

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018**  
**AT FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 19:30**

**1. Present**

Kim Burton (KB)	Catriona Fraser (CF)	Phil Crowe (PC)
Dr Jim Cameron (JC)	Gordon McAndie (GMc)	Martin Donnelly (MDo)
Cllr Margaret Davidson (MDa)		

Alex MacLeod (Area Operations Manager, Forest Enterprise Scotland)  
Niall Duncan (Tilhill Harvesting Contracts Manager)  
Duncan Mason (Forestry Commission)  
PC McGill  
Watch Manager Neil Kirkland (Foyers Fire Brigade)

**Apologies**

Ian Bateman (IB)      Liam Longbottom (LL)

**2. Glen Liath Timber Felling Update**

Alex MacLeod, Duncan Mason and Niall Duncan gave an update on the felling arrangements for the felling due to take place in Glen Liath;

- Work due to start end of May 2018 for a 2 year period
- Section 96 in place with the Highland Council for the FC to take temporary control of the Glenlia road, which will be closed from the intake pipe to where it meets the Inverfarigaig Pass due to safety reasons (will only be closed for the minimum required length)
- Planning application submitted to the Highland Council for upgrade works to be carried out on the Glenlia Rd / Trinloist Rd junction
- FC to remain in frequent contact with Highland Council roads engineers with ongoing condition reports of the roads and junctions in use
- There will be a need to be a 6 week closure of a section of the Inverfarigaig Pass from the junction with the Glenlia Rd up to Ault-na-Goire to allow for felling of the timber nearest the road. Advanced warning signs will be erected in appropriate places – top and bottom of the pass, and at Dores. This will not take place until near the end of the project. The Glenlia road will be open when the Pass is required to be closed – both roads will never be closed at the same time.
- Tillhill have advised that it will not be possible to re-open the Pass on a weekend due to the time required to rig up and de-rig the skylines.
- Will return to the August meeting to update on progress and address any issues raised

**Dalcrag extraction update;**

- Machine working in Dalcrag removing the last stumps but will be removed in early May
- Most timber has now been extracted from the site
- No more felling to take place until Glen Liath felling completed
- FC to continue to monitor the temporary road repairs carried out due to concerns raised by the SFCC regarding large stones and rubble on the road.

**Timber Transport Fund**

- Highland Council to submit the application to the Timber Transport Fund by the end of April

- If successful, the money will be used to improve the Glenlia and Trinloist roads after the Glenliath felling
- FC requested that the SFCC send a letter of support of the Timber Transport Fund application to Robin Pope at the Highland Council

*KB to send a letter for support to Robin Pope*

### 3. Upgrading the signage on the paths around Foyers

Item not addressed. Deferred until the next meeting.

### 4. Adoption of minutes from the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were adopted with 2 spelling mistake changes.

Proposed by PC, seconded by GMc

### 5. Matters arising

- Since the erection of the EE mast at Aberchalder, no TV signal is now being received by the houses in the hamlet. EE currently refusing to take any action.
- Draft Dear Fence Tender document for the lower Foyers cemetery received from the Project Co-ordinator.

*MDa to contact EE and agree a suitable resolution*

*SFCC still to discuss, complete the specifics and put out to tender*

### 6. Reports

- Police Report
  - 8 incidents reported to the police
  - 2 reports relating to driver behaviour – drivers not traced
  - Police provided advice/assistance to members of the public for all other incident including weather related incidents
  - PC McGill appealed for locals to remain patient with drivers unfamiliar with the roads during the busy peak tourist season
  - Still a post to be filled at the Fort Augustus station
  - All Police reports can be found on the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council website: [www.stratherrick.net](http://www.stratherrick.net)
- Trust
  - Liaison Director, Dr Jim Cameron gave his Liaison Director report which included updates on, the hardship grant collaboration with the Knockie Trust, South Loch Ness housing needs discussions, new Data Protection Regulations, Lower Foyers Units acquisition, noticeboard maintenance tender exercise and Riverside Field update.
  - A summary of the grants approved during the last round of applications was given. 3 group grants, 1 energy saving grant and 1 medical adaptation grant were approved.
  - It was noted that one donor, Green Highland Renewables, had been acquired by SIMEC Energy, and as allowed, may now pay SFCT a single lump sum rather than continue with regular smaller payments.
  - Meetings to take place between SSE, SFCT and SFCC regarding a concern over the handling of a grant application.
  - Upgrade work at Stratherrick Hall required. Invitations for local trades to tender for joinery, painting, car park and general maintenance contracts have been advertised.

