

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 29th JUNE 2021

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Present

Patrick Haston (PH), Simon Hargreaves (SH), Jill Gray (JG) & Craig Lightbody (CL)
Cllr Margaret Davidson & Cllr David Fraser
Sharon Ferguson (admin)

Public attending

Brian Yates, Kirsty Balfour, Tony Foster & Peter Faye
Peter Kane & Heather Lafferty - Loch Liath Windfarm

Apologies

Jim Cameron

2. Presentation from Loch Liath Windfarm – see report attached

CL asked how big the proposed turbines were and would they require aviation lights; Up to 200m and they would require aviation lights but they would try to minimize any effect.

CL asked given the land space, would they be looking to put in an extension once this development was completed; at the moment, they are not considering that.

DF pointed out that there was another proposed wind farm that was not shown on the drawings; this will be amended for the planning application.

Planning application is hoped to be in for December. DF asked them to consider the holiday period and allow time for CC's to comment.

PH thanked Peter and Heather for their time and they both left the meeting.

All agreed to comment on the pre-planning regarding concerns over the height of the turbines and the aviation lights.

3. Adoption of minutes – 25th May 2021

Minutes of the CC meeting on 25/05/2021 were adopted as a true record of the meeting
Proposed by SH, seconded by CL

4. Matters arising

None

5. Covid 19 - Brolly Group Update

Admin gave an update – all schemes have come to an end. The soup to go is still very successful and is now being run on a donation only basis. This is providing members of the Community a safe space to start socialising again without going to venues busy with tourists or having to go into town.

6. Micro Grant Applications

Wildside Baby and Toddler Group – requesting £400 to pay for a bench and installation at the Upper Foyers playpark as currently there is no seating area for parents and this is especially an issue for anyone with mobility issues – all agreed.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council – requesting £500 to pay for admin services as yearly operational grant to SFCT was late being applied for – all agreed.

7. Reports

Treasurer

- Bank statement for April has still not arrived yet so unable to give up to date report. Discussion had about moving bank to get a better and more efficient service. Admin and treasurer to look into this.

Police Report

- There were several reports of minor road traffic collisions in the area over the course of the month. No injuries or offences occurred during these incidents.
- On the 6th of June 2021 there was a report of a dog dangerously out of control around 2030 hours at the shore of Loch Ness (Aldourie Estate) where it has bitten a woman on the arm causing slight injury. The dog is described as large and white. The owner of the dog is described as male, white, 50s, medium height and build with short greying hair. If anyone has any information regarding this incident please contact police on 101 and quote Incident reference 1522 of the 6th of June 2021.
- On the 16th of June 2021 kayakers were on Loch Ness and came ashore about 3 miles south west of Dores on the B road side. Here they discovered what appeared to be a stash of Class A heroin on the sand banks. This has been seized and sent for lab analysis.

Fire Report

- We have no local significant incidents to report but the appliance has been out supporting our neighbouring station on a few occasions.
- Home fire safety visits are now commencing and new interlinked smoke detectors are being 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.
- 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, to report a number of Hydrants have been checked including the one at Foyers Shop. Many off

you will also be aware that a large tank of 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, we still have no news on the installation of the hydrant.

- Recruitment - On crewing levels 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. To date we have had 2 new applicants who already have passed the first stage interview and have a further applicant to process through interview stage, it is quite a stringent and rigorous process and does take time from interview to actually becoming a firefighter.
- 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.

Boleskine Community Care

- In March of this year 2021, BCC entered into a new partnership with Highland Hospices' 'Sunflower Home Care'. This has promoted better terms and conditions for our carers and a very welcomed increase in their hourly rate. The carers were involved in choosing their new smart uniforms and are very proud to display the Boleskine logo along with sunflower home care. Our community members who require care continue to receive self-directed support (SDS) option 2 and this will continue to be offered as an option if they so choose. BCC continues to support the care at home service and will ensure our carers feel valued within our community. Ongoing talks with SFCT and others for grant funding is essential to ensure that current carers are retained and the role attracts new applicants.
- Covid has restricted a lot of services being developed due to the space available at the BCC hub, however we are hoping to get more activities up and running using the Wildside Centre temporarily if space is available. Our very popular foot care service was the first to restart at the hub following reduced Covid restrictions. We now have a medical reclining chair suitable to provide many other health services too. The chair was purchased through a grant funded by 'Age Scotland.' A future service operating mid-July is 'Holistic Therapies and Massage' which will appeal to a mix of age groups.

ACTIVITIES - Our volunteer led activities currently are -

- Moovin about and 'Strength and Balance' which is held at Wildside Centre fortnightly from 1-2pm. Next session Tuesday 6th July.
- The 'Coffee Morning' at the hub is held monthly 10-12. Next one is Wednesday 14th July.
- The hub walks, a well-established activity is next planned for 6th July 2-3 at and around the hub in Lower Foyers.
- The Art group will run the first Monday of the month 2-4pm. Donations of paint 'stuff' is welcomed. Starts Monday 5th July.

