

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 27th APRIL 2021

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Present

Patrick Haston (PH), Gill Gray (GG), Simon Hargreaves (SH), Jim Cameron (JC) & Craig Lightbody (CL)
Cllr Margaret Davidson & Cllr David Fraser

Sharon Ferguson (admin)

Public attending

Kirsty Balfour, Caroline Mortimore & Nick Wright

Apologies

None

2. Presentation from Nick Wright of Nick Wright Planning

Nick introduced himself and explained about the Community Action Plan that he is undertaking, arranged for by the Community Trust by being carried out independent of the Trust. There are five themes that have come from the original community survey, they are ~ Community Life, Outdoors & Nature, Better Connections, our Home & Organising Ourselves. All these themes are now progressing to working groups with online workshops scheduled. Workshops were open for all to attend but Nick suggested that the CC attend the Better Connections and Organising Ourselves. PH & GG said they could attend one each on behalf of the CC. Nick was thanked for his time and left the meeting.

3. Adoption of minutes – 30th March 2021

Minutes of the CC meeting on 30/03/2021 were adopted as a true record of the meeting

Proposed by JC, seconded by SH

4. Matters arising

Bus shelter at Aberchalder road end - Admin had heard back from HC and they had no suppliers for wooden bus shelters and choose not to install them due to maintenance issues. They had found a supplier of a smaller, more attractive bus shelter than the current standard purple ones. Admin showed the meeting example pictures. All agreed that that Marlow version in black, green or brown would be the most visually suitable whilst still giving plenty shelter. Admin to report back to HC. Ranger for local area – there is an application into to Nature Scot to fund a Ranger for the Loch Ness area. Thanks to Cllr Margaret Davidson for taking forward this action this after the last meeting and pressing the case for this area which had previously been omitted from the ranger cover.

5. Covid 19 - Brolly Group Update

Admin & CL gave an update on activities. The HIE fund is to end on the 31st May. All financial help is to be re-advertised with a closing date of 14th May. Community larders to run until 31st May. Soup to Go will be funded until this point as well. They are also stocking up on non-perishable items.

6. Micro Grant Applications

Lunch club – Request for £500 to go towards online food hygiene courses for 20 volunteers – all agreed

SOSA – Request for £500 to go towards sporting activities (carried on from last meeting) – admin went back to group to request that they specify a specific activity, rather than use it as a pot of money following the last CC meeting and advice from SSE, group had replied specifying sea kayaking. SH requested more information. Admin to go back to the group. GG & CL abstained from the discussion as both members of the group.

7. Reports

Treasurer

- Balance £11,111.79 Includes -
£8,193.23 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
- £2,000 from HC for Toilet build (from application to ward discretionary budget)
- Unrestricted - £489.53
- Project / Micro Grant Account – £1,023.56
- Figures correct as of March 2021 bank statement. Bank statements always come in just after each CC meeting
- Admin been analysing spend of last year's operational grant from SFCT; there is still £1,500 held by SFCT for non-statutory road signs. Discussion had about signs for how to use single track road, squirrel warnings & litter. Idea to work with the Green team on getting signs.

Police Report

- Nothing to report

Fire Report

- My last report; I am retiring at the end of the Month after 23yrs , I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Fire Service from the day I started with Highlands & Islands Fire Brigade , later to become Highlands & Islands Fire & Rescue before becoming Scottish Fire & Rescue in 2014. I have worked with some fantastic Crews over the years and learnt a lots of new skills and had some adventures along the way. The Service has been a big part of my life in many ways and I will miss being part of the Team which make up Foyers Retained Crew. Over the years we have had a variety of Incidents from a Dog stuck down a hole to fighting

Wildfires from a Helicopter in Strathconnon. If anybody wants a bit of adventure, meet new people, learn new skills, give something back to the Community I'd say give it a go, you are never alone, there is always a good team behind you. Over the years I have worked closely with all the Community Council members, attending meetings, Giving advice and like most CC members do a lot for their Community which mostly goes unseen. Neil Kirkland

