

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 30TH APRIL 2019

AT FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 19.30

1. Present

Catriona Fraser (CF)

Ian Bateman (IB)

Paula Page (PP)

Martin Donnelly (MDo)

Jim Cameron (JC)

Cllr Margaret Davidson (MDa)

Apologies

Phil Crowe (PC)

2. Forestry works update – Alistair MacLeod, Operations Manager, Forestry Land Scotland

- Gleann Liath – work is nearing completion ahead of schedule. Highland Council has agreed remedial works to the road prior to the gates being removed and the road being open again. This should be completed by the end of May. Then the road closure will be moved to the first stone bridge at Inverfarigaig pass to the second stone bridge in the direction of Allt Na Goire for the remaining timber extraction, expected time frame for this is another 4 weeks. Forestry Land Scotland is confident that this will all be completed by the end of June. Alistair asked if there were any issues with the timber extraction to date. CC reiterated that communication with the residents was paramount. Several areas of road were highlighted to Alistair in need of urgent repair and this included the Bell mouth put in at Dalcrag that had blocked off horse rider access. He assured us he would feed these back to Robin Pope and Alistair MacLeod and John Taylor – Highland Council.
- Alistair advised that there is approx. 400 tonnes of timber due to be extracted from the Corkscrew but due to locality / access smaller trailers would need to be used and the unclassified road across the top would be used. He was made aware of the working farm up there, residents and postal service that all would require access. Alistair will report back to CC when operations have been confirmed with a start date.
- Dalcraig – STDs work was completed but after some initial felling, the work was put on hold to concentrate on Gleann Liath. Work will soon be resuming here in the next month or two. There is approx. 8,000 tonnes left to fell resulting in approx. 300 lorry loads. It is expected that 2/3s of this will travel out of the community to Fort Augustus and on to Fort William and the rest down to Foyers. CF asked if Alistair would report back to CC when the plans were firmed up. CF also requested more signage be put up to inform all that the Logging lorries are moving particularly as this will be going in to the busy Tourist season.
- Further point was raised by Neil Kirkland regarding some large Forestry Machinery that has been 'abandoned' for 3 years + now at Dunmaglas. Alistair said he would look in to this too. CF thanked Alistair for attending the meeting and providing all the updates.

3. Adoption of minutes from last meeting

Minutes of last meeting held on 26th March 2019 – Typo error – Page 1 should read Riverside 'Field' not 'filed'. Page 3 should read 'by' SEPA not 'be'.

Minutes were then adopted as a true record of the meeting: Proposed IB, seconded MDo

4. **Matters arising** – none

5. **Administrator & Minute Secretary Job Advert**

CF had received the previous one from Kim Burton. Discussion had and all agreed to include – good knowledge of English Language, working knowledge of Microsoft Software, flexibility necessary, car driver, hourly rate of £15 per hour up to 20 hours per month.

PF pointed out that as this was a Self Employed role that they would need to supply own computer, CF agreed and noted to also stipulate role is a Self Employed one but expenses like stationery / ink would be given.

It was also agreed that all Community Councillors would take on individual roles so the Secretary had a named person to defer items to such as Renewables, Roads... and it was agreed that CC need to set up new emails for all Committee members and Secretary.

CF to draft out full job description and specification and email to Committee, aim to appoint someone by AGM in May.

6. **Reports**

Treasurer

- Main Account 30/04/19 - £5907.16
- Project / Micro Grant Account - £4501.00
- Toilets Account - £2733.20

Fire Report

- 1 new recruit starting training in June
- Potential new recruits who have approached Fire Service
- There have been a few wild fires in the area – Fire Service over the last two years are now being trained in ‘Back Burning’ and are working closely with the Scottish Game Keepers Assoc. to use them as tactical advisers to help and to date has been very successful. There is also a new Muir Burn code leaflet advising on contacting Fire Service.

Police Report

PC Steve Anderson sent his apologies

- March -2 incidents of disorder. Speed checks conducted in Dores / Essich
- April – 1 missing person, 1 search in rescue resulting in 3 people being rescued, 1 report of deception and 1 report of speeding in Dores.

