

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

1. Present

Catriona Fraser (CF)	Kim Burton (KB)	Martin Donnelly (MDo)
Gordon McAndie (GMc)	Phil Crowe (PC)	Jennie Devlin (JD)
Ian Bateman (IB)	Liam Longbottom (LL)	
Cllr Margaret Davidson (MDa)	Cllr George Cruickshank (GC)	

Apologies

None

2. Morag Fraser, Caledonian Concepts – Etape 2017 debrief

Now in it's 4th year, the Etape Loch Ness continues to grow and attract more riders from outside the Highlands, Scotland and the UK.

5200 entries this year, with 4200 'over the starting line'

Biggest reasons for people to enter – Closed roads, Scenery & location

Main charity MacMillan have raised in excess of £260k plus many other charities were also represented by those collecting sponsors

230 marshals and volunteers help make the event possible

Caledonian Concepts are donating £750 to each community affected by the event

Next year's event is likely to take place on 29th April 2018 with similar numbers

There was one very bad crash during this year's event. The cyclist involved continues to recover in hospital. Many other cyclists stopped to help which was great to see.

Feedback from some competitors that 'etiquette' from some riders during this year's event was not great and could there be more emphasis on this to all riders next year?

3. Mikko Takala, Connected Loch Ness – Rural broadband options

Mikko gave some background on Connected Loch Ness and the TV whitespace option.

Connected Loch Ness, in partnership with Broadway Partners can offer a line of sight option for those that have it, or the TV Whitespace option that does not require line of sight. Both options will provide the same speed of service and will be charged at the same monthly rate.

Currently the smart antennas cover a radius of 10km and can provide speeds of around 30mbs however a trial is underway in Wales to install antennas that cover a wider radius and provide increased speeds of up to 70mbs.

The infrastructure is being fully funded by Broadway Partners themselves, with no grants or loans. There will be a £200 installation fee for each household, however a voucher can be applied for from Better Broadband Scotland to cover this cost. Connected Loch Ness will provide assistance with voucher applications from BBS.

Monthly prices will be in-line with, but never more than BT Infinity prices. Currently around £25 per month.

Standard 12mth contract will be offered, however there will likely be an 18 month contract on offer to those that aren't eligible for the BBS voucher and want to pay the installation fee over the length of the contract rather than 1 lump sum.

Connected Loch Ness are also looking into a second subscription level for those that only use a small amount of internet per month (check emails, watch Netflix etc..). This could be as low as £10 per month.

Once installed, there would be no need to also keep your landline, as phone calls can also be made over the broadband using Voice Over IP (VOIP) technology.

A business subscription level is also being looked into and developed for those that run local hotels, or B&B's etc...

Local installers are used for all installations.

Phase 1 infrastructure is already being installed and should be accessible and the Craighdarroch imminently. Please pop down to the Craighdarroch and check out the speeds for yourselves. Should be live and available for others to sign up to, within the next month.

Anyone wishing to find out further information or register their interest for when the system goes live to the public, can do so by visiting; <http://connected.lochness.co.uk>

4. Adoption of last minutes

Minutes of the last meeting held on 25th April 2017 were adopted with 1 minor spelling mistake change

Proposed by GMc, seconded by PC

5. Matters arising

- Deer fence at Boleskine Graveyard

KB working with Steven Watson to put a tender pack together and send out to contractors for tender.

- Still no toilets installed at the fire station

MDa to continue to chase

6. Reports

- Fire – The fire fighters have been quite busy lately with numerous wild fires. Recruitment and training of recruits is ongoing. Still no toilets installed. Neil Kirkland advised that this would be brought up at the forthcoming visit/inspection by Fire Scotland.
- Trust – Broadband trial install progressing with Cromarty Firth Wireless. Boleskine Community Care attended the last SFCT meeting to give a presentation on the second part of their feasibility study.
- Police Report – 1 report of inappropriate driver behaviour, 2 public protection incidents, 1 report of disorder, 1 report of house break in – enquires continuing although this does not appear to be related to traveling criminals, 1 report of theft – enquiries ongoing however this will likely be de-crimed in the near future and changed to false call good intent. There have also been 2 incidents of stray animals, one assistance and advice call and one non-reportable fire. Due to ongoing concerns raised from the community a request has been made for traffic monitoring equipment along the B852 within Foyers.

7. Renewables

- Stronlaig – continued issues with traffic management and tar lorries using the strath. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the content of SSE's Traffic Management Plan dated 5th April 2017 that clearly states that ALL Stronlaig windfarm construction traffic vehicles will display an ID plate on the front and rear of their vehicles at all times. Further lengthy discussions took place about what is and is not defined as 'construction traffic'. No community benefit update yet.

CF and MDa to discuss these at the next Stronlaig Liaison meeting on 7th May

- Aberarder – no update

8. Roads

- Communication received from John Taylor of the Highland Council stating that the section of road between Foyers and Chapel Bridge was not high on their list of repair priorities and would likely have some work down during June / July / August.

KB to request they review this section and reschedule work for sooner

- Concerns from resident of the Coach House and Foyers Hotel re: the speed of vehicles travelling on the section of road coming into and out of Foyers at this end of the village. There is a blind corner just after the Hotel, and also the junction to Lower Foyer on this stretch. Proposed that the 30mph speed limit should be extended to cover the whole village, and more prominent village entry signs be displayed.

MDa to ask THC road engineers for proposals and invite to the next SFCC meeting

- Discussions regarding campsite traffic repeatedly accessing Riverside in lower Foyers. Residents suggest that further more prominent signage advising that it is a dead end road for resident only (with the exception of the cemetery)

MDa to take up with THC Roads Engineers

- No signs within Foyers directing traffic to the cemetery. Issues with many lost drivers during a recent burial.

MDa to take back to THC

9. Planning

- One retrospective application for an access track at Dunmaglass.
- EE mast on Land 290m East of South bungalow, Gorthleck has been passed (17/01716/FUL)

10. Correspondence

- Communication received re: unlawful access to the land to the rear of Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck – enquiries ongoing
- No bus to Whitebridge after 12:30 on a Friday when IRA goes to a 4.5 day week
- D&E have issued new timetables for buses to Foyer and Whitebridge, effective from 5th June. These are available on the D&E website, from the Project Co-ordinator or on the local noticeboards.

11. Up & coming events

- Quest Loch Ness – Now postponed until 2018 due to lack of interest
- 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.
- Dunmaglass sponsored walk – Saturday 24th June

12. AOCB

- CF reported that initial conversations with the SFCT regarding a 'pot of money' for community projects, rather than the SFCC having to apply for funding for all community projects. SFCT to discuss at their next meeting.
- MDa advised that the Highland Council has secured £1.5m towards timber transport
- KB gave an update on the possible adoption of BT phone boxes at Errogie corner and Dunmaglass. BT have advised that the SFCC cannot adopt these kiosks as the Highland Council has objected to their removal due to the poor mobile coverage in the areas, however it would appear that the telephony equipment has already been removed from the kiosks.

KB to request THC & BT investigate further

- Concerns raised over increase in timber lorries on the top road in the past few months. Registrations, hauliers, dates and times have been emailed to MDa

MDa to make enquiries

13. Next meeting

Tuesday 27th June 2017, 19:30, Foyers Primary School

Meeting closed at 21:50