

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28th AUGUST 2018
AT STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK AT 19:30

1. Present

Kim Burton (KB)

Catriona Fraser (CF)

Gordon McAndie (GMC)

Ian Bateman (IB)

Jim Cameron (JC)

Martin Donnelly (MDo)

Phil Crowe (PC)

Cllr Margaret Davidson (MDa)

Stuart Bell & Frank MacCulloch – Arvikaconsult Ltd

Apologies

None

2. Arvikaconsult Ltd – Proposed arrangements for carrying out road upgrade works to Dalcrag and Trinloist roads

Stuart Bell and Frank MacCulloch provided an explanation of the arrangements for the required works, and explanations for the reasoning behind the arrangements;

- Money provided by the Scottish Timber Transport Scheme and has to be spent by February 2019;
- Works to commence on Monday 10th September by Leiths Scotland, with widening, patching and drainage on the B852 from the junction at the Tea-room to the first forestry entrance into the Dalcrag felling area. This will take approximately 4 weeks and will involve traffic lights, so delays will be inevitable but hopefully not excessive. The contractor will endeavour to minimise disruption throughout;
- There is similar work to be done from the Tea-room junction to the forestry crossroads on the Trinloist Rd which should take around 2 weeks. The Highland Council have been asked to promote a road closure for this section. Without the closure the work will take much longer and be very disruptive to through traffic. Emergency vehicle and local access will be maintained.
- Following the patching and widening works, there are some sections of the road which are to be overlaid with tar. These works are located throughout the scheme and will involve local traffic control and significant delays. The exact extent of these works will be determined based on remaining budget following the widening improvements, and will take approximately 1 week.
- Questions regarding access issues and times were asked by concerned residents and addressed by Arvikaconsult.
- Discussions took place around access for school bus times, and work. Arvikaconsult stated that the contractor will maintain access for local residents at all times.
KB to forward school bus pick up and drop off times, and details of the locals that will require daily access to and from their properties. Arvikaconsult to forward on to the Contractor.
- Discussions took place around access for Boleskine Community Care workers
KB to forward BCC details to Arvikaconsult who will make direct contact
- Residents were concerned that tourist would use the private road between Craigniche Crossroads and the rear of Foyers Park as an alternative route. Arvikaconsult agreed to erect a 'Private Road' sign at the start of this road.
- Residents also raised concerns about the current state of the Craigniche crossroads, and the knock-on effect that this has had in the past on their BT service which currently runs

under the road. Arvikaconsult were unable to comment on these concerns as they are not involved in any works to widen the crossroads for HGV access.

KB to highlight this concern to Forestry Commission and Tilhill

3. Forestry Commission & Tilhill – Update on Gleann Liath felling

Alex McLeod and Duncan Manson were unable to attend however they provided the following update via email;

- Felling operations began in mid-May with the road through Gleann Liath gated off shortly after that.
- Work is progressing well with the skyline element across Gleann Liath working since early July.
- We have dispatched around 6000 tonnes from the site (about 1/5 of the total contract quantity).
- Operations are on track to complete within the 18 month contract timeline.
- We expect to upgrade the junction below Trinloist very soon after which timber haulage will begin from the Loch Ness side of the Glen.
- We are liaising with the local schools so hope to organise visits for local school children.
- We are encountering some members of the public within the operational area despite the road being closed and prohibition signs being in place; folk are escorted off site when found.
- The bid for STTS funding was successful so improvement works on the roads are expected over the Autumn. (see item 2 above)

*MDa to organise a meeting between local residents and the FC
CF to organise a Public Roads meeting*

4. Adoption of minutes from the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 26th June 2018 were adopted subject to the correction of the date of the community fireworks event, from Saturday 4th to Saturday 3rd November, and the correction of a minor spelling mistake.

Proposed by IB, seconded by CF

5. Matters arising

- Lower Foyers Cemetery deer fence project – work is still on going. Full support has been provided by the Highland Council along with a small financial contribution of £1200 towards new gates.

KB to obtain quotes for gates from fabricators

- Concerns raised by the public that the current service bus times, don't allow people to get to the UHI college on time for a 9am lesson.

MDa to speak with D&E to discuss possible solutions

- KB had previously contacted Colin Ross to request 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

MDa to chase internally within the HC

- GMc is no longer happy to store the community lawnmower and strimmer.

SFCC to source a new storage facility for these items

6. Reports

- Police Report
 - 13 incidents report to the police during July
 - 1 slight injury RTC – no offences
 - 4 non injury rtc's – no offences
 - 1 report regarding driver behaviour – driver not traced
 - 3 reports of concerns for persons – 1 traced safe and well, no trace of 2 persons after searches carried out
 - 1 report of an ongoing disturbance – police attended and 1 person arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
 - 1 report of a noise complaint – advise given
 - Report of pylon on fire – SFRS attended and no requirement for Police attendance
 - All Police reports can be found on the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council website: www.stratherrick.net
- Trust
 - Phase 2 of the community broadband scheme has been agreed by the Trust with an agreed spend of £88k to carry out these works.
 - Still waiting for approval of the access into the Riverside Field
 - Planned future presentation on Riverside Project ideas
 - Community Fun Day on 11th August was a huge success
 - Community Christmas Ceilidh on 21st December – planning a 'concert' style event earlier in the day as well
 - New projector and amplifier system currently being installed at the Stratherrick Hall
- Boleskine Community Care
 - Development Officer Role has now been filled, with local resident Gillian Haston being employed.
 - Several locals took place in the Great Wilderness Challenge events on 11th August to raise funds for BCC – exact amount raised not yet known
 - 2 local residents under BCC care were recently transported to Inverness by Foyers Fire Brigade Watch Manager Neil Kirkland, and were transported around Inverness on a specially adapted rickshaw bicycle, operated by Cycling Without Age.
- Fire Brigade
 - Crew starting to get familiarised with the new appliance – one of the first of its kind in the Highlands
 - Home visits on going
 - Donated £150 to Cycling Without Age
 - Crew taking part in several 'multi-station' events over the past and coming months
 - Hopefully that SFRS will move towards operating the appliance with less mandatory crew numbers in the future

