

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 26th OCTOBER 2021

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Present

Simon Hargreaves (SH) Jim Cameron (JC), Gill Gray (GG), Craig Lightbody (CL) & Cllr David Fraser
Sharon Ferguson (admin)

Public attending

Tony Foster, Kirsty Balfour & Catriona Fraser

Apologies

Patrick Haston & Cllr Margaret Davidson

2. Adoption of minutes – 28th September 2021

Minutes of the CC meeting on 28/09/2021 were adopted as a true record of the meeting

Proposed by CL, seconded by JC

3. Matters arising

Remembrance service - meeting arranged by admin for tomorrow night to organise the service.

Fireworks display – nothing communicated to the Community from SFCT as of yet.

Grant from SFCT – Award letters received 22nd October. Query over the amount on the award letter and some of the conditions. Tony suggested the 10th November for a joint CC and Trust meeting.

4. Micro Grant Applications

No new grants received but invoice from HC for the playpark bench has arrived. Email sent to the group to see where they would like the bench positioned.

5. Reports

Treasurer

- Bank statements from Virgin Money are now received earlier each month, covering to the end of the previous month. This doesn't fit well with our meetings being near the end of the month. However, we will be able to look up balances at any time when we get internet access. Forms for Internet Banking will be taken to the bank soon to complete the process.
- Main A/C: From 1st of October statement and other known dealings, the balance at present is £7686.83. This figure includes £2500 received from Highland Council (HC) towards portaloo costs, Comfort Funding money (also from HC) of £800, £1000 from Etape and £500 paid out to our portaloo cleaner. Any Grant payment received from the Trust is not included.
- Project A/C: This is unchanged from the last Treasurer's report at £3353.96

Police Report

New one not received but last month's came in just after the last meeting –

- There have been two reported incidents of vandalism to Foyers Power Station on the 29th of August 2021 and 10th of September 2021. There was another report of a vandalism to the SSE equipment at Uppers Foyers on the 17th of September 2021.

Fire Report

- No local significant incidents to report but the appliance has been out supporting our neighbouring station on a number of occasions.
- We have had 1 new recruit joining us at Foyers who successfully passed his 2 weeks initial training at Invergordon Training Centre and attended his first drill night. Still looking for more recruits, drill night is a Mon 7pm should anyone know of anyone keen to find out more
- As Bonfire Night approaches, an 'Impact of Fireworks' campaign, run by the Scottish Government in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, is raising awareness of the dangers associated with fireworks misuse and of new rules introduced to lessen their harmful impact. The campaign emphasizes that it's now illegal to set off fireworks before 6pm and after 11pm, extending to midnight on 5th November and 1am on Hogmanay, Chinese New Year and Diwali. We have been fortunate in our community area, most people are sensible and well behaved and we have generally been quiet.
- As a uniformed service we hope to be in attendance at Stratherrick and Foyers war memorial should the service go ahead.
- Finally as winter fast approaching - small reminder to get Chimneys swept.

Discussion had about the new fire detector law. TF updated the CC that the Trust had taken the proposal from some members of the Community that the trust help to pay for this in all local private homes but this was rejected as classed as individual gain. Still looking at bulk discount.

Boleskine Community Care

- BCC's events continue to attract more as people become more confident and comfortable to mix, however precautions to prevent spread of Covid remain in place. All attending feels a sense of belonging and that the activities are led and managed by the community and members of BCC. Keeping people active and valued within our community is so important to ensure well-being.
- The 'Care at home service' is a huge asset to the community and BCC is working closely with Highland Hospice to ensure our carers get the support they most certainly deserve. BCC/HH are keen to further improve carers conditions and secure a more attractive role. Currently more carers are needed especially someone who is willing to cover as relief. This would include covering annual leave and occasional sickness. Not too onerous for those who only have a limited amount of spare hours. A carers role brings its rewards and is such a comfort and joy to those who receive the service, knowing that they can remain safe and well in their own home.
- Our befriending service compliments the care by providing additional time to those being cared for. This can be a phone call or a visit to chat. The befrienders also organise regular

events at the hub for those who wish and feel comfortable to socialise with others and additionally a safe environment to get out of the house, also providing a little respite for their main family carers. If you find you have a few hours to spare and wish to become a volunteer befriender, please call the hub Mon-Fri between 11-1.30pm and speak with Tilly.

- All going well it is hoped that BCC's AGM will be held at the Gorthleck Hall on Saturday 4th December at 2pm for formal business followed by coffee/cakes and a chat. Andrew Leaver from Highland Hospice will be there to give a speech and answer any questions regarding the 'Care at Home' service. Everyone welcome!

