

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 25th MAY 2021

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Present

Patrick Haston (PH), Simon Hargreaves (SH), Jim Cameron (JC) & Craig Lightbody (CL)
Cllr Margaret Davidson & Cllr David Fraser
Sharon Ferguson (admin)

Public attending

Catriona Fraser & Willie Fraser
Allan Greenwood, Michael Jack, Billy Jack from SSE & Lewis Montgomery from Mackenzie
Construction

Apologies

Gill Gray

2. Presentation from SSE – Loch Mhor Spill Weir Update

Update given by SSE – see report attached

Catriona Fraser asked the following questions –

What was the need for the kerbing that had been installed – Michael Jack explained that it was to give an edge to the surface & to help drainage. The kerbing will be level with the surface and was requested by TEC services as part of the planning process. The size of the bell mouth will be reduced at the end of the work but surface will remain for future access.

What is happening with the access track – It is to be widened to 2m & reinforced with engineered fill. There is planning permission for this.

Why is there an unsightly tarpaulin on the turret – It is to deter the seagulls from nesting there and will be removed soon

PH asked when the traffic lights use would end – expected by end of next week. Also, what times of the day will the pilling work be done – 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat & no Sun work

Willie Fraser asked for the recent infill to the edges to be monitored as with heavy rain this could be dangerous – road check will be done within next three weeks then every month after that
SSE & Mackenzie Construction thanked for stopping the traffic lights as requested for local funeral cortege and also for their quick reaction to issues raised regarding issues with traffic lights

3. Adoption of minutes – 27th April 2021

Minutes of the CC meeting on 27/04/2021 were adopted as a true record of the meeting
Proposed by CL, seconded by JC

4. Matters arising

CL pointed out that agenda states no planning applications but reported that social media had highlighted that planning was in for the Foyers field – decision to discuss at planning on agenda

5. Covid 19 - Brolly Group Update

Admin & CL gave an update on activities – All help was re-advertised with a closing date on 14th May but no requests came in. Food larders will continue to be stocked until supplies run out but as funding ends on 31st May, there will be no more purchases after that. The Soup to Go scheme has been fully supported by the Brolly group and they have built up supplies to help them keep going on a very small donation basis. The group is now helping members of the Community start to socialise and gain confidence getting out in public again in a safe environment

6. Micro Grant Applications

Stratherrick Primary Parent Council – Two applications have been received from this group for two different projects that combined, exceed £500. Admin had consulted with SSE to check this was acceptable; as they are time restricted, SSE were happy that the CC look at both tonight

1st Application - £169.60 to purchase leavers hoodies for primary 7's that are due to go up to High School and a trip to the Karting in Inverness as the usual residential trip is not possible – all agreed

2nd Application - £500 to go towards buying 19 primary school pupils a £10 book voucher and a pack of acrylic pens at £7.98 each as a way of a thank you & well done to the pupils & for missing out on the library visits. Total cost is £521.42 with the group paying the excess – all agreed

SOSA – Request for £500 to go towards sporting activities (carried on from last meeting) – more information was required and group submitted a new application specifically to subsidise by 50% a Sea Kayaking course for members, along with quote from the company; all councillors agreed by email between meetings and £500 awarded.

BCC – have submitted their completion report for the grant to purchase a gazebo for outdoor events. They have an underspend of £28 and request that is used to purchase weights to provide the gazebo with more stability; all agreed.

7. Reports

Treasurer

- Bank statement for April has not arrived yet so unable to give up to date report. Admin and Treasurer to start working on 20/21 accounts when missing statement arrives
- Discussion had about AGM; normally held in May but was November last year due to Covid. All agreed to postpone until the CC have had approval from HC to hold meetings in a public space again

Police Report

- Nothing to report

Fire Report

- Due to Covid the number of incidents the Foyers crew have attended since January has been relatively low, with no major incidents to report within our station area. Home fire safety visits are now commencing and new interlinked smoke detectors are been fitted in medium

and high risk owner occupier homes, a visit can be arranged by contacting the local crew or calling call 0800 0731 999 or go the fire Scotland website.

The Scottish Fire and rescue service have currently been running a media campaign, IF you, or someone you know is over 50 years old and smokes and either lives alone, has mobility issues or uses medical oxygen, we need your help to identify them. Ask them to get in touch or if you are a family member or a carer, refer them to us. We will undertake a Home Fire Safety Visit where possible. Make the Call, it could save a life.

