

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018**  
**AT STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK AT 19:30**

**1. Present**

Kim Burton (KB)    Catriona Fraser (CF)    Phil Crowe (PC)  
Dr Jim Cameron (JC)    Liam Longbottom (LL)    Gordon McAndie (GMc)  
Cllr Margaret Davidson (MDa)                          Martin Donnelly (MDo) – late arrival  
Malcolm Sutherland (Caledonian Concepts)

**Apologies**

Ian Bateman (IB)                          Cllr Helen Carmichael

**2. Etape Loch Ness 2018 Event Information**

Malcolm Sutherland of Caledonian Concepts gave an overview of the 2018 event;

- Takes place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – now in it's 5<sup>th</sup> year.
- 5600 entries this year. This is now full to capacity.
- No change to road closure timings or event management from 2017 event
- Increase in participants from outside Scotland
- Further information provided to Police Scotland including alternative routes in the event of an emergency
- Local access for vital journeys will again be made possible via official escorts. Any persons/groups needing vital access along closed roads on this day should contact Caledonian Concepts to discuss further.
- Visit Inverness Loch Ness are a key partner to the event
- Pre-event information will be as in previous years with Royal Mail letter box drops, adverts via press and social media and advanced signage.
- MacMillan are again the key charity for the event and are hoping to top the £1M raised last year.
- Benefit paid to local community councils will increase this year to £1000.
- Emphasis to participants on rider etiquette and safe riding
- Any persons wishing to volunteer to marshal/help at the event should contact Caledonian Concepts.
- Planning for 2019 event already – event likely to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**3. Adoption of last minutes**

Minutes of the last meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were adopted with 1 change. Frank Ellam is the Finance Director, not the Treasurer as incorrectly stated.

Proposed by LL, seconded by PC

\*There was an error in the minutes from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Section 6 – Reports, Trust, 7<sup>th</sup> bullet point, should read “Grants above £20k now go to SSE for final approval after being assessed and approved by the Trust”

**4. Matters arising**

- Deer fence at Boleskine Graveyard. The build up of soil has now been adequately moved away from the fence and evenly distributed around the surrounding ground.

- Meeting held with John Taylor of The Highland Council re: Speed limit concerns at Foyers Hotel, Campsite traffic repeatedly accessing Riverside & no signs directing traffic to Foyers Cemetery.  
*MDa & KB chasing John Taylor for actions required – Invite JT to February Meeting*
- Stone ‘Stratherrick & Foyers’ sign at the entrances into the community (similar to the one at Dores)  
*KB to speak the Heritage Group about their possible involvement in this*
- Upgrading the signage on the paths around Foyers.  
*KB to progress ideas further with Stewart Eastaugh and also discuss with the South Loch Ness Access Group and Visit Inverness Loch Ness.*

## 5. Reports

- Trust
  - Christmas Ceilidhs were a great success and very well attended. The Trust may look to put on another event in the summer.
  - Received £70k from Scottish Canals towards the redevelopment of Foyers Bay.
  - Acquisition of units in lower Foyers continues.
  - Contemplating a joint arrangement with the Knockie Trust in relation to the hardship grants.
  - S&F News shortlisted for Community Newspaper/Publication of the year at a local awards ceremony.
  - Next grant deadline is the end of February.
  - New members always welcome
  - Work to choose a contractor to develop the access to Riverside Field continues.
- Fire
  - A recent fire completely destroyed a residential caravan on the Corriegarth Estate.
- Police Report
  - 11 incidents reported to the police
  - 1 non injury road traffic collision
  - 1 report regarding driver behaviour – driver not traced
  - 1 report of concern for a person – traced safe and well
  - 1 report of disorder – police attended and no complaints being made
  - 1 report regarding a noise complaint – person cautioned and charged
  - 1 report of theft – no suspect identified
  - Police provided advice/assistance for all other incidents including weather related incidents.
  - All Police reports can be found on the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council website: [www.stratherrick.net](http://www.stratherrick.net)

## 6. Renewables

- Stronlaig
  - Liaison Group are pushing for electronic signs to warn of abnormal loads and delays
  - The SFCC held a Community Benefit meeting with Morven Smith and Marian Townsley of SSE directly prior to February’s SFCC meeting. Main points;
    - ❖ SFCC confirmed to SSE that they are happy for the community benefit money to be paid and managed by the Trust
    - ❖ Will be paid in line with Scottish Government Best Practice Guidelines
    - ❖ SSE proposed that S&F would get 50% of the total community benefit
    - ❖ Paid over 25 years