November Activities -

- Art Group is running fortnightly on a Monday afternoon from 2pm-4pm, next session 8th November
- Moovin About and 'Strength and Balance held fortnightly on a Tuesday, next session 9th November
- 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 and song Group is looking like a popular addition to the activities and next session is 4th November running fortnightly and will alternate with the Cinema Group.
- Cinema groups next session will be Thursday 11th Nov

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

- Foot Care will run every 6 weeks. Next sessions in November and December are fully booked but will be holding sessions in the New Year. To book an appointment ring the Hub 01456 486247 and leave a message.
- Holistic Therapies, next session 15th November. 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 and Hopi Ear Candles
- Community Transport Scheme - call 07944 228830 to book

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

- The Community Action Plan is scheduled for a mid-November release. We plan an event on the 15th or 22nd November for community volunteers to share the plan and then distribute further.

TRUST EMPLOYMENT AND TENDERS

- 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. There was also a tender for works on Wildside landscaping to improve the pathways around the Centre. This was in response to feedback after the Summer event

FUNDING

- Grants awarded can be found on the website here [Grants Awarded | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](#)

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 Trust meetings on any of these matters please contact Tony at tony-ceo@sfctrust.org.uk Highlights to note -
- The magazine is available online and will be posted out for less than previously printing and distributing to outlets across the area
- A meeting took place with Planning and Roads re Riverside Field with subsequent changes made to the Masterplan. Details and a copy of the plan are on the website.
- The Wildside Centre is expecting new signage to be installed by the Local Authority soon. We had our first wedding reception and from all accounts it was very successful.
- Community Broadband Scheme – an article on options now the R100 roll out is detailed in the current issue of the magazine. We expect to move forward with a new contract with CFWN.
- Errogie Church Steering Group has agreed an architect following a tender process and an announcement who that is will be made shortly once contracts are signed
- The SFCT AGM will be on 24th November by Zoom/in person with letters going out to members.
- Check out each section here [Projects | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/projects)

6. Toilets

The RTIF agreement has been signed by the Trust and returned to HC. Final work being done on the lease from HC to SFCT for the land and the subsequent sub-lease of the toilets from SFCT to SFCC. As per the last update, the sub group had 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 new drawings came in from the Architect last week and the sub-group met to discuss them. They were unanimous in their decision on the best plan to go with. Admin has forwarded on the plans to the RTIF and SSE for funders approval as per there conditions. Once this is received, the plans will be submitted for an amendment to planning and admin will share the drawings with the Community. The new plans decrease the floor size and the roof height which will reduce the construction cost. Most of this reduction will be used up by the sharp increase in building materials though. All agreed that the new plans are more aesthetically pleasing too and will sit better in the surrounds.

At the sub-group meeting, it was also discussed about the financial set up for the build; SFCC requested that as the Trust has BACS payments set up and they will receive the RTIF grant, the most seamless way of managing the funds would be if the sub-group approved invoices for the build then they were paid by the Trust's finance Officer. Kirsty (Chair of the Trust) to discuss this with Frank and Carlene who is taking on Frank's role, then report back but they were happy to help if they can. Other item for discussion is the current portaloos arrangement; we are at the end of October but there is still a decent amount of visitors around. Suggestion might be to put two off hire and keep two through the winter (there is no notice required to do this). Funds remain to allow this.

All agreed to put two toilets off hire. Admin to action.

7. Planning

21/04700/FUL, Erection of 2 houses, Land West of Ceilear, Whitebridge Inverness IV2 6UR

No comment

8. Renewables

- Loch Mhor Dam – CF informed the CC that works due to finish end of Nov
- Aberarder (RES) – work to start on entrance to enable planning to continue as due to expire
- Cloiche (SSE) – Await outcome of planning
- Glenshero (SIMEC) – Await outcome of public enquiry
- Dell (Coriolis) – 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 – await further details to explain the visual differences this will cause
- 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

Admin has been in touch with Colin Ross from HC to discuss when the re-scheduled event would take place to discuss the Gorthleck village improvements; HC are still advising to hold all public meetings online so the re-scheduled event will now take place by video conferencing with the hope to schedule this for mid-November. More details will be released once a date is agreed.

Road closure Errogie 4th Nov – admin has written to ask about nursery parents access.

CL apologised for not compiling the list of edging work still needing done but will work on this.

10. Correspondence

Calum Martin has contacted the CC suggesting the idea of lighting the Stratherrick war memorial red as part of Poppy Scotland's 'Light it Red' campaign – all agreed this was a great idea. Admin to raise at remembrance service meeting and notify neighbours of the memorial.

Neil Fraser from HC emailed re Christmas trees and lights – options either to try to find someone locally to donate the trees again or pay HC £140 plus VAT per tree. Admin to look into this.

11. Upcoming events

SFCT CAP launch event – 19th November

SFCT Winter wonderland – 10th and 11th December

12. AOCB

CL would like to discuss the Etape donation at the next CC meeting

13. Next meeting

Tuesday 30th November 2021 19.00, AGM followed by Ordinary CC meeting. By Zoom video conferencing