- A gardening group is to be established. BCC received funding from Arnold Clark. BCC is looking for anyone interested in gardening to run this group. We would like to make this group inter-generational, bringing all age groups together to share their knowledge and experience and to have fun.
- The Befriending service – ‘BCC Helping Hands’ in partnership with Highland Hospice has recently started. Main aim is to engage with those in our community who may be feeling lonely, low of mood or isolated. Referrals can be made. More volunteers are needed to join this small team.
- Community Transport Scheme – grant funded by Highland Council has continued to run by volunteers throughout the pandemic although in a very much reduced capacity. Many of the drivers were of an age that they had to isolate and some feel that they no longer wish to volunteer anymore. BCC has a few core volunteers who continue to collect prescriptions, (delivered food boxes during restrictions) and now deliver ‘soup to go’. Some community members use the transport to attend events and activities. The scheme continues to transport for GP and hospital appointments where public transport is not available or not suitable to needs of individuals.
- Refreshments are served after all volunteer led activities held at the hub and provides a chance for a chat and catch up. There is no charge but a small donation to BCC is always welcome.
- Some sad news I’m afraid. BCC is sorry to lose our Support and Development Officer (SDO) Jayne Brinkworth who regrettably has decided to move on. Jayne started with BCC at the beginning of the pandemic and despite the restrictions has carefully managed the refurbishing of the hub making it a brighter more attractive environment. Jayne has used her short time with BCC most effectively and we thank her very much for her passion and enthusiasm during this time, wishing her all the best for the future. We will be looking for a replacement in due course however in the meantime and has been in the pipeline for some time, BCC will be advertising very shortly for a part time Business Admin position. So if anyone is interested please keep an eye out on the Boleskine Community Care website, BCC Face Book page and the Stratherrick and Foyers community trust.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

- **COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN** - A summary of the last community assembly and five recent Action Groups, including videos, can be seen here [Stratherrick Updates | Future Ideas \(communityfuture.net\)](http://communityfuture.net)
- We will be working with Nick Wright and his team on developing this and he will be gathering feedback at the Children’s BBQ and Mini Gala.
- **TRUST EMPLOYMENT** - We have employed Caroline Tucker as the new Project Co-Ordinator and she is now in post. We are advertising for a new Finance Officer which closes 5th July.
- **TENDERS** - We are currently working with a number of architects to tender for the Errogie Church project.

- **Communications** - The Trust Newsletter is out. Details here [Here it is! | 21 June 2021 | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](#)
- The Magazine is also available here [May 2021 Strath News Magazine! | 25 May 2021 | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](#)
- **Foyers Bay** - The architect has been asked to submit the planning application for the slipway. Further reports will be required for this
- **Riverside Field** - The first cut of grass has been done with more to follow. The Master Plan is in planning. The Trust offered to do a major survey to capture the community view today for this level of project. This has been undertaken and the results are available. Details here [Riverside Field Survey Results | 22 June 2021 | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](#)
- **Wildside Centre** - Grass is growing nicely and benches are being put into place for the summer months. The Mini Gala has been moved to the venue and we are working on some additional maintenance areas.
- 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. We are now focussing on Expressions of Interest we have received.
- **Grants** – Highland Council have agreed to submit a Regeneration Capital Grant the Trust has put forward to them. Thanks to Sharon for highlighting this opportunity for the community.

CL asked about the grass cutting at the Foyers field as he felt it had been cut like what was planned for the field; Tony explained that it had been cut to allow members of the Community to use the field without cutting all the grass as there had previously been criticism for doing this.

Peter Faye, as a member of the public, raised several complaints about the Community Council's objection to plans for the field in Foyers and how it was handled. He felt that the Community Council had not represented the whole community in their response to the planning application, that they had put the views of the immediately adjacent residents ahead of those of the broader community and that the discussion about the planning application did not take place in public.

8. Toilets

Still awaiting a reply from the Community Trust about whether they would be able to accept any funding that the CC might get from the RTIF as the CC are not an incorporated body. Kirsty said she would endeavour to get an answer to that as soon as possible.

SH commented on how successful and appreciated the temporary toilet facilities are.

9. Planning

- 21/02831/FUL 16/07/2021 Erection of log house, garage and sauna. Installation of sewage treatment system, solar panels and (up to) 6Kw wind turbine (15m mast with tip height of

18.5m). Land 165M SW of Glenerrick House Wester Drummond Whitebridge – *comment on visual impact and potential noise from wind turbine*

10. Renewables

- Loch Mhor Dam – Work ongoing
- 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
- Corriegarth 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. Sits on the other side of Loch Ness (Invermoriston) but is visible from this area (Whitebridge/Suidhe)
- Loch Liath – As per report at item 1 and same as above for location

11. Roads

MD told the meeting that HC committed more money to road improvements last week. MD and DF will meet with John Taylor, HC TEC services, to work out a plan for the next two years so that we can keep the Community updated.

12. Correspondence

Email received today from the group running the Invermoriston toilets but PH not read yet.

13. Upcoming events

Summer Gala and Community Market, 24th July, Wildside Centre, Whitebridge, 11am – 3pm

14. AOCB

MD suggested planning training for the CC; all agreed to undertake the training. MD to arrange. MD told the CC that the Boundary Commission have come back with their decision and it is to stick with the original plan of splitting the Aird and Loch Ness ward right down the middle and changing the name. All agreed to write to all Highland MSP's to raise their concerns about this.

SH raised the issue that the extra bins and/or extra refuse collections haven't yet happened at the Falls of Foyers car park despite admin emailing again; MD will chase this up.

DF has raised the issue with HC about the lack of a disabled access to the children's park at Upper Foyers. Solutions to the problem to be looked at.

Peter Faye wanted to thank HC for the road improvements on the Killen road.

15. Next meeting

July is traditionally taken as a month off meetings for the CC but all agreed to meet this July and make it a joint meeting with the Trust if that suits.

Tuesday 27th July 2021 19.30, Ordinary CC meeting. By Zoom video conferencing

**** Update – the CC will not be meeting in July but will resume on 31st August 2021 ****