

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 28th SEPTEMBER 2021

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Present

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

Public attending

Tony Foster

Apologies

Cllr Margaret Davidson & Cllr David Fraser

2. Adoption of minutes – 31st August 2021

Minutes of the CC meeting on 31/08/2021 were adopted as a true record of the meeting
Proposed by JC, seconded by CL

3. Matters arising

None

4. Micro Grant Applications

No new grants received

5. Reports

Treasurer

- A minor problem referred to last month whereby a cheque was paid to the wrong one of our accounts has been corrected.
- An application form for internet banking has been received. This will be dealt with in the next week. Are the present signatories happy to include internet duties – all agreed
- A request for monthly statements to be issued earlier in the month has been made. A response is awaited.
- With regard to our next AGM, financial details up to 31st March, the end of the financial year, are fully available. When might the AGM happen – to be discussed
- The September statements are not yet available. As of the end of August, our bank accounts are standing at: Main A/C £4740-83 (only £475-42 not ring-fenced) Project A/C £3353-96

PH updated the CC that the trust have refused the CC's request to increase the CC's admin hours from 8 to 16 hours per week (to allow for the toilet build particularly) as part of this year's operational grant that was applied for. PH has been in talks with the Chair of the Trust and the proposal is to allow an increase to 10 hours per week but with some separate allowance for work on the toilets but this has not been defined yet. CL asked what the reason for refusing the CC's

request; PH said he did not have that information. Discussion had and all agreed that all of the CC would like to meet with all of the board to discuss the decision and resolve any problems.

Police Report

- Not received

Fire Report

- One candidate starting initial training on 11th Oct 2021
- Only one shout to a campfire at Lower Foyers
- Home safety visits are available by calling 0800 0731 999 or text "FIRE" to 80800 from your mobile phone or call your local fire station on 07816 098719

Discussion had about the new fire safety rules coming in for February 2022 - that all homes in Scotland must be fitted with interlinked alarms. JC told the CC that a group of individuals had written to the Trust to ask them to consider funding the installation. Tony Foster confirmed that this had been received by the Trust and they would be asking funders if it was possible as any spend by the Trust over £25k must get prior approval from the funders and then the board would be discussing at the next trust meeting. Admin highlighted to the meeting what help the Scottish Government will be giving. Admin to do a poster to highlight the help available and send to Tony to do a joint release.

Boleskine Community Care

- BCC is pleased to announce a new Business Admin assistant started on the 20th of September funded by SFCT; 'Hi, I am Tilly Hepburn-Wright, I live in Torness and I'm currently in my final year of studying Accounting and Finance at the Inverness University. I'm really looking forward to becoming more involved in the community through my role at the BCC Hub in Lower Foyers.'
- A successful Macmillan Coffee Afternoon was held at the Hub on the 15th of September. With an estimated amount at over £400 raised for Macmillan. Thanks to all who contributed.
- Our very own Community Care Coordinator, Heather Macdonald, completed the 13-mile Wilderness Challenge and has raised over £400 for BCC! Thanks to all who sponsored Heather.
- The carers have been experiencing difficulties with accessing the road known as the 'Vennel' due to large potholes and over grown bushes, however after contacting Alastair Henry from the Forestry they have kindly agreed to repair the part of the road that the carers need to use from the Trinloist end. Thank you so much Alastair for looking into this, much appreciated. This is excellent news as the condition of this road has paid a terrible toll on the carers cars, broken springs, burst tyres to name a few.
- Another issue that will need to be addressed as the winter approaches is the difficulty of providing care when the smaller roads are not cleared of snow to allow carer visits.
- **October Activities** - Art Group is running fortnightly on a Monday afternoon from 2pm-4pm, next session 4th Oct
Moovin About and 'Strength and Balance held fortnightly on a Tuesday, next session 5th Oct

The Hub Walks is held as usual on the second Tuesday of every month.

Coffee Morning at the Hub is held every second Wednesday of the month

Music Group is a new addition to the activities and is to start on the 7th of October this will run fortnightly and will alternate with the Cinema Group.

Cinema groups next session will be Thursday 14th Oct

Professional services: - Additional to "Care at Home" and "Befriending"

- Foot Care will run every 6 weeks. Next session in October is fully booked. However Eva has kindly arranged an extra day in November, still spaces available for 18th November. To book an appointment ring the Hub 01456 486247 and leave a message.
- Holistic Therapies, next session 18th October. 10% of all proceeds go to BCC. To book an appointment ring Lindsey on 07787506093 or the Hub 01456 486247 and leave a message. Offering therapies such as – Swedish Massage, Reflexology, Reiki, Crystal Healing, Hopi Ear Candles
- Community Transport Scheme - call 07944 228830 to book

