

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 25th AUGUST 2020

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. 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) & Cllr Margaret Davidson

Apologies

None

2. Adoption of minutes – 30th June 2020

Minutes of the CC meeting on 30/06/2020 were adopted as a true record of the meeting
Proposed SH, seconded by GG

3. Matters arising

None

4. Covid 19 - Brolly Group Update

The food box deliveries continue & the service is well received. The Group applied to HIE for funding to allow them to continue the food boxes. £12,805 was awarded which has to be spent before the end of September so the food boxes will end at that point. Recipients will be signposted to the Knockie Trust as well as Government agencies to help them. Planning also ongoing for any further lockdown and/or a worsening financial situation

5. Micro Grant Applications

None received. Previous applicant was contacted for more information to allow the application to be decided but no reply received yet

6. Reports

Treasurer

- Main account £15,541.17 (Includes - £12,042.24 grant from SFCT, £178.55 left from SFCT grant for Admin from 2019 grant, £950 from Scottish Government for winter resilience grant £501.40 from HC for comfort scheme & £1,550.00 grant from SSEN for food boxes – this will be paid to SFCT as they are paying all invoices on behalf of the Brolly Group)
Unrestricted - £318.98
- Project / Micro Grant Account – £3,518.46

Police Report

- On the 4th of July 2020 there was a report of a car and caravan causing an obstruction on the B852 at Inverfarigaig. The driver was traced and moved on from the area.
- On the 9th of July 2020 there was a two vehicle collision on the B852 approx. 3 miles south of Dores. Scottish Fire and Rescue attended and extracted a passenger of one of the vehicles as a precaution. The driver and passenger of one vehicle were injured but have made recoveries. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for careless driving for the driver to blame.
- On the 21st of July 2020 a female was given a fixed penalty ticket for driving a motor vehicle that was incorrectly registered in Foyers.
- On the 9th of August there was a report of fly tipping on the B862 just north of Dores. This has been reported to the local authority environmental health and enquiries continue with them.
- On the 23rd of August a male was arrested for drink driving between Whitebridge and Foyers.
- On the 17th of July 2020 there was a report of a man breaching bail conditions not to be in the area of Boleskine. He was traced and arrested by police.
- On the 26th of July 2020 there was a report of two males in the water near to Knockie Lodge. Their kayaks had sunk. The boys were able to swim to the shore and the coastguard thereafter rescued them from this inaccessible area. They have both made full recoveries.
- On the 18th of July 2020 there was a report of aggressive campers near to Achnabat Farm, Dores. Police traced these persons and they were arrested for various offences including police obstruction. One of the men were intoxicated. Their campsite was cleaned up by police.
- On the 26th of July 2020 there was a report of damage to a boat on Loch Bran. Unfortunately enquiries have come to an end with no one identified as the culprit.
- On 9th of July 2020 on Loch Ness near to the Dores Inn there was a report of a man overboard. There was a multi-agency response including coastguard and police. There was disruption to the area for several days afterwards to aid in our response and search. Unfortunately he has not been found to date.
- *PLEASE NOTE* There have been increased reports of thefts from agricultural machines across Scotland. There have been no reports in the Foyers / Dores / Whitebridge area however we would like everyone to be aware for increased vigilance for anything suspicious.

Fire Report

- Home safety visits being carried out by phone but if alarms need attention or fitting, home visit can be done
- Recruitment ongoing but obtaining medicals is an issue
- Annual firework display cancelled due to Covid 19

Boleskine Community Care

- A huge thank you to all at the CC for the micro grant approval. We have now received the money and are in the process of purchasing the gazebos to support activities for the community. Having spoken to several people already, they are excited about the opportunity to be able to restart some events, all be it tentatively.
- We have been fortunate to access other funding to support the development of a Befriending service with two dedicated phone lines. We will grow this service in partnership with Highland Hospice and the support of volunteers. We also have funding for a hair dressing facility for the community. More news on this as it develops.
- Community Care has undergone a tough time in the past few weeks. Due to staff vacancies, holidays, and sickness among the team, they have really been under pressure to keep going and maintain the quality of care they expect to deliver. The situation is improving, with adverts out for carers and Heather doing a sterling job of keeping it all together. The change of partnership to Highland Hospice is progressing slowly, but surely.
- Foot care services have restarted and been a resounding success. As part of the safe spaces project in conjunction with SCFT, we have been able to look at how BCC can make the Hub as safe for the community to use as possible. Up to date guidance is followed, the risk assessment is revised after each session and the one-way system is working exceptionally well. People are really pleased to have this service back in action.
- We have several other plans being worked on for the community emerging from lock down. A coffee morning is planned for 30th Sept. in aid of Mac Millan. We hope to be able to hold this outdoors and make good use of our gazebo's.
- We are also in the planning stage of restarting 'movin about', with invitations going out to ensure we have a small group that we can manage safely. Smaller group sizes mean we will hold more session in the day so no one is disadvantaged should they wish to attend. This will be the vanguard for group activities returning but is something we really need to think about to help our community deal with the effects of restrictions on their wellbeing.
- The Hub walks are also in the planning stage and should soon be able to return. Overall, we are hoping to appeal to a wider audience for activities and work is being undertaken to see how we can encourage other groups to participate with us, add an interest and help the community to see that BCC is not just for our senior community members, it is inclusive to all.
- There are several larger events planned for later this year and into the spring/summer of next year, these are in their infancy and will be dependent on how COVID restrictions will be eased over the coming months and or any further restrictions being placed on local outbreaks. Some of the partnerships for these plans include members of other community groups and the Green Team.
- BCC's proposal for a new community facility has been presented and read by the Board of Directors at SFCT and is under consideration. The next stage will be to form a project planning group to develop the idea further.
- With the support of the Brolly group, BCC Transport Scheme drivers continue to give their time to deliver boxes to those in need for support. The current project funding will soon end, and steps have been taken to survey those in receipt of support to see what the need will be going forward.
- As furlough comes to an end and the effects and events of economic downturn and recovery unfold, then it could be anticipated that a different plan be implemented with the same, or similar support needs in mind. The size of this audience has the potential to differ significantly from that currently seen and could have wider reaching needs for long term support outside of that being covered by the current Brolly group project.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