- ❖ SSE would like to see S&F and Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston CC's work together on projects that may benefit both communities
- ❖ Stronlaig Community Benefit will have it's own agreement to those already in existence for other SSE benefits
- ❖ SSE looking towards allowing the Trust greater flexibility with awarding grants. Possibly include enterprise.
- ❖ SSE keen to be 'enabling funders' and happy to discuss existing frameworks if they don't work for all situations
- ❖ SSE happy to provide support and contacts to other areas that work well within other CC's but not currently in ours

## 7. Roads

- Aberchalder road end repairs continue – ongoing since November 2016. Damaged a culvert during recent works and now need to do further work to repair the culvert.
- Gritting;
  - Foyers school road not being gritted
  - Lorries sent to our area are too small
  - Only 2 wheel drive when they need to be 4 wheel drive vehicles
  - Not gritting passing places
  - Need to prioritise the road to the Fire Station
  - The SFCC would like to thank all those local farmers, and any other individuals, that have gone out in their own vehicles and in their own time to help keep the local roads accessible during the adverse winter weather.
  - HC need to re-stock grit bins and distribute grit piles accordingly
  - S&F facebook page has proved very useful during the winter with many updates on road conditions throughout the community.

*MDa to address gritting issues within the Highland Council.*
- Pot holes / repairs;
  - Roads with significant damage/ pot holes;
    - ❖ Compass
    - ❖ Killin Road
    - ❖ Trinloist Road
    - ❖ Ault Na Goire
  - Public advised to report road damage and potholes via the Highland Council website and to email Ward12 Councillors direct. Contact details are on the Stratherrick.net website.

*MDa to address road maintenance issues within the Highland Council*
- Lower Foyers Bridge;
  - Capital programme reduced from £110m to £55m and the lower Foyers new bridge does not feature in the current programme
  - SFCC to continue to push the Highland Council to develop the new bridge design so that there is a 'ready to go' project should any money become available

## 8. Planning

- Erection of house – Land 205m NE of Lyne Cottage Gorthleck (Ref: 18/00296/FUL)
- Installation of 3m high telecoms pole within fenced compound – land 600m SE of Meallagie Whitebridge (Ref: 18/00237/TPNO)
- Erection of sun porch – 9 Riverside Foyers (Ref: 18/00037/FUL)
- Partial change to use of farmland to outdoor manege – South Muirnich Gorthleck (Ref: 18/00006/FUL)
- New ancillary building to form a pool, gym and sauna – The Shack, Whitebridge (Ref: 17/05750/FUL)

- Extension – Lower Cultie Cottage, Gorthleck (Ref: 17/04901/FUL)
- 'I support equal rights of appeal' postcards have been distributed within the community. These should be sent to Kate Forbes, MSP, and are to campaign for Communities to have the same rights of appeal against planning decisions that developers have.

## 9. Correspondence

- Letter received from Highland Small Communities Housing Trust requesting to meet with the SFCC regarding plans for some land they own in Inverfarigaig.  
*KB to contact HSCHT to arrange a date to meet*
- Information received from Loch Gu Loch organisers Durty Events, advising of 2018 event date and course information.
- Quest Loch Ness – there will not be a 2018 event but work is in progress to hold a 2019 event.
- Visit Inverness Loch Ness contacted the SFCC regarding their plans to gain funding for a Ranger, and seeking a letter of support from the SFCC to accompany their funding application.  
*KB to write to VILN advising the SFCC supports the Range proposal*
- Confirmation received from the Highland Council that the pile of soil in lower Foyers cemetery has now been re-distributed around the surrounding ground.

## 10. Up & coming events

- Boleskine Community Care Friends Evening – 1<sup>st</sup> February from 7pm, lower Foyers unit.
- Kate Forbes MSP Surgery – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018. From 10am at Stratherrick Hall.
- Inverfarigaig Residents Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> February.
- Man v Horse – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018
- Etape Loch Ness – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018
- Rat Race Coast to Coast – Will affect local roads on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September
- Ride Across Britain – Will affect local roads on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Loch Ness Marathon – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018
- Loch Gu Loch – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## 11. AOCB

- Inverfarigaig Residents Group has been set up. CF has been invited to attend their next meeting.

## 12. Next meeting

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 19:30, Foyers Primary School

Meeting closed at 21:10