Boleskine Care

- Hub now open – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am
- All welcome - Traditional music group on Tuesdays from 10 am open to those who would like to play or just go and listen
- Hope to start and Art Group soon on Thursday afternoons
- From 6th May on some Mondays – ‘Movin About’ sessions
- Monthly coffee morning next on Wednesday 8th May 10am
- Hub walk Tuesday 7th May at 2pm
- Hope to offer a befriending service soon , hairdressing service and more
- Event - Saturday 1st June The BIG Lunch – national initiative that aims to breakdown social isolation – more details will follow

- Volunteers needed – please contact Gillian on 486247

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust – SFCT

- IB reported that the Wildside open day event was well attended by approx. 200 people. There were a great deal of ideas and suggestions on the future use and name of Wildside and the community were able to view the Riverside project display. The Trust will now collate all the information and suggestions.
- Foyers Bay slip way development is progressing well and the erection of a fence down there is due to start in the next couple of weeks.
- SFCT are planning a Summer Event this year for the community – Barn Dance at Dell Farm, details tbc.
- Peter Faye advised that the Stratherrick Hall had an ‘Emergency’ and SFCT were able to accommodate hall users quickly so activities don’t have to be cancelled. CF thanked the Trust and Peter Faye also thanked fellow Directors who got to the Hall very quickly and were able to make a decision on the Active Grant Awarded to increase it to cover the costs of repairs. Repairs are progressing well. Hall users (day time only) are continuing to be transferred to Wildside temporarily so that all works can be carried out without interruption and quickly.
- With reference to Wildside CF said the CC had received a few questions about why SFCT didn’t appear to get Tenders in at Wildside for any non-emergency work carried out prior to knowing that the hall users needed to be accommodated. Peter Faye listed a variety of jobs (safety of the Electric supply, fencing, drainage, fire extinguishers etc) were all essential and urgent jobs and they were all undertaken after quotes had been asked for. CF explained it had been raised for her to bring up and reiterated that SFCT need to have due diligence as is expected from those who apply to them for Grants. CF suggested in future SFCT could compile a ‘local directory’ of businesses to avoid the perception of ‘cherry picking’ and to pre-empt this happening again in the future. Discussions took place over the “legality” of such a list and CF asked that Ian Bateman raise this at the next SFCT meeting to get further clarity.

7. Renewables

- Red John Pump Storage Hydro
MDa advised that the Roads department have now worked out all of the issues and is hopeful that the Planning Application Committee will reach a decision by the end of June.
- Dell Wind Farm – a hearing will be held in Fort Augustus in May, MDA to email date to CF. Previous issue was the entrance on to main road. CF asked if any members of CC would / could attend. MDo expressed he would hope to attend.
- Aberarder – no update
- Glenshero Wind Farm – currently held up due to SNH objection to the wild land element of application. MDA advised we might not know anything until the autumn at the earliest.
- Stronelairg – SFCT awaiting 3rd payment of £600,000
CF informed all that the Stronelairg Panel met for the first round of application assessments last night in Spean Bridge. CF had received confirmation that CC had

been successful in their application to Stronelaig SSE for funding for temporary toilets in Foyers. They awarded £2356 which was twice the amount applied for so that 4 portable toilets could be hired not 2.

SSE has also calculated the annual grant money that is now available to our community (including RPI) over the next three years for the Stronelaig Panel:

Year 1 £50,000

Year 2 £51,500

Year 3 £52, 736

CF reported that the Panel meeting was interesting as local knowledge from each of the communities represented was invaluable to help with the decision making. CF confirmed that SSE deal with all the grant award money and process all applications, the purpose of the Panel is to assess only.

8. SFCC project updates – Foyers Cemetery Fence, Foyers Toilet

- Cemetery gate and fence have now been erected and CC has received an invoice from the Fencer but not yet from the blacksmith for the gates.
- Foyers Toilets – CF has received an email from the Architects informing that the application for the new toilet building is ready to submit but that a sum of £333.50 needs to be paid with the application to HC. JC advised we do have some funds available to pay this. Discussion had as if we are successful in RTIF application in July we cannot use the money from that award retrospectively. Discussion of various options took place but all agreed we need to get planning permission applied for now so money would come out of CC funds, CF agreed to pay online.

9. Roads

- Some of the issues with road repairs were discussed at the beginning of the meeting with Alistair MacLeod and he will pass on to HC.
- Ongoing report of water / drainage issues on the road behind the Riverside properties, lower Foyers.
- Alex Sutherland reported that the road above the proposed road closure at Allt-na Goire is crumbling and in need of repair, *CF will inform HC Roads team.*
- Suidhe Road repairs still not been addressed in our community area and concerns expressed about the severely crumbling road verges / edges on the Fort Augustus side of the Suidhe – MDa will pass on to Deidre McKinnon , Fort Augustus CC.

10. Planning

House Plot on existing farm / croft land – 19/01665/PIP

Change of use of Myrtle Cottage (unoccupied) to bothy accommodation (ancillary to Gubhais Mor) - 19/01016/FUL

11. Correspondence

Email received from Glenda Bailey, Spin and Chatter Group acknowledging delight in receiving the recently awarded CC Stronelaig SSE Micro Grant.

MDa addressed concerns and complaints regarding Stagecoach primarily on the Foyers to Inverness route. MDa to call a meeting to be held at Foyers Primary school, she intends to invite Stagecoach and Robin Fyffe, IRA to attend. MDa advised PP that the meeting can be advertised on the Community Facebook page as all would be welcomed to attend.

12. Up & coming events

BIG lunch Boleskine Community Care 1st June 2019

SFCT Summer Dance tbc 2019

Heritage Group "Celebrating 100 years of the Forestry " - date to be confirmed but will take place in June at Gorthleck Hall over two days.

13. AOCB

- Etape – Peter Faye expressed serious concerns about the speed that Emergency vehicles were able to get to an emergency and that the communication system was poor. MDa and CF assured all that Mike Dignan, Events Co-ordinator always contacts Marshalls for feedback after the event and hoped these concerns would be passed on. Malcolm Sutherland, Caledonia Concepts, also comes to CC meeting to get feedback.
- IB informed all that there is a Forestry Exhibition / Heritage Group in the Stratherrick Hall in June celebrating 100years of the Forestry.
- Peter Faye – reported a Fly tipping incident that occurred at Wildside the night before the open day of waste plumbing / building materials and food. He has been in contact with the Environmental Officer who is dealing with the complaint and it is hoped a fine will be issued. Alex Sutherland pointed out that is not uncommon for tradesman to fly tip but suggested it is down to members of our community to check who is working for them and to make sure they dispose of waste correctly.
- Peter Faye advised Community Council that Wildside could be used with no charge in the future as a venue for CC to hold meetings so that other hall users are not asked to step down once every two months to accommodate them. CF thanked him for the offer.
- Gorthleck Play Park - concerns raised by residents about its condition and state of repair. If a constituted group within the Community could be established they could apply to SFCT and to Stronelairg Panel for funding. CF advised all that if they applied to Stronelairg Panel they could apply for up to £30,000 with a view to £10,000 of this being released each year for the next three years. HC do not have funds to repair equipment. Neil Kirkland reminded CC that the land was leased for 25 years and a number of these years have passed. CF said she would speak with the land owner to discuss a possible extension. PP said she would support a new group and help with the drafting of a constitution. PP will also approach Sharon Ferguson, Parent Council Chair, Stratherrick Primary School, to see if she could attend their next meeting to discuss the future of the Play Park with the parents. PP to meet with HC Play Park Officer – Peter Kelly to establish what needs to be done at Gorthleck Play Park and to gain access on correct HC procurement companies as new equipment must comply with HC and to gain advise on moving forward with this project. *MDa to introduce Peter Kelly and PP.*

14. Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th May, 19.30, Gorthleck Hall – preceded by AGM at 7:15pm

CF thanked all those who attended, meeting closed