- The full Liaison Director Report can be viewed on the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council website: [www.stratherrick.net](http://www.stratherrick.net)
- Boleskine Community Care
  - Community event 'Generation Games' to be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June from 2pm at the Hub.
  - Recent newsletter clarified who funds which parts of the BCC's work due to some recent community misconceptions
  - BCC's application to the SFCT for a part time paid role is awaiting decision

## 7. Renewables

- Stronlaig
  - Next Liaison Meeting will be in early May
  - Likely to be increased vehicles through Fort Augustus due to delayed turbine deliveries
  - Ongoing concerns regarding convoys of vehicles travelling across the Strath
- Glenshero
  - Have not yet been in touch with Stronlaig re: using existing access
- Dell
  - Correspondence received from Scottish Government's Planning & Environmental Appeals division inviting a representative from the SFCC to participate in the appeals hearing. SFCC accepted the invitation and will have a representative at the hearing.

## 8. Roads

- Condition of the Trinloist rd / Glenlia Rd junction has been rectified.
- Concerns raised over various large pot holes in Boleskine and Foyers.
- Request for a number of signs around the community;
  - Fire station directional signs at Foyers and Gorthleck
  - 'Slow blind summit' sign at Ault-na-goire
  - More 'Use passing places to allow overtaking' along the loch side road – many current signs are old and unreadable
  - 'Road narrowing' signage at the church between Gorthleck and Errogie – fire brigade frequently have to pull vehicles out of the ditch that haven't realised the road goes from dual to single track

*KB to email request for sign to Colin Ross at the Highland Council*
- Request for an update from John Taylor on the signage exercise and road markings he promised at Foyers Lodge

*KB to email John Taylor for an update on the situation*

## 9. Planning

- Demolish existing outbuilding, alter and extend existing house – Lodge Cottage, Easter Aberchalder, Gorthleck
  - Erection of house – Land 90m South East of Guisachan, Allt Na Goibhre, Errogie
- No objections to be made by the SFCC.

## 10. Correspondence

- Invitation from Scottish Government to participate at the Dell Wind Farm appeal meeting
- KB to reply to Forestry Commission*

## 11. Up and coming events

- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Etape Loch Ness – Various road closures. Full details available at [www.etapelochness.co.uk](http://www.etapelochness.co.uk)

- BCC Generation Games event – 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2pm at the Hub in lower Foyers
- 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 – local road closures apply
- Loch Gu Loch – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## **12. AOCB**

- MDa, CF, SFCT Chair Peter Faye, Alan McGuire of the Highland Council and Albyn Housing met with the HSCHT regarding land they currently own in Gorthleck and Inverfarigaig, and the possible development of either for affordable housing
  - The SFCT have expressed an interest in contributing towards the development of the land in Gorthleck, with the view to 2 of the properties being community owned and leased/rented out.
- CF attended the last meeting of the Inverfarigaig Residents Group, who are looking into the possible purchase of the piece of land opposite the horse shoe of houses in Inverfarigaig. The Group also expressed their concern over the possible development of the adjacent land owned by HSCHT, as the village currently has no mains drainage or amenities to support further housing development.
- SFCC requested that the Highland Council arrange for the septic tank for the Foyers public toilets to be emptied

*KB to email request to Debbie Sutton at the Highland Council*

## **13. Next meeting**

The AGM will take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 19:30, Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck, which will be followed by the general SFCC meeting.