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

- COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN - The first draft of the Community Action Plan has been sent to the Trust and discussions on next steps are likely to take place end of September / early October.
- TRUST EMPLOYMENT - We are currently advertising for Cleaning Staff and the opportunity to do catering, bars and audio visual services in the Wildside Centre. We hope this will help a local business or local group.
- FUNDING - The Owl audio visual equipment is in place that allows anyone to have hybrid meetings in the Wildside Centre Board Room.
- We have applied for three funding pots and been unsuccessful in all three. This is not surprising without the findings of the CAP included in the applications to evidence need. We hope the CAP findings will help strengthen any future applications for the Trust or other groups we help support.
- Funds distributed from the Trust to other groups from SSE will tie in with the CAP with a greater emphasis on evidence of need, outcomes and conditions when agreeing to accept the funds. These should tie in with information you'd expect to evidence in any AGM report. The Trust will help and support this process of change in any way we can. The Trust also has to approach SSE for any projects above £25,000.
- We are working through the signed agreement for the Toilet funding and the lease agreement with the Council alongside the Community Council.
- PROJECTS AND ENGAGEMENT
- We intend to keep the community, stakeholders, staff 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 Community Council on any of these matters please contact Tony at tony-ceo@sfctrust.org.uk

- **Highlights to note** - The magazine is being designed at present and will be distributed soon
The new Business Directory on the website is progressing with a number of local businesses already listed

The required surveys for a planning application for the Foyers Bay slipway have been undertaken with a final design for planning hoping to be submitted to us in 7 weeks from Fairhurst. The Steering Group have been informed.

A decision on the Riverside Field planning application has been significantly delayed by the Local Authority Planning Department. Our architect is now pressing and we hope to feed back to the local Steering Group with any new information we have soon.

The Wildside Centre has been granted a Public Entertainment Licence pending agreed signage around the entrance way. It is expected that the next piece of work, agreed by the Steering Group, will be improved pathway around the building to make it a little easier underfoot.

Community Broadband Scheme – an article on the communities options now the R100 roll out has been announced and will be detailed in the next issue of the magazine.

Errogie Church Steering Group has agreed an architect following a tender process and an announcement who that is will be made soon.

Check out each section here [Projects | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust](#)
(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk)

CL asked Tony Foster if the area at the bay could be included in the grass cutting as it was very unkempt; Tony said the trust are currently looking into this.

6. Toilets

The RTIF agreement between Highland Council and SFCT has been sent to the Trust. Both the CC and the trust have read over and are happy with the agreement. Although the trust are signing, most of the conditions affect the CC throughout the build period. As such, the CC have written a letter to the Trust to confirm they are happy with the agreement and they will meet the conditions. The sub group agreed to re-look at the design of the building prior to going to tender to make sure the best building was being planned and to try to reduce construction costs. The Architect came out for a site visit on Monday 27th Sep and will shortly submit a couple of different options to choose from. Plans for the sub group to start meeting more regularly in preparation for the build period. PH asked if any other member of the CC would like to join the toilet sub-committee as the plans progress; CL volunteered.

7. Planning

- 21/04400/SCOP - Dell Wind Farm Variation - Construction and Operation of Dell Wind Farm comprising 12 Wind Turbines of up to 149.9m to blade tip height and associated infrastructure | Land At Dell Estate Whitebridge Inverness – *All agreed to get more information, specifically on any visual changes before commenting*
- 21/04112/FUL - Erection of woodland interpretation hut and formation of path | Land 170M N of Birchfield Cottage Whitebridge Inverness – *No comment*

Planning training to take place on Monday 4th October 2021 at 4pm-5pm by Microsoft teams

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) – See planning; scoping application in to alter the original approved plans from 14 turbines to 12, amend height from 130.5m to 149.9m and to vary the layout
- Corriegarth Extension (BayWar.e) – Await outcome of planning
- Red John – Permission granted. Community liaison group to start soon
- Bhlaraidh – Now a live planning application. Sits on the other side of Loch Ness (Invermoriston) but is visible from this area (Whitebridge/Suidhe)
- Loch Liath – same as above for location. At pre-planning stage

9. Roads

The planned public consultation for the Gorthleck village improvement plan had to be cancelled due to an increase in Covid numbers. Admin to contact HC to find out a new date.

Discussion had about the many poor edges on the roads locally. CL suggested doing a 2nd list, similar to what was done for the surface issues and submit to HC. All agreed

10. Correspondence

The Chairman of Holm Community Council had emailed to propose the idea of a joint meeting with SFCC, Doris CC, Essich CC and Slackbuie CC to discuss issues these areas will have in common re Red John. Admin had also suggested they invite Strathnairn as the traffic for Red John will be coming from the A9. All agreed this was a good idea. Admin will report back with dates.

Email received about this year's Remembrance Service; admin to contact the previous chair to get more information and details on who was previously contacted in 2020 to arrange the event

11. Upcoming events

Admin asked Tony Foster if this year's fireworks display would be going ahead as a member of the Community had asked; Tony reported that the board had decided not to go ahead with this event this year. It was felt unwise given the continuing threat of Covid and that event is difficult to control numbers. Instead, the trust are concentrating on the winter wonderland event. GG asked if there could be more at this year's event for adults; Tony informed the CC that there will also be a Christmas market at this year's event. Admin asked if it could please be communicated to the Community that there will not be a fireworks event this year; Tony agreed

12. AOCB

CL raised the issue again about elements of the CC's grant to the trust being refused and would like to understand more; as per minute at finance, meeting with the Trust to be arranged. Discussion also had about roles of the CC. Letter for new CC members to be located

13. Next meeting

Tuesday 26th October 2021 19.30, Ordinary CC meeting. By Zoom video conferencing