

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019

### AT STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL AT 19.30

#### **1. Present**

Paula Page (PP) Catriona Fraser (CF) Ian Bateman (IB) Phil Crowe (PC) Jim Cameron (JC) & Cllr Margaret Davidson (MDa)

#### **Apologies**

Martin Donnelly (MDo) & Phil Crowe (PC)

#### **2. Stagecoach, Jim Mooney, Head of Operations –**

PP introduced Jim to the meeting and thanked him for attending. Jim addressed the meeting and spoke of the issues that Stagecoach has been facing and what they are doing to improve them under the improvement plan. Summary of concerns raised by Councillors and members of the public ~ School not being contacted when a bus breaks down – this had been promised at a meeting with PP, Stagecoach and senior management at the Royal Academy but had failed to happen when the bus broke down yesterday. This will happen in future.

Bus to Fort Augustus/Kilchuimen Academy – PP had emailed Stagecoach with a price enquiry about running this route. Reply to follow.

Direct contact with the gritters – CF suggested that this could help both the drivers and HC. MDa to get a telephone number to give to Stagecoach.

Problem with drivers that have never driven the route – the Company are trying hard to avoid this issue and will endeavour to only use drivers that know the route, where possible.

Communication – Stagecoach acknowledged that this area has been poor and they are working hard to improve it.

Poor mechanical and internal condition of busses – This is part of the improvement plan. Busses are checked thoroughly every 28 days.

Cold busses – it was reported that the Whitebridge School bus is very cold in the winter despite having just come out from Inverness. New heating systems have been getting trialled.

PP thanked Jim for attending. Jim Mooney left the meeting.

#### **3. SSE**

Corrina Scholes and Martin attended from SSE to inform the CC of the upcoming maintenance work that is due to take place at the Foyers Hydro plant. Work will start in Nov 19 and be completed by June 20. The plant will be shut down for that period to allow the work to replace the rotor rim. 20-30 lorries are expected over this period. Noted that drivers should avoid school bus times and they should be given maps so that they do not come off the A9 at Daviot and use unsuitable routes.

Lorries will be off a normal size and will not require an escort.

MDa suggested that SSE could give some money for road improvements from Dores to Foyers. IB asked about the water flow as the power station not in use over the winter – Engineers are looking into this and it will be managed.

Corrina introduced Eildh Todd who will be taking on her role at SSE over the next couple of months. PP thanked Corrina, Martin and Eildh for attending.

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

Minutes of the last meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019; Typo error – Page 1, item 4 should read ‘saw’, not ‘seen’, also page 3 item 8 should read ‘Colin Simpson’ not ‘Colin Davidson’.

Minutes were then adopted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed CF, seconded by PP.

#### **5. Micro Grant Applications**

Application received from local singing group for £500. Agreed to pay 80% and pay in two amounts of £200. 1<sup>st</sup> payment to be paid in Oct 19. 2<sup>nd</sup> payment in Jan 20 after proof of attendance shown and proof shown that they are charging £1 per attendee.

2<sup>nd</sup> Application received but directed to SFCT as an energy grant.

#### **6. Matters arising**

At the last CC meeting, MDa had raised the issue that the SFCT had refused Inverness Loch Ness BID an application for part funding of a Ranger to cover the Loch Ness 360 route. MDa had invited SSE to attend this meeting to discuss this matter. Morven Smith of SSE stated that they would be happy to fund an application that was tourist related. In the absence of the Trust’s Chairperson, Gary Page informed MDa and SSE that SFCT hadn’t actually received a full application but a letter. It was also pointed out that the articles of Inverness Loch Ness BID were business based and for some business’s, there was not an option of being a member but a legal requirement to pay a membership which didn’t fit with normal groups that the Trust funded. Admin to contact Inverness Loch Ness BID and the local tourist group. SSE to have a discussion with SFCT

CF still to do the survey monkey for speed restriction

JC to do payment for overdue rent payment for Play Park. Group to look for area for a new play park as lease cannot be extended. Most of the equipment has been removed by HC due to being unsafe. Schools, BCC & SFCT to be asked if they would use the shelters and benches. Land would have to be returned to its previous condition - CF to check terms of Lease.

#### **7. Reports**

##### Police Report

- No official report but 7 or 8 burglaries have taken place in Fort Augustus, all targeting businesses. Admin to contact local police officers for a poster to warn communities and to be vigilant.

