

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 23rd FEBRUARY 2021

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Present

Patrick Haston (PH), Gill Gray (GG), Simon Hargreaves (SH), Jim Cameron (JC) & Craig Lightbody (CL)
Sharon Ferguson (admin)

Public attending

Kirsty Balfour, Gareth Jones, Paula Page & Caroline Mortimore (Peter Faye & Zoe Iliffe joined late)

Apologies

Cllr Margaret Davidson

PH informed the CC that unfortunately, Alannah Graydon has resigned from the CC due to increasing pressure from her studies.

2. Adoption of minutes – 26th January 2021

Minutes of the CC meeting on 26/01/2021 were adopted as a true record of the meeting
Proposed JC, seconded by CL

3. Matters arising

None

4. Covid 19 - Brolly Group Update

Admin & CL gave an update on activities. Work is continuing to get more help out to the Community following on from the survey. Along with financial help, the Brolly group are organising activities and helping Community groups to run activities to improve mental health amongst residents. Once everything is confirmed, it will all be detailed in the next newsletter.

5. Micro Grant Applications

Foyers Community Market – Request for £500 to purchase 5 pop up gazebos for those wanting to run stalls that do not own their own gazebo. Approved by a vote of 4 for 1 against.

Friends of the Inverness Royal Academy – Request for £500 to run two art sessions by zoom for up to 12 young people at each session. This includes all equipment being posted out prior to the session. Agreed unanimously.

6. Reports

Treasurer

- Balance £11,722.61 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 – cheque has been sent to MacGregors, £211.30 from HC for comfort scheme

- £1,700 from HC for Toilet build (from application to ward discretionary budget)
- Unrestricted - £305.72
- Project / Micro Grant Account – £2,523.56
- Figures correct as off bank statement dated 25th January 2021. Bank statements always come in just after each CC meeting
- Along with change of signatories, the CC will need a separate bank account for the toilets, should further funding applications be successful

Police Report

- The police have dealt with a small number of basic road traffic incidents which did not involve any criminality
- Police continue to monitor local compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines. There has been no reported incidents over this period
- Following what appears to have been an accidental incident of a dog attacking sheep in a field in Drumnadrochit. Local police request that all dog owners in close proximity to farm animals/cattle etc keep their dogs on a lead or under proper control at all times. We are fully aware that sometimes accidents can happen but if dogs are kept under proper control then this will minimise the opportunities and ensure the welfare of the animals

Fire Report

- A couple of minor incidents have taken place
- Recruitment is still ongoing.
- A couple of Home Fire Safety Visits done. Smoke detection fitted as a temp measure until the household get hard wired ones fitted

Boleskine Community Care

- We aim to open our foot care once we have a green light for such services. We have great pleasure in now having our new specialist treatment chair in place and will be pleased to see the first person in the chair receiving treatment. It comes courtesy of a grant from Age Scotland, which also allowed us to purchase a few other pieces of equipment such as lamp magnifying glass, stool and numerous other items that will complement our service experience for the community
- We are holding our AGM tonight 23rd February by zoom. It has been an unusual year and the hospitality experience will be outside of that usually provided but needs must. I am sure we will manage to get the same effect all be it remotely
- BCC continues to work closely with others in the community through the Brolly Group. We very much hope to see a few online activities take off and help to support the health and wellbeing of our community

- Care at home continues to move from strength to strength. Throughout the cold snap, all care was delivered without fear or favour to those who rely on us. The staff are dedicated and conscientious, something we are very grateful for in this rural community

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

As currently there is no SFCT liaison Director, the Chair of the Trust, Kirsty Balfour and Vice-Chair gave the CC an update –

Covid 19 financial support – SFCT will be re-starting the financial help scheme that was available in lockdown 1. They have also worked with funders to enable members that are struggling with household bills to apply to a specific fund. This will be managed by the Knockie Trust who have also received increased funding from SFCT to allow for any increase in hardship applications. Grants are also available to any group in the area in they have an idea that is compliant with current regulations to improve mental health and tackle loneliness. Use of the Trust’s Zoom account is also available to any group in the area. Directors of the Trust are also actively involved in the Brolly group that are working on activities and help with fuel.

Community Action Plan – The survey is now live for the Community to take part and everyone can play a part by encouraging residents to take part. Stage 2 will be a Community assembly in March that will have to be help online.

Foyers Toilets – SFCT have now approved the grant to SFCC (subject to conditions) and the Heads of Terms have been agreed for the lease between Highland Council & SFCT for the land that the toilets will hopefully sit on.

Communications – The 1st new Chair’s monthly bulletin has been published. There is also plans to hold regular question and answer sessions with the Community to help improve Communications.

Errogie Church – A survey has taken place amongst local residents to consider uses for the church.

Trust Manager – Tony Foster will start as the Trust Manager will start on Mon 2nd March

7. **Toilets** – As discussed above, the final funding application from SFCT has now been approved. We await confirmation from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund that the signed copy of the Heads of Terms that have been provided will be sufficient is the full lease between HC & SFCT is not ready before 31st March. This is the date that all conditions must be met by.

8. Planning

- 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 object on the grounds of change of use and environmental impact*
- Construction of adjustable weir; control cabin, kiosk; track works, borrow pit, Site 480M South of Garrogie Lodge Whitebridge – *All agreed to object on the grounds of volume of traffic, unsuitable access and environmental impact. If approved, the CC requesting mitigation roadworks. Also to query figures used in the transport report*
- 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 object on the grounds of visual impact,*

the effect of the large quantities of vehicles and the detrimental effect on local amenities. If approved, the CC requesting mitigation roadworks including village improvements in Gorthleck and a pavement to the Primary School to be part of the planning conditions

- 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 – *passed by planning committee on 3rd Feb 2021. SH asked if there was any appeal process but there is not. Mitigation roadworks have commenced which will see improvements at the junction and nearby passing places. The old bus shelter and shed have been removed but a new bus shelter will be put up on the North bound side of the road as this is mainly the side that is used for waiting on the bus. Admin had been contacted by a local resident asking about what would replace the old bike shed; Admin to contact the roads department*

9. Renewables

- Loch Mhor Dam – Still awaiting planning. Also awaiting 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
- Corriearth Extension (BayWar.e) – See planning above
- Red John – Still awaiting outcome of Public enquiry

10. Roads

Discussion had about larger scale road defects – CL offered to right up a comprehensive & inclusive list as he drives all routes on a daily basis. PH thanked CL for offering to do this. Some grit bin lids blowing open; admin to check & look at clips for them

11. Correspondence

None

12. AOCB

GG brought up the issue of litter at the sides of the road. Discussion had about litter picks & signage (homemade signs have been found to work well. Idea to be taken forward

SH asked why some wording on planning objections were redacted; Highland Council censor comments and remove anything not found to be a matter of planning/and or defamatory

Peter Faye informed the CC that the SOSA AGM will be held by Zoom on 18th March 2021

13. Next meeting

Tuesday 30th March 19.30, Ordinary CC meeting. To be held by Zoom conferencing

DRAFT