- Report - A total of 8 HFSV's have been carried out in the last Month, these were high risk visits that were done Covid safely, and 4 of these were carried out this morning as restrictions were lifted yesterday.
- There is still a few properties in our area without adequate Smoke detection, if you know of anyone please contact a member of the Foyers Crew.
- Recruitment is Currently Ongoing and new posters/ banners will be on display shortly.
- No Major Incidents to report , 1 X Forestry Forwarder on Fire at Ft Augustus , 1 x Building fire at Tomdoun.
- Any future requests for reports should go to our Media officer Stewart MacPherson on his FS e-mail

The Community Councillors wanted to express their extreme gratitude to Neil Kirkland, not only for his years with the Foyers Fire crew but also the help he has given the Community Council over the years. From filling up grit bins to delivering prescriptions, Neil has been an asset to the Community.

Boleskine Community Care

- 20th April Foot care services resumed. Appointments are very well attended by the community across several age groups. Next session May 11th, then every 6 weeks. We also have a new facility and equipment to ensure comfort and privacy for this service.
- Hub walks restart on May 4th. The community have enjoyed this in past times and the response to its opening up again is excellent.
We are looking to use larger areas of other community buildings for some of our activities. The community will want to feel safe in their socialising at events and so we are reviewing the best use of facilities to meet Government guideline changes as we move forward out of lockdown.
- Summer Gala – is being planned with the Green Team. BCC are looking forward to being part of this event that should be an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of Stratherrick & Foyers and regenerate some local business opportunities.
- Befriending scheme is gaining momentum and working to supporting people's needs for combating social isolation. We continue to work on this as a remote provision at present but seeking to safely open this up to face to face/garden visits once the warmer weather and risk assessment are in place.
- BCC have begun more in depth talks with SFCT regarding their Vision for the future. They have worked with the CAP programme to listen to and participate in community survey and assemblies to support this. Further community consultation will take place including linking with Councillor Margaret Davidson.
- April Newsletter has been published.
- We continue to work closely with Highland Hospice to support the carers to provide their excellent and much needed service to the community. The service can be a struggle at times due to staffing

levels fluctuating, however, the dedication and loyalty of the Care Staff, including the Care Coordinator, to our community is greatly appreciated and recognised by all.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Nick Wright and his team held an Assembly and launched the Ideas bank. This followed the Community Survey that had a 32% response rate which is huge. Information can be used across the community.

The Trust remains mindful that the Local Development Plan is being consulted on by the Local Authority, where responsibilities lie in terms of potential actions from the community and work already being done by community groups but this process is being directed by Nick and his team for the benefit of the whole community.

Results of the survey were sent to most households by post. Details of the Assembly can be read at www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

TRUST EMPLOYMENT

Mark Henderson has been employed as a new Caretaker.

We are advertising for a Project Co-Ordinator to project manage a number of ongoing projects and inform match funding applications.

TENDERS

Tenders are out for someone to act as a gardener for Trust facilities and for new benches at Wildside. As restrictions lift we hope areas outside Wildside and at Riverside Field can be utilised this summer. Details of employment and tenders can be found at

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

PROJECTS AND ENGAGEMENT

Communications

A newsletter was sent out and a magazine is due out in May.

Read the newsletter Stratherrick.org.uk – it includes a lot of information about work the trust has done with groups to help support groups and the community due to Covid-19

The website is being updated regularly with the new What's On Pages and we are developing areas for groups and local businesses

We offer the Community Council the opportunity to report any activity in our ongoing news section, particularly if it relates to any local actions prompted by the work of the Community Council and referred to during the CAP i.e. local rangers or road repairs.

Our news section also includes a Five Things for a Friday which, along with general news, hopes to document ongoing developments of projects so community members are fully informed as they can be.

Foyers Bay

A steering group meets 28th April to discuss next steps and designs sent by the architect.

Riverside Field

A Virtual Tea Break was held to start the process of ongoing engagement with residents and develop a steering group. It is expected that planning will be put in soon, following one final document from Fairhurst.

We may consider regular Q&A tea breaks as part of our ongoing community engagement.