7. Renewables

- Stronlaig
 - All abnormal deliveries have now been completed.
- Glenshero
 - No new updates
- Dell
 - No new updates
- Red John Pump Storage Hydro Scheme
 - Public Pre-Planning meeting was attended by KB.

- Current proposal is to route all traffic off the A9, along the B851 to the Calanour junction, turning left onto the B862 and either dropping down into Dores for work on the outlet, or travelling along the Essich Road to the top works.
- SFCC's concerns regarding the traffic management have been submitted

8. Roads

- Plan received from John Taylor for traffic calming measures (white lining and signage) at Foyers Lodge. Work expected to take place during September/October
- Upgrade works to take place on Trinloist and Dalcrag roads – see point 2 at the start of these minutes for further details.

9. Planning

- New spur on 33kv overhead line for supply to EE mast – Land 315m SW of Compass, Whitebridge – Ref. No: 18/03424/S37
- Erection of shed, greenhouse and formation of barbecue area – The Shack, Wester Drummond, Whitebridge – Ref. No: 18/03102/CLP
- Erection of house – Land SE of Lus Na Gaoithe, Gorthleck – Ref. No: 18/04039/PIP
- Proposed dwelling house, access driveway and parking – Land south of Lynemhor Wood Cottage, Gorthleck – Ref. No: 18/04041/PIP
- Prior notification for Forestry road – land 800m NW of Logie House, Wester Drummond, Whitebridge – Ref. No: 18/03908/PNO
- Prior notification for farm related building works (non-residential) Erection of lamb and sheep handling shed – Dell Farm, Whitebridge – Ref. No: 18/03873/PNO
- No objections to be made by the SFCC, although we are willing to hear from residents for further discussions regarding any planning applications.

10. Correspondence

- Loch Gu Loch cancelled for 2018 – not enough entries to warrant the cost of the event
- War memorial work completed – many comments received stating how good it looks
- South Loch Ness Trail now fully open
- Autumn 'Your Cash Your Choice' event initial organisational meeting held. Representatives from the SFCC attended but once again the event will be held in Drumnadrochit.
- Highland Small Communities Housing Trust AGM & Dinner taking place on 14th September

11. Up and coming events

- The Beast Race & Dores Gala – Saturday 2nd September
- Rat Race Coast to Coast – Will affect local roads on Saturday 8th September
- Rural Transport Convention – 11th & 12th September – Jury's Inn, Inverness – further details at: <https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/rural-transport-convention>
- Ride Across Britain – Will affect local roads on Saturday 15th September 2018
- Loch Ness Marathon – Sunday 23rd September 2018 – local road closures apply
- Community Fire Works Event – Saturday 3rd November at Loch Ness Shores Campsite
- Community Kids Christmas Party – Sunday 16th December 2-4:30 – Subject to funding
- Community Christmas Ceilidh & afternoon concert – Friday 21st December

12. AOCB

- Your cash Your Choice event will take place at the Craigmorie Centre in Drumnadrochit on 13th October 2018. There is a total of £10k to be allocated to winning applicants. Maximum grant amount is £500. Applications must be submitted by 1st October and are open to anyone in the SFCC area. Further information and application forms can be found at the following website:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11267/your_cash_your_choice_aid_and_lochness_it_s_your_chance_to_have_your_say

- IBC of oil still at Dunmaglass Forestry road end – FC to relocate
- SFCC discussed the possibility of holding an interim election with a view to gaining more elected councillors. Currently only 4 are elected, and the other 3 are co-opted or associate members. Still to progress.

CF to ask Charles Stephens to stand the cost of an election should there need to be one as the SFCC do not have the funds to cover such a large cost.

- KB to obtain quotations to design new public toilets and get the project through planning to building warrant stage, with a view to submitting a grant application to the Trust before the end of the year.

KB still progressing

- Questions asked as to who is now maintaining the grass verge between the lower and upper car parks at the Falls of Foyers. The Highland Council agreed to maintain this area, and have removed the shrubs and laid the entire area to grass seed so that they can cut it using the tractor in the future.

- Notification of damage to some of the equipment within the Gorthleck playpark received.

SFCC to investigate and raise with their insurance

- Concerns raised regarding the poor state of the Dalcrag picnic/wild camping area. Reports of repeated ‘toilet waste’ being emptied by campervans, and wild campers not following the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

SFCC to discuss further the possibility of landscaping the area to prevent vehicle access and wild camping.

- Concerns raised regarding the frequency the public bins at the Falls of Foyers are emptied, as they always seem to be over-flowing.

MDa to raise within the HC

13. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th September 2018, 19:30 at Foyers Primary School.

Meeting closed at 9:25pm