

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 26th JANUARY 2021

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Present

Patrick Haston (PH), Gill Gray (GG), Alannah Graydon (AG), Simon Hargreaves (SH), Lorraine Lewis (LL) & Cllr Margaret Davidson

Sharon Ferguson (admin)

Public attending

Jim Cameron, Craig Lightbody, Kirsty Balfour and Peter Faye

Apologies

None

2. Adoption of minutes – 24th November 2020

Minutes of the CC meeting on 24/11/2020 were adopted as a true record of the meeting

Proposed SH, seconded by GG

3. Co-opting new Community Councillors

PH welcomed Jim Cameron and Craig Lightbody who were both happy to be co-opted onto the Community Council. All agreed to co-opt and thanked them both. LL is leaving the CC due to lack of time. This means that both the Treasurer and vice-chair role need to be filled.

SH proposed JC for treasurer, GG seconded

GG proposed SH for vice-chair, PH seconded

4. SFCT Liaison Director

The CC do not have anyone currently filling this role. All agreed to postpone until the next meeting

5. Matters arising

None

6. Covid 19 - Brolly Group Update

Admin gave update on groups activities. A Community survey was sent out last week and a meeting of the group took place on Mon 19th Jan. Action plan to follow on once survey is closed. Group is looking for a representative from the CC to sit on the Brolly group – CL volunteered. MD informed us that HC was doing an update for Community Groups and will make sure Admin gets it.

7. Micro Grant Applications

None received

8. Reports

Treasurer

- Balance £10,022.61 Includes -
£8,377.04 grant from SFCT, £178.55 left from SFCT grant for Admin from 2019 grant
£950 from Scottish Government for winter resilience grant – grit bins in place but no bill
received yet, £211.30 from HC for comfort scheme
- Unrestricted - £305.72
- Project / Micro Grant Account – £2,398.56 (will be £572.56 after all cheques cashed)
- Admin to send end of year report to SSE. This will trigger this year's payment of £5k
- Figures correct as off bank statement dated 24th December 2020. Bank statements always
come in just after each CC meeting

Police Report

- On the 1st of December 2020 a 48 year old man was arrested at Boleskine House, Foyers for
threatening and abusive behaviour and police assault. He remains in prison at the time of
writing this report awaiting trial. There is no wider concern to the community.
- On the evening of the 9th of January 2021 there was a disturbance at an address in
Gorthleck where a 19 year old man was seriously assaulted. Two men, both aged 20, were
traced that night and held for court. This was a contained incident with no wider concern to
the community.
- A 20 year old man was found in possession of controlled drugs on the 9th of January 2021 at
Aberchalder. This was one of the males responsible for the serious assault the same day in
Gorthleck. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.
- There has been a report of vandalism to council bins near Tom an Mhoid, Gorthleck on the
25th of November 2020. No culprit was found.
- On the 12th of December 2020 there was a report of vandalism to Christmas lights in Errogie.
Enquiries are still ongoing.

Fire Report

- Pretty quiet on call outs, just 1 minor incident.
- A few HFSV have been carried out to rectify faulty S/D's, all socially distanced.
- Recruitment is ongoing.
- Training / testing of Fire appliance equipment is being undertaken twice a week in
teams of 2.
- Some non-urgent courses have been postponed.
- No visitors allowed on Station including contractors.
- Grit bins have been replenished & more Grit requested 31/12/2020
- Fire Fighter Stewart MacPherson has taken up his new role as Rural Watch commander.
This involves giving Support to Stations in this area including Foyers, Ft Augustus,

Cannich, Drumnadrochit, Beauly and Inverness Retained. Stewart will still be a retained FF at Foyers.

Boleskine Community Care

- We have very little news to update the Community Council in at present. All Hub activities, except for the care at home service, have now been suspended until at least March. Once we can operate again safely, we will start with foot care as this is one of our very popular services. The SDO role continues home based. I am available as usual by mobile phone and email, Mon-Weds.
- Staff have found it difficult to navigate the side roads when traveling to and from Home support visits. There have been several occasions in the winter weather to date when they have been supported through icy conditions and snowy roads by passers-by and or farmers. The poor condition of some roads in the area is the cause of damage to their cars.
- AGM for BCC will be held on 23rd February by zoom. All efforts are being made to contact the members to support participation.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

As currently there is no SFCT liaison Director, the chair of the Trust, Kirsty Balfour gave the CC an update –

Wildside – the winter wonderland event was a great success. This will now be a yearly event. A huge amount of volunteers came forward to make this possible and the organisers were very grateful for their efforts. The Trust has been in touch with the Doctors surgery to offer Wildside to be used as a vaccination centre should they require; no reply to date.

