

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25th SEPTEMBER 2018
AT FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 19:30

1. Present

Kim Burton (KB)

Catriona Fraser (CF)

Gordon McAndie (GMc)

Ian Bateman (IB)

Jim Cameron (JC)

Phil Crowe (PC)

Cllr Margaret Davidson (MDa)

Apologies

Martin Donnelly (MDo)

2. Adoption of minutes from the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th August 2018 were adopted subject to the addition of the following sentence at the end of section 9 – Planning; “The SFCC are willing to hear from residents for further discussions”.

Proposed by GMc, seconded by JC

3. Co-option / Association of any new members / Interim Election

The possibility of holding an interim election are currently on hold as the SFCC does not have the funds to send out ballot papers and return envelopes to all Stratherrick & Foyers residents should a public vote be required. The SFCC have asked Ward Manager, Charles Stephens, if the HC would cover the cost of such an election if required, but this has been refused. The SFCC will now apply to the Ward Discretionary Budget for funds to cover an election.

4. 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.
Quotes being received. Application to the Trust to be submitted before 21st October - KB
- D&E have altered the Whitebridge bus timetable and a connecting bus from the IRA so that college students can now get to the UHI for a 9am start. The new timetable will be effective from 29th October and can be found on the D&E website.
- KB had previously contacted Colin Ross to request a number of signs around the community;
 - Fire station directional signs at Foyers and Gorthleck – **Agreed that a directional sign will be installed off the B861.**
 - ‘Slow blind summit’ sign at Ault-na-goire – **Installation of a ‘blind summit’ sign in isolation when all the other hazards on this section of road are not signed would not really be beneficial in terms of overall road safety.**
 - More ‘Use passing places to allow overtaking’ along the loch side road – many current signs are old and unreadable – **HC looking at installing more**
 - ‘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 – **Although there is clearly a sign in place, the HC agree there is still a problem and will install edge lines on the double width section to assist in ‘training’ the northbound traffic into the narrowed section. They will also install ‘Slow’ markings at the sign and a ‘single track road use passing places’ sign.**
- GMc is no longer happy to store the community lawnmower and strimmer.

5. Reports

- Police Report
 - Only 2 incidents report to the police during September
 - 1 person urinating in public
 - Police provided advice and assistance to all other calls
 - All Police reports can be found on the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council website: www.stratherrick.net
- Trust
 - AGM to take place on 28th November in Stratherrick Hall
 - Units in lower Foyers are now secured and fit-out/decoration work can now commence
 - Still require a Liaison Director appointed by the SFCC
 - Work on the Foyers slipway continues. pontoons have been donated from Drumnadrochit and hope to be moved to Foyers soon.
 - Work to install vehicle and pedestrian access into the Riverside field is being carried out by McGowans. Vehicle access gate will remain locked, but the pedestrian gate will be unlocked meaning the field can be accessed and used by walkers etc...
 - 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
 - AGM to take place on 3rd November – 4 current Trustees standing down so very keen to get new people involved
 - Looking for a new Treasurer to replace current Treasurer Lyn
 - Expanding into both units down in lower Foyers with many opportunities to explore new care services
 - Please get in touch with BCC direct if you are interested in becoming a Trustee and would like further information
- Fire Brigade
 - Foyers crew have had a quiet month with calls but a busy month with training, taking part in a multi pump RTC exercise at Inverness Station involving 5 other stations.
 - 2nd exercise was a water rescue involving Foyers, Fort Augustus and Drumndrochit stations along with HM Coastguard and the Swift water rescue team from Inverness.
 - Home fire safety visits are ongoing and another 2 Carbon Monoxide detectors have been installed
 - 1 new potential recruit who is currently awaiting dates for his fitness test
 - Driver rapid response vehicle training is taking place with Cobra Cold Cut Lance training also being carried out over the next few weeks.

6. Renewables

- Stronlaig
 - SFCC Chair, Catriona Fraser, and SFCT Chair, Peter Faye, met with SSE’s Morven Smith last week to discuss SSE’s plans to set up a panel to help smaller communities receiving community benefit for the first 3 years to administer and manage their funds. The panel will be made up of representatives from Laggan, Speanbridge, Glengarry, and Stratherrick & Foyers. Anyone interested in joining the panel should contact Catriona Fraser in the first instance.

- Glenshero
 - Full planning application has now been submitted, with the proposed transport access being via Fort Augustus and up to the existing Stronlaig access road. The SFCC have until the 19th November to log its comments/objections.
- Dell
 - No new updates – still at appeal.
- Red John Pump Storage Hydro Scheme
 - No new updates
- Cloiche
 - SSE have submitted a Scoping Application for a new 40 turbine wind farm that will sit between Glendoe, Corriegarth and Glenshero. SFCC have until 20th October to respond to the Scoping Application with comments, objections and concerns.

7. Roads

- Upgrade works on the Trinloist, Glenlia & Dalcrag roads have commenced.
- Updated gritting routes have been issued by the Highland Council. This will involve a better weekend gritting service. Updated route plans are available in the Highland Council website and will be uploaded to the SFCC website in due course
- Updates to the D&E Whitebride service to enable UHI students to arrive on time for a 9am start (See Section 4 – Matters Arising for full details)
- Gutters cleared on the Lochside road
- Public meeting being held on 9th October at 7:30 in Stratherrick Hall to discuss roads and transport issues in Stratherrick & Foyers. Will be attended by the Highland Council, the Forestry Commission and SSE main contractors from the Stronlaig Wind farm.
- The SFCC's application to the SSE's Winter Resilience Fund was successful meaning that 11 community grit bins will be installed around the community before winter.

8. Planning

- Concerns were raised by residents of the Tom O'Mhoid area of Gorthleck regarding 3 recent planning applications within a very small area. After discussing the applications further with the residents and looking into the applications, it was agreed that the SFCC has grounds to object to these applications.

Object to applications in question – KB
- Margaret Davidson advised that it may be beneficial for the SFCC to meet with a Planning Office to discuss all the applications currently being passed in the community that may be outside the previously agreed planning boundary.

MDa to advise who the best Planning Officer to meet with would be
- Scoping opinion required for proposed application under section 36 for the Cloiche Wind Farm – Ref: 18/04606/SCOP

KB to respond with SFCC's concerns and comments before 20th October.
- Erection of house, Land 60m SW of Lochmhor, Gorthleck – Ref: 18/04177/FUL. The SFCC has no plans to object to this application but is willing to hear from the public for further discussions.

9. Correspondence

- Correspondence from Olaf regarding the Stratherrick War Memorial Service of Remembrance to take place on Sunday 11th November 2018 at 3pm.
- Email from Neil Kirkland advising that the Foyers Crew will be on hand to provide traffic and parking management at the Remembrance Service

10. Up and coming events

- BCC AGM – 3rd November

- Community Fire Works Event – Saturday 3rd November at Loch Ness Shores Campsite
- Trust AGM – 28th November
- Community Kids Christmas Party – Sunday 16th December 2-4:30 – Subject to funding
- Community Christmas Ceilidh & afternoon concert – Friday 21st December

11. AOCB

- 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.
Quotes obtained, and application to the Trust to be submitted before 21st October - KB
- 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.
KB to contact the FC to give the go-ahead to landscape this area
- Concerns raised regarding the frequency the public bins at the Falls of Foyers are emptied, as they always seem to be over-flowing. **MDa advised that additional collections will commence after April next year (busy period), but if there is still an issue during the quieter winter months then the SFCC will get in touch with THC to arrange additional collections.**

12. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 30th October 2018, 19:30 at Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck.

Meeting closed at 9:40pm