Wildside Centre

Work is progressing to develop the landscape around Wildside and to create a seating area for the summer with Broadband available. This ties in with our tender for landscaping, benches and a new caretaker role for our facilities.

You can book Wildside for meetings and events when it reopens. Bookings are being considered now.

Community Broadband

This is progressing with the understanding we wish to make sure residents are fully informed of possible other Broadband options in the area that are due to be announced in the summer.

Errogie Church

The consultation with residents regarding the development of Errogie Church is providing a template and approach for most of our current projects.

GRANTS

All the recent grants that have been awarded can be seen at www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

WINDFARMS AND HYDRO

Trust Manager Tony Foster has started making links with SSE, windfarm and hydro partners for current reporting and future opportunities for the community from additional windfarms. The Trust has recently submitted a significant report to SSE for the year. SSE now only require one report a year (in April) rather than two. This informs this report [community-investment-report-2020-final.pdf \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](http://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/community-investment-report-2020-final.pdf)

SEE are happy with the Trust regarding employment of staff, the CAP and initial discussions about the current approach of the organisation. They have also clarified they support the approach of the Trust about engaging with the community, looking for match funding and have clarified their approach to legacy projects and what is required.

WORKING TOGETHER

One of the outcomes of our new approach and discussions around the CAP is how the Trust can engage and support other groups with the resources we have. This has led to initial discussions with several groups and exploratory work. What is clear is the aspirations of the community will not only require funding from nearby windfarms and hydro but match funding and robust business planning. The Trust is considering further how this can be supported in terms of fundraising and finance support. We maintain our commitment to attending Community Council and liaison on other matters.

8. Toilets –

Admin has been working on plans for temporary toilets for the summer season at Foyers and Cllr Margaret Davidson has managed to source funding from HC towards this. Admin also to contact SFCT to ask if leftover toilet money from last year can be used for this year to help. Three options have been sourced and priced; 1. Four x Portaloos, emptied twice a week. 2. Portakabin with one female and one male toilet connected to the mains. 3. Portakabin with one female and one male toilet with a large collection tank underneath that gets emptied periodically.

Site visit had been done by JH, PH & Admin. After discussion, all agreed to the four x Portaloos as they can be in place quickly and no other costs and time delay with site works.

9. Planning

- 21/01545/PNO Erection of agricultural building, Carnoch Farm Errogie Inverness IV2 6UH – *no comment*
- Update on outstanding planning applications - 20/05057/FUL temporary siting of 3no. Static caravans (forestry workers/ BBaltic Forestry Ltd) storage and maintenance of unoccupied touring caravans | The Chalet Gorthleck Inverness IV2 6UJ – *Went to planning committee today – planning approved for period of two years*

10. Renewables

- Loch Mhor Dam – Planning received
- Aberarder (RES) – Paula Page had emailed as the CC's Community benefit negotiator - 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
- Corriegarh Extension (BayWar.e) – Await outcome of planning
- Red John – Still awaiting outcome of Public enquiry
- Bhlaraidh – Admin informed the CC that this wind farm has put in a pre-application notice for an extension. Although it sits on the other side of Loch Ness (Invermoriston) but is visible from this area (Whitebridge/Suidhe)

11. Roads

Road defect list is with HC, some of the areas mentioned are already on their list and awaiting approval at the Capital programme committee meeting at the end of May. Thanks again to CL for compiling the list.

12. Correspondence

Email received from Forestry and Land – Road closure at the pass will be required soon to remove trees. Warnings will be displayed prior to closure.

Email from staff member at the campsite – De-fib required new battery, this has been ordered but all other need checked. There is £310 left in the budget & battery & pads cost £275

Email from member of the Community – asking if the CC could please write to Dingbro regarding dangerous driving of one of their employees. Admin to write letter.

13. AOCB

SH raised an issue regarding the fire hydrants at Foyers. Admin to email Stewart MacPherson
Admin has been dealing with an access issue at the park in upper Foyers. Bench is also required

14. Next meeting

Tuesday 25th May 2021 19.30, Ordinary CC meeting. By Zoom video conferencing