Finance

- Closing date for new Covid group grants for is 31st August. So far we have received 7 applications under this scheme and are hoping to finalise these this week.
- Project work is recommencing –
- Wildside – 'facelift' is almost complete with a new heating system hoped to be installed before winter.
- Foyers Bay – Work is starting on preparing the tender documents to be published for the slipway to be installed
- Community Broadband – CFWN have recruited someone who lives in the area to help push things forward with extending the network.
- Proposals have been drawn up and will shortly be submitted to land-owners to gain a permanent broadband connection to Wildside.
- At present the main priority is to get Wildside connected and subsequently turn attention to Gorthleck Hall and Dumnaglass to which the lease has now been agreed.

Other Trust Business

Appointment of Trust Manager

- It was decided to hold interviews in person so this is currently on hold until such time as this can happen.

Foyers Toilets Request

- A number of meetings were held to discuss this proposal but it was felt that not enough detailed information was known in order to progress this at present. Instead agreement was reached to form a sub group comprising of both CC and Trust members in order to pull together a suitable proposal. The main issues relating to the initial proposal are listed below
- In the region of 200k was too much to pay for public toilets – and no intimation of the likely cost of an alternative was proposed. SFCT cannot commit to unknown sums
- There was no evidence to support the expansion from 2 to 5/6 toilets
- The ongoing maintenance costs for a building of such scale was a consideration
- Chemical waste disposal is verging on statutory duties of SEPA. Further, this is purely for the use of Tourists
- Too many questions re the running and management of the toilets and not enough info to satisfy on this.
- Trust not aware of stipulations that RTIF may insist upon and therefore unable to answer substantively, as are unaware of any potential funding conditions.
- Desire to see involvement from local businesses and the tourist board as they will both benefit from better tourist facilities eg Visit Inverness Loch Ness.
- Question regarding the trust charging for the use of the toilets - would this sit well with the Trust as the Trust is not a trading company.

- There was not a feeling amongst the Board that ownership was appropriate for the Trust, unless a property was the subject of a full lease back to the CC, with the CC assuming management responsibility. Still to be discussed and agreed through sub group.
- Overall, the Board feel that it would be inappropriate to make open ended commitments based upon hypothetical, un-costed proposals. The Board felt that it would be more appropriate for SFCC and SFCT to form a joint group to discuss a definitive plan, based upon a Community Consultation (which is scheduled for the latter part of this year), having discussed all possible alternatives. The general feeling was that it may not be a good idea to press ahead with an application to the RTIF, given the fact that there is no definitive design or costing available at present. SFCT are willing to support the formation of a panel to review the whole project as soon as is practicable.

7. Toilets

Discussion had about Trust response to latest correspondence. Decided to write back and ask simply if SFCT would own the proposed building, as SFCC are not set up to own buildings and have been advised against it. Question of funding can only follow after that. Vote taken on whether SFCC would take on the management – 7 for, 1 against.

PP highlighted human fouling issues in Foyers since the portaloos have been removed and areas where camping has taken place where there has been mess found. Admin to go back to Portaloo Company and ask if they would bring them back if we provided a cleaner.

8. Planning

- Agricultural building at Druimtemple, Croft Gorthleck Inverness IV2 6YS – no comment

9. Renewables

- Aberarder (RES) – No progress with Community benefit conversation
- Cloiche (SSE) – Await outcome of planning
- Glenshero (SIMEC) – Await outcome of public enquiry
- Dell (Coriolis) – No progress
- Corriegarh Extension (BayWa r.e) – Nothing since pre-planning survey
- Red John – Public enquiry ongoing

10. Roads

Dalcrag road particularly bad at the moment with some large potholes at the side of road. Edges being made worse by ongoing timber extraction

MD reported that HC are proposing large scale road improvements next year

LL highlighted the lack of signs on very narrow roads to stop large vehicles using them

11. Correspondence

None

12. AOCB

- PP attended an Aird and Loch Ness meeting with Admin to discuss how HC and individual areas had managed during the lockdown period. MD thanked everyone for all their efforts. Ongoing rural poverty issues had been highlighted through this period
- Winter resilience grant – Admin to order grit bins and shovels. Ask Neil Kirkland for list of current bins and ideas for new bins. 2 required at Toadhall and 1 at Killen hill
- GG asked about how we find out how planning applications progress that the CC have commented on – Admin to find out
- MD informed the CC that she will be raising the issue of rangers again in the hope that they can be put in place

13. Next meeting

Tuesday 29th September, 19:30, Venue TBC