- The SFRS has introduced a full time post within the Loch ness and Aird district which includes Foyers station, a Retained/Volunteer Support watch commander Stewart Macpherson who lives locally, and is also part of the Foyers crew who can provide operational cover and admin support at a number of fire stations around loch ness.
- Hydrants - Due to covid we have been restricted to what duty's the station have been able to do and fire hydrant checking has been one of these, now that the restrictions have been eased the local crew or WC S Macpherson will be commencing checks in the area shortly. Many off you will also be aware that a large tank off water is situated in the school car park, this will be there until the new hydrant has been installed outside the school gate. We have no time scale for this as its external contractors who will carry out the works.
- Neil Kirkland has now retired from the service and the process has now started to appoint a new watch commander at Foyers.
- Recruitment - the Foyers crew are now down to 6 firefighters and we need 4 firefighters to mobilise a fire appliance, so we are really needing to encourage anyone who feels they would like to make a difference in their community to either speak to any crew member or to WC S Macpherson for further info on applying. New Banners and posters have been distributed in the community council area.
- Summer - The Scottish fire and rescue service and the Foyers crew are well aware that there will be an increase in tourists to the area, with this it will increase traffic flow and the possibility of wild camping and in turn increase the risk of wildfire, the crews will be proactive throughout the summer in our area, providing safety advice.

WC Stewart Macpherson

RVS Support

Members of the CC raised the issue about training new retained fire fighters and how this could be resolved as currently a long period and unpaid. MD said the annual report was due out on Thursday and she will push for help with this.

Boleskine Community Care

- Carers have been working hard to keep services going. There is a recruitment process in place and it is looking good for the future to get staff on board.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

A summary of the five recent Action Groups, including videos, can be seen here [Stratherrick Updates | Future Ideas \(communityfuture.net\)](#)

The second Community Assembly is on 27th May with further action groups expected in June

TRUST EMPLOYMENT

We have employed a new Project Co-ordinator, pending contracts.

TENDERS

The Higher Ground Group have been awarded the garden maintenance contract for Wildside, Riverside Field, Errogie and Foyers Bay and Michael Margetson the benches at Wildside contract

PROJECTS AND ENGAGEMENT

Communications

The Trust Magazine is out this week.

Foyers Bay

The architect has been asked to submit the planning application for the slipway.

Riverside Field

We expect to cut the grass at the field soon. The Master Plan has been submitted for planning but we will continue to engage with the local residents at every step of the development.

Wildside Centre

Work is progressing to develop the landscape around Wildside and to create a seating area for the summer with Broadband available. Our new caretaker Mark Henderson has been bringing up the venue to rave reviews.

You can now book Wildside for meetings and events. Bookings are being considered now and demand has been high [The Wildside Centre | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](#)

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

Technicians have been in to check the issues with the building and expressions of interest have been sent to several architects.

GRANTS No update

PH raised the issue that the joint SFCT and SFCC meeting previously planned, had not yet taken place. All agreed this meeting should happen soon

8. Toilets –

Issues have arisen with receiving funding; as the CC is not an incorporated body, HC have said that if we were to receive any RTIF funding, it would have to go to incorporated body like SFCT. A meeting has taken place with the Trust and they are going to discuss this option at their next meeting (2nd June). The Portaloos are going well and SH has found someone to look after them. This will be paid for through HC's comfort scheme

9. Planning

- 21/02331/FUL | Community amenity development (masterplan), MUGA, sports/play areas, car park, community hall, gym | Land 100M NW of Linden Grays Park Foyers – This was not put on the report as only appeared on E-planning this afternoon. As no Councillors have had a chance to look at the papers and the CC were not notified as a consultee, Admin to ask for an extension and all agreed that PH contact SFCT to see if they would consider pausing the planning application as the CC had thought that all major projects were on hold until after the Community Action plan was completed. Further meeting to be arranged to discuss

10. Renewables

- Loch Mhor Dam – As per item 1 and attached update
- Aberarder (RES) – pre-planning in for change from 130m turbines to 175m
- 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 – Public enquiry outcome was to grant planning permission to this project
- Bhlaraidh – Still at 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)
- Loch Liath – Another new application in for pre-planning. The proposed site is to the North of Bhlaraidh so will be seen from South Loch Ness. Proposal is for turbines of 200m which would require aviation lights. It was noted that the montages being used as part of the pre-planning, do not show the correct height of the proposed turbines.

Discussion had about Community Benefit Negotiations; following a meeting with the trust, it is being suggested that they do all CBN on their own and the CC just deal with planning. All agreed that they would like to continue to have the CC involved in CBN

11. Roads

Road improvements at Aberchalder road end – TEC services had come back to Admin to say they wouldn't be able to put a wooden bike box by the roadside, only option was a bike rack with a cover. All agreed to just the bus shelter and maybe look a bike box down the Aberchalder road Cllr David Fraser has arranged to do a tour of the area on Sat 12th June to look at road issues amongst other things. MD pointed out that many road works couldn't take place last year due to squads not being able to work & quarries being closed, work started but catch up will take years

12. Correspondence

Report of someone burning a caravan had come in; Admin had passed to environmental health

13. AOCB

CF thanked the Councillors for running the CC so well

14. Next meeting

Tuesday 29th June 2021 19.30, Ordinary CC meeting. By Zoom video conferencing