

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 27th OCTOBER 2020

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Present

Paula Page (PP), Caroline Mortimore (CM), Gill Gray (GG), Alannah Graydon (AG), Simon Hargreaves (SH), Patrick Haston (PH), & Cllr Margaret Davidson

Public attending

Catriona Fraser, Willie Fraser, Pat Bell, Steven Bell & Peter Faye

Guests

Michael Jack, Alan Greenwood (just taken over from Eilidh Todd), Martyn Thomas & William Jack – all from SSE

Apologies

Lorraine Lewis (LL)

2. Presentation from SSE - work on the weir at Loch Mhor which is the reservoir for the Foyers pumped storage scheme. See report attached

3. Adoption of minutes – 29th September 2020

Minutes of the CC meeting on 29/09/2020 were adopted as a true record of the meeting
Proposed PH, seconded by CM

4. Matters arising

None

5. Covid 19 - Brolly Group Update

Admin gave brief update – no further activity but meeting scheduled for Wednesday 28th

6. Micro Grant Applications

Green team – £500 towards cost of Willow Weaving course. This will be available for up to 40 local residents at a cost of £37.50 which is 50% of the full costs of the course. This grant is in addition to the £1k approved by SFCT and has been required due to high demand for the course. Approved by email now ratified. Admin to send cheque.

Spin & Chatter Group - £119.90 to cover the cost of a Zoom membership to allow the group to meet for longer periods of time. All agreed but decided to ask SFCT first to see if the group could use their account.

Boleskine Environmental Network – Carried forward from previous meeting. Full quote now received but admin has been unable to get a reply from SSE for their guidance. Admin to chase up with SSE

7. Reports

Treasurer

- Main account £13,372.21 (Includes - £11,436.54 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)
- Unrestricted - £305.72
- Project / Micro Grant Account – £3,518.46

Police Report

- There have been no incidents of note this period.
- *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. Thank you
- Please report any suspected anti-social behaviour or criminality via 101 (999 in an emergency).

Fire Report

- All quiet with call outs, only 1 minor incident
- Home fire safety visits are still ongoing albeit remotely
- The new Fire regs on Smoke detectors in domestic properties which was due to come in in February has been postponed until Feb 2022 due to Covid
- Recruitment is ongoing with a few interested locals, medicals are an issue at the moment, some folk having to travel to Glasgow for medicals as most GP surgeries are carrying out Winter Flu vaccinations
- Regular checks will be carried out in the area leading up to Bonfire night and any illegal bonfires will be dismantled and advice given

Boleskine Community Care

Hub updates

- Hub walk was very successful on 15th Sept. Unfortunately, due to further government guidance we have decided not to continue with them until the next Gov. update
- Movin Aboot has also been cancelled until lock down changes are made
- The MacMillan coffee morning events did not take place but will be re-planned. No date yet.
- Christmas Fayre is cancelled. Will possibly take place early Spring
- Community Market in partnership with Green Team will take place 31st October. Fancy Dress and pumpkin carving competition. Another Christmas Market set for November. This is also dependent on Gov. update due on 26th October
- One of our Trustees will be retiring in November. Janet Hobson has supported the community and BCC for many years and will be missed

- Footcare continues within our RA and Gov guidelines. This is a very popular service.

Brolly Group

- The last food boxes for the first tranche of funding were delivered 28th September. BCC was pleased to be a part of that, and we look forward to being able to support any further aid for the community.

Care at Home

- Through the commitment and dedication of the staff team, this continues to be provided to a good standard and is much appreciated by the community. There has been a new appointment to the team, and this has brought much needed relief to the staff overall. They are still looking to recruit one extra person; this is being undertaken with Highland Home Care as the lead.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

As LL was absent Peter Faye gave an update from the Trust

Project work

- Riverside Field – a public consultation will take place by Zoom on Sat 7th November at 10am. All welcome. PP asked if it could be explained to the Community that the proposed plans are a phased plan and also asked if the consultation could take the form of a survey as well as the zoom meeting to allow everyone to have a say – PF said he would suggest to the project team leader. PP asked how much the project would cost – PF said it would be a significant cost over a number of years

Trust Manager

- Interviews will take place next week

AGM

- SFCT AGM will be on Wednesday 25th November at 7.30pm by Zoom. The Trust has up to six vacancies available on the board and are seeking nominations for Directors. Closing date for this is 11th November. All members have been notified by email as well as posts on social media. Peter Faye confirmed he would not be re-standing this year

8. Toilets

The application to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund was successfully submitted in time. Application was also submitted to the Stronelairg Panel and stage 1 was submitted to SFCT on 14th October. Outcome of RTIF will be known in Dec, Stronelairg panel should be known in Nov. Awaiting a time scale from SFCT as to when a decision on stage 1 will be given

9. Planning

- 20/03935/FUL - Upgrade of access track to Loch Mhor Dam, widening of junction with the B862 road, and construction of a temporary construction compound | Land 125M SE Of Craigview Gorthleck
As per report from SSE – no comment

- 20/03365/PIP - Erect house | Land 110M NE Of Ballan Ruadh Whitebridge
(Planning Permission in Principle, not full planning)
All agreed to comment to concur with SEPA's concerns about the flood risk given the lack of any further information to mitigate this
- Update on outstanding planning applications

19/05090/FUL | Construction of 5 affordable houses. Formation of access to public road | Land 140M NW Of 1 Hillhead Inverfarigaig – *going to planning committee in December*

20/02318/FUL | Erection of house and micro distillery with storage shed | Land 330M NE Of Purple Lodge Gorthleck – *going to planning committee in the new Year*

20/02471/FUL | Reinstatement and alterations to fire damaged house; siting of 10 No holiday twin-units, reception, store, car parking; installation of sewage treatment plant | Baile Os-Ceann Foyers Inverness IV2 6XT - *going to planning committee in December*

Discussion had about 20/03521/FUL | Erection of house, formation of access & temporary siting of static lodge | Land 165M SW of Dunelm Gorthleck Inverness – it has come to the attention of the CC that although the planning application has not been approved, the temporary static lodge is in place already. Admin to contact planning

10. 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 (BayWar.e) – Nothing since pre-planning survey
- Red John – Public enquiry outcome due soon

11. Roads

PP & PH attended a ward Zoom meeting that covered roads as a topic. Jet patching is ongoing until next year as larger teams are unable to work at the moment due to Covid restrictions. MD told the Council that due to an increase in Council Tax, there will be extra money available next year for roads. New passing places signs are coming soon to replace missing and defaced ones. New Grit bins discussed – colour options available. SH concerned that a green bin might attract rubbish. Decision required on whether new bins have a latch or purchase hasp & staple for them which the fire brigade have offered to fit. Suggestions for locations for new bins – hill just before Errogie (on the Gorthleck side), 2 at Newlands hill & 2 on the Dalcrag road

12. Correspondence

- Euroforest - Timber Harvesting Along the B852. Road closure of Dalcrag and Loch Bran road will be required for up to 5 days but it will be either one or the other road, not both at the same time. No dates arranged yet but will be publicised as soon as decided
- Glenda Bailey – had raised a query with the vice-chair re community business development. Enquiry to be sent to MD

13. AOCB

- The ward meeting that PP & PH attended discussed how different areas coped in lockdown & how communities can become more resilient. Peer support from other CC's was advised
- PP raised potential joint meetings with SFCT. This had been suggested during the Foyers public toilet sub group meetings. All agreed these could be very useful
- PP suggested that the CC ask SFCT if the Covid grant for groups could be opened up again. Admin to write to SFCT
- The Green Team had asked PP if the CC would do an application with them to the Community Climate Asset Fund. On looking at the application it would appear that the Green team could apply in their own name. Admin to contact to discuss the application
- PH discussed what NatureScot has been doing since April through the Scottish Outdoor Access campaign to try and promote good behaviour amongst visitors. PH to share the document with the Councillors

14. Next meeting

Tuesday 24th November, 19:30, AGM followed by normal meeting, by Zoom conferencing