

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 31st AUGUST 2021

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Present

Patrick Haston (PH), Simon Hargreaves (SH) Jim Cameron (JC) & Craig Lightbody (CL)

Cllr David Fraser

Sharon Ferguson (admin)

Public attending

Sandra Sutherland, Alan Sutherland, Keith Oversby, Tina Jordan, Catriona Fraser, Tony Foster & Peter Faye

Apologies

Jill Gray

2. Adoption of minutes – 29th June 2021

Minutes of the CC meeting on 29/06/2021 were adopted as a true record of the meeting

Proposed by SH, seconded by PH

3. Matters arising

Admin informed the CC that the full planning training that Cllr Margaret Davidson had talked about at the last meeting will not take place until next year but in the interim, planning training on wind farm applications will take place next month.

Extra bin collections have started at the Falls of Foyers car park and bins are much improved.

Cllr David Fraser has started looking at a permanent solution to the lack of disabled access at the park in upper Foyers.

4. Micro Grant Applications

No new grants received

Wildside Baby and Toddler Group – Grant approved for £400 at the last meeting to pay for a bench and installation at the Upper Foyers playpark. HC have come back to admin to say that a £70 delivery charge is now being asked for by the company supplying the bench– all agreed to extra £70 CF asked whether a micro grant could be paid to a group then passed onto individuals; PH explained that wasn't within the scope of the micro grant scheme.

5. Reports

Treasurer

- New signatories for our accounts and removal of ex-CC members has now been seen to.
- Many thanks to Sharon (admin) for bringing me up to speed
- As of 30 August, the main A/C stands at £6434.46 of which £5265.41 is ring-fenced for various purposes. This leaves £1169.05 available for other spending.

- As of 30 August, the Project/Micro-Grant A/C stands at £3353.96.
- There is a minor bank error with regard to payment of a cheque into the wrong account, but sorting that is in hand and no problems are expected.
- There is now the possibility of setting up Internet arrangements and this will be looked into.

Police Report

- On the 17th of August 2021 a 61 year old man was arrested for drunk driving near Foyers after crashing into the decking at Lodges on Loch Ness. A report is being submitted to the PF for prosecution.
- On the 12th of July 2021 there was a report of a fraud from Foyers Lodge, Foyers. Police are following a positive line of enquiry and a report will be sent to the PF in due course.
- On the 23rd of August 2021 the domestic dwelling Teanassie in Whitebridge was reported to be on fire. The road was closed for a considerable time as fire crews put out the flames. As of 27th of August 2021 a locus guard of police officers is still in place as scenes of crime conduct forensics within and around the building. If anyone has any information please call 101 and quote reference NN/4845/21. CID, Inverness are carrying out numerous enquiries to establish what happened.

Fire Report

- There are currently 3 candidates in the recruitment process for the local fire service with 1 at the stage of being offered a contract.
- The new smoke detector law comes into force in Feb 22. The local fire crew plan to do some Community engagement ahead of this date to explain the new rules. Some people will be eligible for a free upgrade of their fire alarms depending on their circumstances.
- There was a serious house fire in Whitebridge on 23rd August which local fire crews attended; at this stage, the fire crew are not allowed to comment any further. They do intend to visit houses in the area around this property to offer fire home safety visits.
- The crew have had several other shouts but mostly supporting other crews out with the area
- They have been working in conjunction with the local rangers to help prevent wild fires and as the area is so dry at the moment, the joint view is that if anyone spots any fire in the area, please dial 999 and ask for the fire service.
- The local crew would like to thank the Community for the support they received at the recent gala they attended at Wildside.

Boleskine Community Care

- BCC is happy to announce that interviews took place on 14th August to appoint a part time Business Admin Assistant to work at the Hub in Lower Foyers. The successful candidate will start with BCC in September pending disclosure and reference checks.
- The carers will shortly receive new winter jackets supplied by BCC complete with Logo to complement their new uniforms designed and supplied by Highland Hospice.
- The Befriending service is up and running now with 3 befrienders and 2 others pending. More are needed to ensure referrals received are met effectively.

- By popular demand our members have requested if possible that all activities are held at the hub in lower foyers. They had concerns that events and activities would migrate to the Wildside Centre. They feel that the Hub is representative of BCC and they wish very much to support this.
 - Due to the lifting of restrictions and the good weather the hub has been able to host all activities.
 - The annual MacMillan afternoon tea is to be held at the hub on Wednesday 15th September 1pm-3pm hosted by the coffee morning volunteers. All proceeds to MacMillan Cancer support. The event shelter purchased with Community Council grant will have its debut in the garden so as to extend available space.
- ACTIVITIES- Our volunteer led activities currently are
- Moovin about and 'Strength and Balance' held fortnightly on Tuesdays. Next session 31 Aug
 - Coffee Morning at the hub is held every second Wednesday of the month.
 - The hub walks, a well-established activity is held every second Tuesday of the month.
 - The Art group by popular demand will run fortnightly 2-4pm.
 - Cinema group fortnightly on Thursday afternoon.
 - To start shortly Music Group fortnightly on Thursday afternoon
 - Professional services: - Additional to 'Care at Home' and 'Befriending'
 - Foot care 31 Aug every 6 weeks. To book appointment ring the hub 01456 486247 and leave a message.
 - Holistic therapies Mon 20th Sep. To book appointment ring the hub 01456 486247 and leave a message.
 - Community Transport Scheme 07944 228830 – grant funded by Highland Council. Is growing again however more volunteer drivers are needed for this extremely valued service.