##### Treasurer

- Main Account – £5,468.00
- Project / Micro Grant Account – £3,674
- £400 received for toilets from the Comfort Scheme
- EDF have confirmed that a payment of £16 is due back as overpayment

##### Fire Report

- No official report but CF informed the CC that the new crew member was now working

## Boleskine Care

- No report

## Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

- Lots of Trust news will be in the forthcoming Newsletter
- AGM will be on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- PP thanked the Trust for taking on board the comments about the tendering process and setting up such a good system.
- CF thanked the Trust for the wonderful Community barn dance that was enjoyed by many.
- PP told the meeting that IB was standing down as a councillor so could no longer be the CC representative on SFCT. JC and CF also stated they would not be re-standing at the next elections. All agreed to wait till after the elections before another CC representative for the Trust will be picked. Garry Page offered to act as liaison officer until then.

## **8. Renewables**

- Dell Farm won its appeal and has been allowed. Construction management plan required before they can start. The CC was united in opposing the suggested plans at the Suidhe view point. Concern is that this may go ahead now with funding from the wind farm. Community liaison group to be set up.
- Red John – application has been rejected by HC and will now go to a public enquiry.
- Cloiche – is continuing and will probably go to planning next year.

## **9. Roads**

- Chairman of the village hall Hugh Nicol has raised the issue that local residents are parking in what should be a drop off bay for the hall. MDa to look into signs and road markings.
- Hall notice board has been knocked accidentally and person responsible is fixing it.
- B851 – Barrier works and a pavement being put in at Skioch bends
- South Loch Ness District Action Collective meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> Sep. Roads are on the agenda but CC can add to the agenda if they so wish.
- Resilience grant – Apply for folding shovels for Community workers. PP has asked round the Community and groups to see where further grit bins are required. More bins required for Newlands, Garragie and Ault Na Goire. Grit to be delivered to the hall car park again and local fire service will disperse again for the Community. Admin to contact John Taylor to arrange grit and liaise with Fire Service.
- Alec MacLeod (Forestry) been in touch to say that extraction at Dalcrag to be finished by Nov/Dec. Asked if CC anticipated any difficulties – none that anyone aware of.
- Lots of resurfacing/patching work going on. Improvements required on the pass road as patching has made the road undulated. Admin to contact Alan Johnstone.

## **10. Planning**

There are currently two local planning applications in. PP declared an interest in one. No objections to either one.

## 11. Correspondence

- Phone box consultation – BT are currently looking at removing the phone boxes at Errogie, Gorthleck and Dunmaglass. CF said previously BT would maintain power to them if defibrillators put into the telephone boxes, they would remain and BT would maintain the power to them. Admin to speak with BT and SFCT re ownership and funding for further defibrillators for Errogie and Dunmaglass.
- Local Plan – Mda encouraged all Councillors to look at the local area on the plan.
- Toilets – email received to notify the CC that there may be a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of funding from RTIF. Should know for sure by late Sep/early Oct. Admin had got some prices for modular toilets. All agreed to wait to see if RTIF reopens and apply again. Admin had spoken with HC regarding our previous application and had been advised that we should try to gather as much evidence of need before a further application. Admin looking into a clicker on the falls path to count visitors and also requested that all Councillors help by taking pictures of campervans in laybys overnight, waste disposal etc. to allow us to build a case for funding. There is only funding for the portable toilets until Oct 19. CF to get a quote for two toilets over the winter. The £1k from Etape could be used for this and further funding sought.
- Email received from Tim Lucas asking about the survey that was done for the toilets – all agreed to publish the results onto the website.
- Loch Ness 360 – Website has been launched and they are to host a 3 day event in June 2020 which will be run by No Fuss events.
- South Loch Ness Heritage Group – correspondence received to raise awareness that they are looking to raise funds to do work on the mort house by Boleskine House.
- Boleskine House – anonymous email received concerned about activity at the house and religious/cult connotations of new owners and group that are fundraising for the building.

## 12. Up & coming events

- 21<sup>st</sup> September SFCT open meeting for Foyers Bay Project, Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck 2.30pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> September – Spin & Chatter group are hosting a ‘Spin and chatter round the Community’ event and will be visiting different places through the day.
- 6<sup>th</sup> October – Loch Ness Marathon. Volunteers required for start (contact Kim Burton) and water stations at Foyers (contact Morag Cameron)
- 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November – Loch Ness Luvvies production

## 13. AOCB

- There is a new name for Cycling without limits; it is now ‘Spokes for Folks’.
- Notification has come in from HC regarding nominations for forthcoming Community Council elections. Last date for nominations is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 19. All Councillors to encourage members of the Community to consider becoming a Community Councillor. November meeting now going to be on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## 14. Next meeting

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, 7.30pm Foyers Primary School, Foyers