (MDa)	Ian Bateman (IB)	

Apologies

Dr Jean Davis, Phil Crowe

2. Alex Macleod (A82 Project Officer, Forest Enterprise Scotland) Gleann Liath – Proposed Felling – Community Impact

Alex outlined the FC's plans for felling in the Glenlia area over the forthcoming decade.

Areas either side of the Glenlia road are planned for felling at different times, however there is a chance for both areas to be done at the same time if the impact on the community will be less.

These areas already have large amounts of wind fallen trees, making both areas dangerous and challenging for felling.

The steep rocky areas will be hand felled with the timber being transported up the Glen to the existing timber haulage route via skylines. The larger flatter areas will be felled by mechanical means.

Although it is envisaged that timber will be transported up the glen to the existing timber haulage route, if both areas are felled at the same time, there is an opportunity for the FC to adopt the Glenlia road from The Highland Council and close the entire road for a period of time.

There would be some flexibility over the time of year the felling takes place to ease the impact on the community.

Concerns were raised over the entire timber haulage route to be used, for both felling and transporting the timber out of the Glen. SFCC would like to have a direct input in to determining the haulage route(s) to be used, and the policing methods implemented to ensure they are used. Agreed that Alex MacLeod would return to an SFCC meeting after the summer to discuss further.

3. Adoption of last minutes

Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th February 2017 were adopted after 2 minor changes.

Proposed by LL, seconded by GMc

4. Matters arising

- Deer fence at Boleskine Graveyard

GMc still in the process of obtaining prices for new fences – issues with the gate

5. Reports

- Fire – 1 new applicant. Still no toilets installed.

MDa to chase up the toilet install

- Trust – Proposed wireless broadband plans are moving along. SFCT will own the infrastructure with Cromarty Firth Wireless undertaking any maintenance.
New grant introduced for school trips for kids living in the community.
HRI Architects appointed to work on plans for land at lower Foyers.
Work to start on the foyers slipway in summer.
- BCC – Open day was well attended. Progress report on the feasibility study was outlined at the open day. Unit is now open Tuesdays and Thursday from 10am – 3pm. Please call in.

- Police Report – 1 minor non injury road traffic collision due to weather conditions, 1 conditional offer issued for speeding offences, 1 report of a neighbour dispute and 1 report of a noise complaint.

Static speed checks have been carried out by Road Policing Units after request received at meeting on 28/02/17. One person warned and one conditional offer made. Police have requested that the SFCC request THC carry out a speed survey in the areas of concern and provide the police with a copy of the report.

A boat has been recovered on Loch Ness in early March 2017. The owner has not presented themselves to claim the boat. If anyone has knowledge of whom the boat may belong to or if anyone has lost a boat, please ask them to contact the police.

A briefing was also issued by Chief Constable Phil Gormley QPM of Police Scotland following the tragic events in London on Wednesday 22nd March 2017. The full statement can be read on the SFCC website.

6. Renewables

- Stronlaig – Signs now in place at Ness Side roundabout advising the windfarm traffic to use the A9(N), A82.
Some vehicles identified as using the Strath roads have in fact been travelling to and from Dunmaglass windfarm, not Stronlaig.
Vehicles that may be delivering/picking up from Dunmaglass and Stronlaig, will be permitted to continue their journey across the Strath
Local community to continue to monitor and report windfarm vehicles using the Strath.
- Dell – Noises again being made about the proposed 14 turbine Dell Estate Windfarm.

7. Roads

- Initial improvements to laybys between Dores and Foyers are now complete.
- Concerns regarding the number and size of potholes on local roads. Locals advised to report potholes to the SFCC Secretary or to THC direct
- New barriers installed on the road side between the Foyers park and the SSE intake. Concerns regarding the mess the contractors left and local business signs that were damaged.
KB to send photos and letter of complaint to HFBC contractors
- Aberchalder Road end crumbling at the edges and would appear was never finished off properly.
MDa to chase up.
- 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.
Follow up email and new photos to be sent - KB

8. Planning

- Construct an access for car turning/parking area
Land 330M NE of Craggiemhor The Turns Foyers
- Demolish church hall & replace with house & garage (original permission 08/00967/FULIN)
Foyers church hall (Historic) Foyers
- Repair existing forestry access roads
Land 1220M SW of Fairburn Cottage Foyers
- Erect holiday accommodation
Land 30M NE of Keepers Croft Glenlia Foyers
- Erection of house
Land 50M SW of Fox Hill Cottage, Whitebridge
- Purification of the following conditions of 11/01495/PIP): 1(i), 1(ii), 1(iii), 2, 3, 5
Land 100M NE of Myrtle Cottage Whitebridge
- Planning has been refused for development in lower Foyers due to access issues.

- Pre-planning notice received for EE Application for an Emergency Services Network mast at IV2 6UW
- Discussions around the lack of affordable housing. MDa advised that previous affordable housing plans in Gorthleck and Foyers have not received enough interest to be taken forward.

9. Correspondence

- Bailey Bridge, lower Foyers – update received from Norman Smart advising that a cantilevered walkway currently installed on the Nairn Harbour bridge could be moved to the lower Foyers bridge to provide separate, and safe pedestrian access. The Nairn Harbour bridge is now closed to vehicular traffic, hence why the pedestrian walkway has become available. The cantilevered walkway could be bolted on to the side of the current bailey bridge. MDa advised that this would not affect the chances or timescale for getting a completely new bridge in lower Foyers. SFCC unanimously agreed that this would be a positive step and should go ahead.

MDa to advise to go ahead asap

- Foyers Public Toilets – Cleaning job to be advertised and toilets to be opened asap.
KB to advertise for a cleaner for the public toilets
- Buses – no change to current times; Whitebridge services now appear in 2 timetables; Departures for Foyers use the Inverness Bus Station; Buses returning back to town early evening and coming out early morning will take passengers; Secondary school bus for the top road villages will now revert back via Dores route; Last bus from town to Foyers will continue up to Fairyburn and Compass as far as Whitebridge if there are passengers aboard the bus at Foyers.
- Update on adoption of Errogie corner and Dunmaglass Bridge phone boxes. Application to adopt via THC's consultation process is still on going, however, the SFCC can apply direct to BT to adopt these phoneboxes.

KB to apply direct to BT for adoption of both phone boxes

10. Up & coming events

- 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.

11. AOCB

- Quest Loch Ness have still not provided any information to the SFCC regarding the community impact of their new event in June
KB to invite a representative from Quest Loch Ness organisers to next SFCC meeting

12. Next meeting

Tuesday 30th May 2017, 19:30, Foyers Primary School

Meeting closed at 21:40