CF offered to volunteer driver. Admin to pass this on

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

- **COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN** - Feedback has now closed on the Community Action Plan. Nick Wright will be working on this and pull together. We will have Communication Plan and a template for future Business Plans for the next Board Meeting. We also hope to conduct a desktop review of the Trust to ensure we are fit for purpose and create a set of benchmarks to work from to assess impact.
- **TRUST EMPLOYMENT** - Carlene Vincent has been employed as our new Finance Officer. We will be advertising for a cleaning role shortly.
- **TENDERS** - We are progressing with the Errogie Tender.
- **PLANNING** - We have been trying to speak to planning re Riverside Field so we can feedback to the Steering Group. Unfortunately this has been proving difficult. At present everything that is in the public domain via the Planning Portal is all we know.
- **PROJECTS AND ENGAGEMENT** - We intend to keep the community, stakeholders, Community Cllrs and Directors informed of activity on all projects via the website. This will be updated every Thursday with additional information in the Trust Manager 5 Things For a Friday on the website.

Regular news items can be found here [News | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/news)

- If you have any questions in between Board Meetings on any of these matters please contact Tony at tony-ceo@sfctrust.org.uk
- **Check out each section here** [Projects | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/projects)

6. Toilets

SFCT have agreed to accept RTIF grant on behalf of the CC which means we can proceed with the project. Admin has written a press release regarding the funding success from the RTIF and will liaise with Tony to agree a mutually suitable time on Thursday 2nd Sep to share. Architect looking at re-design so all parties happy that it is the best building for the community plus most cost effective

7. Planning

- Erection of house (Renewal of 18/00296/FUL) - House of Many Blossoms Gorthleck Inverness IV2 6UJ, Ref. No: 21/03594/FUL | Received: Fri 23 Jul 2021 | Status: Under Consideration – *no comment*
- Erection of house - Land 65M SW of Cuil-Na-Sith Errogie Inverness, Ref. No: 21/03424/FUL | Received: Tue 13 Jul 2021 | Status: Under Consideration – *no comment*
- Peatland restoration on Dunmaglass Estate - Land 3710M SE of Keeper's Cottage Easter Aberchalder Gorthleck Inverness, Ref. No: 21/03498/PNO | Received: Tue 13 Jul 2021 | Status: Decided - prior approval is not required – *no comment*
- Erection of 2no houses - Land East of West Drummond Cottage Whitebridge, Ref. No: 21/03350/PIP | Received: Thu 08 Jul 2021 Status: Under Consideration – *no comment*
- Replacement of timber windows, soffits and fascia - Gate Lodge Baile Os-Ceann Foyers Inverness, Ref. No: 21/03794/LBC | Received: Fri 06 Aug 2021 Status: Under Consideration – *no comment*
- Erection of House - Land 80M NW Of Glen Mhor Lodge Whitebridge, Ref. No: 21/03772/PIP | Received: Thu 05 Aug 2021 | Status: Under Consideration – *no comment*
- Formation of agricultural track - Land 105M SW of Newlands Errogie Inverness, Ref. No: 21/02571/PNO | Received: Wed 26 May 2021 | Status: Decided - prior approval is not required – *no comment*

Discussion had about planning for houses in the countryside and specifically when there is no mains water or waste; Cllr David Fraser suggested asking Tim Stott for clarity on this. Admin to make contact.

8. 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
- Corriegarh Extension (BayWar.e) – Await outcome of planning

- Red John – Public enquiry outcome was to grant planning permission to this project
- Bhlairaidh – Now a live planning application. 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
Keith Oversby and Tina Jordan raised the issue of the transmission lines and associated sub-stations that will be required for all the above schemes. Admin to look into this and find out what is planned.

9. Roads

Gorthleck village improvement plan; there is a public meeting planned for Mon 6th Sep, Stratherrick Public hall, Gorthleck to share the plans and get Community feedback – **update since CC meeting; this event has been cancelled due to rising Covid rates. New date will be organised as soon as is possible.**

Road closure request - Gleann Liath road on either side of the Allt na Goire bridge for 1 week to allow for timber extraction – **update since CC meeting; extraction can be done with just short delays and no road closure**

10. Correspondence

Email from SH re Etape event; although prior notification was given, there was great concern about a closed road event in the height of the tourist season but thankfully the event passed without incident. Discussion had about full road closure events that restrict the Communities movement for the period of the closure. Tony Foster suggested a meeting with the event organiser and other members of the Community that help marshal the events.

Email received from SFCT; asking if the CC would like to submit an article for the next newsletter. All agreed, Admin to write a piece.

Errogie resident John Parrott, had got in touch with PH to discuss concerns about the new high water level for Loch Mhor. PH attended a meeting with SSE with John.

11. Upcoming events

None

12. AOCB

CL brought up the sign at Kelvin Way in Lower Foyers that states no access. Admin to contact the access officer. Re-wording of the sign might be a solution.

Tina Jordan raised an issue that she had come across with the IV2 postcode; during a Westminster Government broadband consultation, the postcode was not showing as a rural area. This consultation is now finished but Tina wondered if anyone else had that issue or other issues arising from that. No one else had come across any similar problems.

SH raised the issue of Sat Nav taking vehicles down unsuitable roads – signs to be looked into.

13. Next meeting

Tuesday 28th September 2021 19.30, Ordinary CC meeting. By Zoom video conferencing