Riverside Field – Pre Application Notice is in with planning. The Trust are waiting to hear back. Admin noted that the PAN was on the agenda at the South Planning committee on 8th Dec 2020 and seemed to go through with very little comment.

Trust Manager – Tony Foster will start as the Trust Manager in March this year.

Errogie Church – This building has been purchased by the Trust. A successful welcome meeting has taken place and further meetings will be held to establish a steering group. There will be a lot of renovation work required.

Communications – The Trust news magazine requires a lot of work and will now be published twice a year. This will be supplemented by a new Chair's bulletin that will come out every month to keep the Community updated on the work of the Trust.

Community Action Plan – The 1st steering group meeting has been held to help work the appointed Company make this successful. GG offered to be the CC's representative at the steering group.

9. Toilets

The application to the RTIF was an approved project but on a waiting list due to the fund being heavily oversubscribed (39 applicants, only 13 were fully approved in the whole of Scotland). To be in with a chance of either replacing a fully approved project that cannot meet its conditions or if the Scottish Government was to increase the funding, the CC must satisfy their conditions as soon as possible but at the very least by the deadline of 31st March 2021. The two conditions left to meet are to obtain confirmation of match funding (application to SFCT) and confirmation of lease for the land between HC and SFCT. Kirsty reported that the CC's grant application to SFCT should be

approved this week. Gareth Jones had a meeting with the Trust's solicitor and they should have the heads of terms ready to go back to HC soon. Discussion had about which lease the RTIF are looking for confirmation off as there will also be a lease from SFCT to SFCC for the management of the building; admin confirmed that it is the lease between HC and SFCT that they require. Both SFCC and SFCT happy for toilet sup-group to meet if required.

10. Planning

- Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm - Erection and Operation of a Wind Farm for a period of 30 years, comprising of 16 Wind Turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 149.9m, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure | Land At Carn Na Saobhaidhe Gorthleck Inverness – *All agreed to look through the paperwork and report back in a fortnights time with comment*
- Temporary siting of 3no. static caravans (forestry workers/BBaltic Forestry Ltd) storage and maintenance of unoccupied touring caravans | The Chalet Gorthleck Inverness IV2 6UJ – *All agreed to ask for an extension to allow Councillors to review the paperwork*
- 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 – *still awaiting date for going to planning committee*
20/02318/FUL | Erection of house and micro distillery with storage shed | Land 330M NE of Purple Lodge Gorthleck – *going to planning committee on 3rd Feb 2021*
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 – *Passed by planning committee on 8th Dec 2020*

11. Renewables

- Loch Mhor Dam – Still awaiting planning. Boleskine Environmental group have asked new high water map
- Aberarder (RES) – No progress with Community benefit conversation. New planning will be lodged as plans have been amended to consist of larger turbines
- Cloiche (SSE) – Await outcome of planning
- Glenshero (SIMEC) – Await outcome of public enquiry
- Dell (Coriolis) – No progress
- Corriegarth Extension (BayWar.e) – Now gone in for full planning
- Red John – Still awaiting outcome of Public enquiry

12. Roads

New grit bins are now in place and filled with very grateful thanks to the local fire service. Admin to do letter of thanks from CC. Another 10 ton of grit has been requested from HC. Grit bin at Thain road isn't being filled; admin to look into this as it is one of HC's. Roads are starting to deteriorate following spells of heavy gritting; all to make help collate a list of areas needing resurfacing and keep encouraging the Community to report individual potholes.

13. Correspondence

- The Etape cycle race due to be held in April has been postponed until 22nd August 2021, still with the reduced numbers of 4000
- PH received an email from a member of the Community who was looking for help for her Son with housing issues; there was very little PH could do apart from ask if all the relevant departments within HC had been contacted as the CC cannot deal with housing issues
- PH has looked at the local plan but our area is too rural to be included in most of the policies
- The owners of Boleskine House have discussed with PH that they would like to involve the Community in the plans for Boleskine House and the associated works like road improvements. They will advertise this in due course
- PH to send reply regarding Ward proposals before 29th January

14. AOCB

- MD notified the CC that Ward 12 by-election will be going ahead on 11th March 2021
- CL asked Kirsty Balfour if the Trust's minutes could possibly come out earlier to the Community; Kirsty explained the process of the minutes and as the Trust is a limited Company, they must be approved at the next board meeting before they can be shared. The Trust hope that the new Chair's bulletin will help keep the Community updated ahead of the minutes. CL also asked if reporting could be done to show the Community costs of running the Trust. SH suggested inviting the new Trust manager to the next CC meeting

15. Next meeting

Tuesday 23rd February, 19.30, Ordinary CC meeting. To be held by Zoom conferencing