

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 25th FEBRUARY 2020

AT STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK

1. Police report

As the local officers that attended were on duty, they did their report 1st so they could get away – Very little to report; the homeless person that was in Foyers has moved on but the police would like to hear from the Community if there are any further sightings by calling 101

The occupants of the caravans at the yard in Gorthleck are running a legitimate business but the police are keeping a close eye on it and again would encourage anyone with any issues regarding the site or noise etc to report to the police on 101 to help them build a picture and act on issues

2. Presentation from Caledonian Concepts – Plans for Etape 2020

Malcolm Sutherland gave an update on plans for this year's Etape closed road cycling race which will take place on **Sunday 26th April**. Entry level is the same as last year with 5,650 places that are all filled. More entrants from outwith Scotland this year and 84% of entrants expected to book and stay in local accommodation. Organisation will also be the same as last year with the only exceptions being ~ the road to the B862/B852 junction will stay closed for an extra 15 minutes more than normal and the B852 Foyers to Dores road will stay closed for an extra 25 minutes more than normal. Both closure extensions are following a request from the Police from a safety aspect to allow more time for the cyclists to get through. Organisers will contact the local care group BCC to make sure any necessary journeys are made possible and anyone in the Community that has a necessary journey that morning are being asked to contact them. Flyers with road closure information will be sent to all households prior to the race. Organisers will once again donate £1k to the Community Council. Decision will be made later as to what that will get spent on. Any volunteers that can help with the race will get a donation made to the local group or charity of their choice. Date for the 2021 race will be Sunday 25th April 2020.

3. Presentation from BayWa – Plans to extend Corriegarth Windfarm

Scoping exercise underway to look at installing a further 18 wind turbines to the Corriegarth Windfarm. They will be taller than the current ones (149.9m tip height). Although official Community benefit discussions cannot take place until after planning, the company representative said they will be paying the Government good practice figure of £5k per megawatt per annum. Company hoping to hold a public consultation last week of March, await further information

4. 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

Cllr Margaret Davidson

5. Adoption of minutes – 28th January 2020

Minutes of the CC meeting on 28/01/2020 were adopted as a true record of the meeting.
Proposed AG, seconded by PH

6. Vice-Chair Post

Due to lack of time, regretfully GG has decided to step down from the position of Vice-Chair. Discussion had about who would be the new Vice-Chair. AG proposed Caroline Mortimore, seconded by GG

7. Micro Grants

One application has come in since last month ~

1. Stratherrick Primary School Parent Council – Applied for £250 to cover costs of moving one of the shelters from the play park at Gorthleck and erected within the School grounds. All agreed

8. Matters arising

- Still awaiting reply from BT regarding installing de-fibs in active telephone boxes but admin has chased it up
- Admin to send round map to all Councillors

9. Reports

Treasurer

- Main account £3,533.15 (of which £1,416.05 left from SFCT grant for Admin)
- Project / Micro Grant Account – £948.36

Police Report

- See point 1

Fire Report

- Neil Kirkland told the CC that out of 7 recent home fire safety visits, 5 did not have carbon monoxide detectors. They are nearly out of stock of detectors and will be asking SFCT if they could please get more.
- New rules have come out regarding renting house which will make for improved fire safety for tenants
- One new recruit has started
- De-fib training that had been advertised was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. A further date to be advertised for training in March. A DVD is also available to anyone that cannot make the training
- The fire service have visited the yard in Gorthleck to check for fire risks

Boleskine Care

Report emailed from Gillian, BCC Support & Development Officer ~

- Pupils at Kilchuimen Academy taking part in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative won £3,000 for BCC which will be put towards further improvements to the hub to make it a more homely and welcoming place
- The Trustees held their annual strategy day on Saturday 22nd February and will be making changes to our development plan to reflect discussions. We are aiming to make the hub more of a focus for community activities to break down social isolation for all. The first 5 years of BCC's operations have seen a focus on the older generation but BCC's purpose is much wider than that so we will be taking steps to make sure our activities are reflective of that
- We are looking to become a charity partner for the Loch Ness Marathon which means runners who run for BCC would raise a minimum sponsorship amount
- The next foot care session will be on 24th March

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

The CC's Liaison officer, LL, gave the following update ~

- Wildside – heating options still being discussed and the Trust are seeking advice from the Energy Savings Trust
- Foyers Bay – clearing works are due to commence to thin some trees to make easier access and work to the gradient of the land for the slipway is to hopefully start soon. There's to be a community sub group meeting to be held in spring
- Riverside Field – public consultation was held on 22nd Feb. Feedback being collated
- Christmas Ceilidh – Proposed date is 11th December 2020
- Staffing – Advert for the Trust Manager will be on S1 jobs soon. The project officer post has been postponed at the moment

10. Renewables

- Dell Windfarm – still no liaison group set up yet
- Cloiche – no update
- Red John – no update
- Glenshero – gone to Scottish Government for a public enquiry
- Aberarder (RES) – PP and Peter Faye Pete attended a meeting with RES and Strathnairn community representatives to further discuss potential community benefits following a preliminary offer from RES. No further progress was made at this meeting as RES want to implement a LED scheme in the area that both we and Strathnairn are not in favour of. We are now awaiting a response from RES regarding this

11. Roads

- The road closure on the B852 that was scheduled for 17th and 18th March was extended without HC's permission. PP has received many complaints regarding this and the behaviour

of the contractors carrying out the works. BT subcontracted the work out and they are carrying out their own investigation. HC have also raised this with BT

- No complaints with the current gritting
- Member of the public had emailed PP to ask who maintained the grit bins. PP told them that the CC had raised money to buy them and the fire service filled them voluntarily
- Many local residents and visitors had suffered damage to their cars and/or tyres due to potholes recently. Everyone is encouraged to report potholes if you see one using the link - https://self.highland.gov.uk/service/Road_maintenance?FaultType=RoadSurface&RoadSurface=PotholeRoad or calling 01349 886601. All agreed that weather has been a factor

12. Planning

- No new plans in

13. Foyers Public Toilet update

The 1st sub group meeting will take place on 5th March with SFCT to discuss ownership and funding. The water meter has been run for a long time on estimates and after thinking the actual reading was very high, admin has been checking in case there was a leak and meter was going up but it is remaining the same so the reading has been submitted. This will result in a higher than normal water charge but after that will only be the yearly fee to pay as no water usage at the moment. PP reported that sometimes the portaloos are locked – admin to report to the hire company

14. Correspondence

PP attended a tourist group meeting organised by Cllr Davidson and further meetings are to be held. Discussions had about managing tourism on this side of the Loch.

Meeting to be arranged with the land owner of the Gorthleck play park to discuss the lease ending

15. Up & coming events

- 15th March – annual litter pick. Organised by Sian Glanrid-Jones

16. AOCB

- Member of the public asked if SFCC could please confirm with SFCT that they will be conducting an independent feasibility study into the proposed plans for the Riverside field, Foyers. PP said she thought this would be part of the process but would ask the Trust
- Website – PH has agreed to help build a new website for the CC that is easier to use and just for CC business
- Facebook page – the CC Facebook page is now set up. CM agreed to be admin along with PP and the admin of the CC
- Bank account – now have the forms to be completed to change the address and the signatories. CM agreed to be a signatory along with PP and LL

17. Next meeting

Tuesday 24th March, 19:30, Foyers Primary School, Foyers