

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 28th JANUARY 2020

AT FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. SSE – Cloiche Wind Farm

SSE had asked to come along to the meeting to do a short presentation on the proposed Cloiche Wind Farm, which if planning permission allowed, will be a further 36 Wind turbines on the same site as the current Stronelairg Wind Farm. Public consultation will take place on Tuesday 4th February, 3pm – 7pm Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck. Proposal is that the turbines are brought in via Fort Augustus, same as they did for Stronelairg but they will be bigger than the ones previously used. Noted, that no formal Community Benefit negotiations can take place until planning has been decided.

2. Present

Paula Page (PP), Gill Gray (GG), Alannah Graydon (AG), Simon Hargreaves (SH), Patrick Haston (PH), Abi Kirkland (AK), Lorraine Lewis (LL) & Caroline Mortimore (CM).

Apologies

None received

3. Adoption of minutes – Inaugural meeting 17th December and CC meeting 17th December 2019

Minutes of the inaugural meeting on 17/12/19 were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed GG, seconded by PP.

Minutes of the CC meeting on 17/12/19 were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed SH, seconded by AG

4. Micro Grants

One application has come in since last month ~

1. Friends of the Inverness Royal Academy – local group set up for teenagers in the area that are looking for £500 to pay for insurance, membership of Youth Scotland and equipment for a youth café that they have just started running. PP declared an interest in the application. All approved.

5. Matters arising

- Still awaiting reply from BT regarding installing de-fibs in active telephone boxes but admin has chased it up
- Road defects to be put on an interactive map along with locations of grit bins

6. Reports

Treasurer

- No report of figures at present as new treasurer (LL) only met with previous treasurer last week due to ill health. All agreed that new signatories would be PP, LL & PH. Admin had been into the bank to get the forms but all new signatories will have to go in at some point.

Police Report

- PP read out the report sent by the local police officer; road sign damaged on the Essich to Drumashie Road, Motorist received fixed penalty for driving without MOT, several non-injury minor road traffic collisions due to poor weather conditions and one person charged with possession of a small amount of cannabis.
- Also the following text; *Police have become aware of a homeless male in the Foyers area who has previously been spoken with by Inverness Officers. Local Officers are also engaging with him to offer help and support available. It is anticipated this male will either take the help offered or move on. If anyone has any information or concerns please contact ourselves on 101 or email highlandsandislandsbeaulfortaugustus@scotland.pnn.police.uk*
PP also spoke with one of the Officers prior to the meeting as this issue had been raised with her and they said that any sighting of the man should be reported to them to build up a picture of his movements. They also did not encourage Community members giving the man free food and drinks.

Fire Report

- None received before the meeting

Boleskine Care

Report emailed from Gillian, BCC Support & Development Officer ~

- All hub activities back up and running after the Christmas break
- Some new activities have been added but also open to suggestions from the Community for anything they would like to see at the Hub please see BCC website and noticeboards
- BCC in discussions with Highland Hospice about a potential befriending service in the area
- Kilchuimen Academy are working with BCC as they are using them as a case study for a competition
- Badenoch and Strathspey Community Team will be running winter driving training on Thursday 13th February at the Gorthleck Hall. Open to all BCC carers and volunteers
- BCC continued to be visited by other areas looking to set up similar care groups
- The annual strategy meeting will take place in February to review the 5 year plan

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

Chairperson of SFCT (Margaret Cormack) gave the following update ~

- Wildside - work will be starting next week at to improve the parking area
- Foyers Bay - the pontoon will be moved out onto the bay in better weather and it is hoped the slipway will be completed soon
- Riverside Field – a further public consultation will be happening shortly following improvements made to the design after Community comments at the last consultation
- Broadband – this continues to be rolled out to new areas
- Staffing – interviews for a project officer will take place this week then the Trust manager post to be advertised. The Trust office will be at Wildside.

7. Renewables

- Dell Windfarm – still no liaison group set up yet
- Cloiche – see note 1
- Red John – interactive video being put online to show what it will look like. Not available yet but website address is ~ <https://www.redjohnpsh.co.uk/>
- Aberarder (RES) – PP, LL & CM attended what was meant to be the 1st Community Liaison meeting on 9th January. Whilst there, the developer RES, started talks on Community Benefit. PP has since met with SFCT who have told the CC that any talks on Community Benefit should involve both the negotiator from the Trust and the CC. All agreed to go back to RES and formally request a Community Benefit negotiating meeting. Peter Faye is the Community Benefit negotiator for that Trust. All agreed that PP would be the official Community Benefit negotiator for the CC

8. Roads

- The B852 from Boleskine House to Foyers Hotel is in very poor condition
- Loch Bran road is not being well gritted
- The gritter attempted to go up the Cork Screw recently
- All CC and community members encouraged to use the link below to report road defects ~ https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/roadside_problems
- The CC were just alerted today about a road closure on the Dores road from 9.30am Monday 3rd Feb to 5pm Tuesday 4th Feb. PP has made enquiries re school bus, emergency access etc.

9. Planning

- Anonymous complaint has come in to the CC regarding work being carried out between the Shop in Foyers and the Foyers House Hotel as there is no planning permission or permitted development for the work. All agreed the CC should report to HC.
- 19/05090/FUL Construction of 5 affordable houses. Formation of access to public road – The CC considered the planning application noted and heard from members of the Inverfarigaig Residents Group who have raised an objection to this application. CC noted that although planning is for 5 houses, the access is for 8 houses as there will be 3 affordable plots in the future. All agreed that the CC would make clear whilst they are in support of affordable housing in the area, they object to the planning application on the grounds of 1. Poor road access onto a 60 mph area 2. Volume of houses being considered given lack of infrastructure 3. The loss of access to the rear of properties that some of the current houses will be effected by and 4. Aesthetics

10. Foyers Public Toilet update

PP read out a paper that admin had done to update the new Councillors on the previous history of the toilets, where we are now and what decisions have to be made. AK, AG and SH all agreed to be on a toilet sub-committee. Admin to organise meeting with stakeholders, get the old signs taken down and new one up on the old toilet building.

11. Communication

All agreed that the CC needs a new website primarily for CC business; PH to get quotes for new website. All agreed to a CC Facebook page.

12. Correspondence

CC has been informed that a fake company has been set up (Stratherrick and Community Small Business Organisation) and they are using a local address for correspondence and to make complaints to HC planning department. Actions being taken by appropriate authorities
Letter received from a gentleman in Nairn thanking all involved in the improvements to the war memorial at Gorthleck. *Admin to pass on copies to Alasdair Chisholm and SFCT*

13. Up & coming events

- None that the CC are aware of

14. AOCB

- Member of the public asked what was happening with Boleskine House; private development and no planning applications or known plans other than hoping to re-build as far as the CC are aware
- Peter Faye thanked the CC for their support to SOSA with a micro grant. They now have over 40 members

15. Next meeting

Tuesday 25th February, 19:30, Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck