

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022

### HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

#### **1. Presentation from Caledonian Concepts – Plans for Etape 2022**

Malcom Sutherland and Morag Fraser attended the meeting to give an update on the plans for the year's Etape cycling race. The following information was shared -

- Date for this year's event – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- 6000 entries to the event.
- Significant increase in participants from out with Scotland and from out with Highlands & Islands
- Event team continue to follow guidance from the Scottish Government regarding mass participation sporting events and we are taking all the appropriate measures to ensure the safety of everyone involved and the wider public and local community. Full details of Covid safety measures will be confirmed nearer to the event.

#### **ROAD CLOSURE IMPLEMENTATION**

- Road closure and reopening will be the same as 2021.
- Key consideration for any closed road event is that the route must be safe for all road users and pedestrians (participants and non-participants)

#### **LOCAL ACCESS**

- Working with local communities to identify those people who have essential journeys to make during the road closures. E.g. care workers. Please make contact if you have an essential journey.
- Event can provide official escort vehicles for vital trips when it is possible and safe to do so.

#### **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

- Working closely with VILN to promote area and tourism businesses
- Key message on any road signs is that the area is open for business

#### **PRE-EVENT COMMUNICATION**

- Royal Mail Door 2 Door leaflet drop – 31,400 letterboxes (Inverness to Spean Bridge)
- Community Councils & Business & Tourism Groups
- Visit Inverness Loch Ness – e-news and other channels
- Visit Scotland / Event Scotland
- Media (Press / Radio)
- Online – Website / Social Media
- Advanced Signage - We will work with Agencies to ensure that the message that goes to the wider public is that “the area is open for business.”

#### **FUNDRAISING**

- Charity funds raised by participants
  - Macmillan fundraising total from the 2021 event £185k so far and rising
  - target for 2022 is £250k +
  - £1.43m has been raised for official charity, Macmillan Cancer Support since 2014
- Donations made to each Community Council. The purpose of the donation is to support a local project, initiative or charity that will directly benefit the local community.

Local Volunteers help to make the event the success that it is. As a thank you to our volunteers we make a donation to either our official charity or a local charity or community group of their choice. If anyone would like to become a volunteer event marshal please

email: [volunteers@etapelochness.com](mailto:volunteers@etapelochness.com)

**2023 Event Dates** - 23 April (Easter 17 April & May Day 2 May)

CL asked about the possibility of rerouting the event along the B862 then down to Dores; Malcolm said he would discuss that option with the Police but as that route is the alternative should something happen on the A82, he didn't think they would want that closed for longer than it is. Malcom happy to meet with residents of Lower Foyers and the campsite to help avoid ques of traffic from the campsite when the road does re-open. Public meeting will be held by Caledonian Concepts to meet with the Community. PH suggested using some of the donation that Caledonian Concepts give the CC to do something at Lower Foyers on the morning of the closure.

JC raised a concern over the rise in participants from 5750 to 6000; Malcolm explained that this has not amended the road closure times and the race manager has done many calculations and there is capacity for much more so they are confident with the new level, as are all other agencies involved.

## **2. Present**

Patrick Haston (PH), Simon Hargreaves (SH) Jim Cameron (JC) and Craig Lightbody (CL)  
Sharon Ferguson (admin)

### **Public attending**

Kirsty Balfour and Tony Foster

### **Apologies**

Gill Gray (GG), Cllr Margaret Davidson & Cllr David Fraser

## **3. Adoption of minutes – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Minutes of the CC meeting on 30/11/2021 were adopted as a true record of the meeting  
Proposed by JC, seconded by SH

## **4. Matters arising**

The problem of positioning the bench in the park at Upper Foyers has still to be resolved. Cllr Fraser has suggested a site meeting on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb time TBC with anyone interested. Kirsty Balfour will ask at the toddler group can attend. Discussion had about extending the park to make a safe area for the bench and to encompass the proposed disabled access. Admin to advertise on social media.

## **5. Micro Grant Applications**

None

## **6. Reports**

### **Treasurer**

- As of today, the balances in our bank accounts are £20,137.42 (Main) and £3353.96 (Micro-Grant)

- The Main A/C contains recent grant payment of £14,821.16 from the Trust and £2,700 from Highland Council for the temporary toilets. The biggest out-goings have been to John Nixon Ltd as hire charges for the portaloos, paid from the Trust and Highland Council monies.
- The Micro-Grant account remains unchanged since September 2021 but two grants are in process that were approved in November.
- Online banking is now set up with Virgin Money but full use has been delayed whilst dual control (approval from two signatories) is arranged. This had been expected by last week, which would have allowed the Micro-Grants to be paid by online transfer. However, a further set of forms turned out to be necessary. Everything will be in place by next month's meeting, hopefully.

### **Police Report**

Nothing to report

### **Fire Report**

Nothing to report

### **Boleskine Community Care**

- An Update of BCC's current and future events; with the first minister's announcement in December the decision was made to stop all activities from the hub. However, we are delighted to say that these events will begin to start up again as of February 1st therefore the new dates are as follows.
- February Activities -  
 'Moovin About' and 'Strength and Balance' held fortnightly on a Tues, 1st Feb 1pm – 2pm  
 Art Group is running fortnightly on a Monday afternoon from 2pm-4pm, next session scheduled for 14th Feb  
 The Hub Walks is held as usual on the second Tuesday of every month. 8th Feb  
 Music and song Group will have its next session is 10th February running fortnightly and will alternate with the Cinema Group.  
 Cinema groups next session will be Thursday 3rd February fortnightly.
- Professional services: - Additional to "Care at Home" and "Befriending" -  
 Foot Care will run every 4 weeks on a Wednesday. Next sessions in February are fully booked. With a few spaces left in March. To book an appointment ring the Hub 01456 486247 and leave a message.  
 Holistic Therapies, next session 21st Feb. 10% of all proceeds go to BCC. To book an appt 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 LAUNCH - The Community Action Plan was launched on 19th November. Copies in print have been posted out to the community and we are following up with a Skills Audit. Nick Wright and I have been meeting with relevant external stakeholders who will engage with community led action groups to be set up from this month.

- TRUST EMPLOYMENT AND TENDERS - We have employed Steve Marshall as our new Buildings and Facilities Officer and he starts 10th January. We have reopened the role of Fundraising Officer. Before Christmas I conducted appraisals of all staff. I'd like to thank them for their amazing work and look forward to confirming their objectives for 2022.
- COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE REVIEW - Community Enterprise are reviewing the governance of the Trust. We have sent them all materials and they are meeting with our Board this month.
- 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 \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](#). If you have any questions in between Trust meetings on any of these matters please contact Tony at [tony-ceo@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:tony-ceo@sfctrust.org.uk)
- Highlights to note – A Christmas/New Year Newsletter went out and the next is scheduled for February release. The results of the Pulse survey suggest Communications has improved over the last twelve months and we are looking for a new lead Director now that Jillian has stepped down.
- Errogie is our lead project for 2022 with a plan to make wind and watertight followed by the development of the build. A consultation will take place in February to aid this process, as agreed at a recent Steering Group meeting.
- Riverside Field was scheduled to go to planning in December but was withdrawn by Planning at the last minute, despite us signing a processing agreement and providing all the necessary documentation asked of us. We are agreeing a fee for infrastructure leading to the Field.
- The Wildside Centre pathway is being constructed after the successful Winter Wonderland.
- The Slipway Steering Group met before Christmas to progress plans and planning.
- Community Broadband Scheme – we have agreed a contract with CFWN to take over the network and proceed as a contractor in the local area
- Check out each section here [Projects | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](#)

## 7. Toilets

The new plans for the toilets were approved by planning just before Christmas and the building warrant has been submitted today, 25<sup>th</sup> February. The QS is working on the costings and preparing to go to tender. He is also working on time schedules but we won't know a start date until tenders come back in.

The SFCC/SFCT toilet subgroup along with the Architect and QS, had a successful team meeting on Thursday 13th January. Carlene Vincent, the Trust's finance officer also attended as she will be managing the payments for the project.

## 8. Planning

21/05599/PIP - Erection of house and garage, Land 50M SW Of Craigview Gorthleck ~ Planning to ensure that current planning conditions for that area are upheld prior to any further developments. The current condition is as follows - *Planning permission for the construction compound area (as demarcated on Site Layout Plan, Dwg No. LH100503-P2-DR-601 Rev P5) is hereby granted for a temporary period only and shall cease to have effect on 06 April 2023 (the 'cessation date'). Prior to the cessation date, or within 3 months of the completion of the replacement spill-weir, whichever occurs first: i. the compound*

*area shall be cleared of all temporary infrastructure; ii. All permanent boundary enclosures, including the public access gate, (as per Site Access Junction Improvements, Dwg No. LH100503-P2-DR-304, Rev P5) shall be erected; and iii. The compound ground being reinstated to its condition prior to the commencement of the development. Reason: To reflect the temporary nature of the construction compound, to ensure the Planning Authority maintains control over the long-term use of the land, in the interest of visual amenity, habitat reinstatement and public access.*

## **9. Renewables**

- Loch Mhor Dam – SSE to attend the next SFCC meeting to update on the completion of the works
- Aberarder (RES) – work to start on entrance to enable planning to continue as due to expire
- Cloiche (SSE) – Await outcome of planning. MD said it will be considered in Feb
- 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 not started yet.
- Bhlaraidh – Now a live planning application. Sits on the other side of Loch Ness but is visible from this area (Whitebridge/Suidhe). Should be considered in Feb 22
- Loch Liath – same as above for location. At pre-planning stage
- Loch Kemp - proposed hydro pump storage at Dell Estate – The developers have apologised for not getting in touch prior to the Community Consultation. They stated that an email communication was sent but nothing was received by Admin or the chair. They have offered to come along to the next CC meeting that would suit the members. The proposal has now been submitted for scoping opinion with a closing date of 18<sup>th</sup> Feb for comment. Discussion had on detrimental effect this will have on the area. Whilst the members appreciate the amount of energy this project will generate, the following are issues they will comment on; Increase in traffic on very unsuitable roads, the sizes of the dams, visual impact, loss of amenity, over saturation of schemes planned for the area, concerns about the camp proposed with queries over who would stay in in when not that far from towns and loss of amenity (popular woodlands and path network for walking). Members would like to discuss further with the developers what mitigation works could take place on a large scale that could be a legacy from the scheme if it were to be approved.
- Culachy Wind Farm (Fred. Olsen Renewables) – invite to meet. On an estate in Fort Augustus) at pre-scoping stage. Will invite to a future CC meeting.

Kirsty Balfour suggested joint meetings with other development groups neighbouring and around Loch Ness

## **10. Roads**

Many local road improvements have taken place recently and PH wanted to thank CL who compiled the list of road defects last year that was then submitted to Highland Council, Cllr Davidson and Cllr

Fraser who pushed to get the works done. CL is now working on a list of areas that need edging work done and the CC will also revisit the original list to check what else needs done.

### **11. Correspondence**

Email from Paula Page re resilience planning and back up batteries at the surgery – Admin to follow up with finding out more about previous resilience plans

Email from Ultra X organisers - 7-8 May. This event will use the Loch Ness 360 track and will only use the roads for crossings which will be marshalled. PH raised that the Loch Ness 360 challenge will also take place from Friday 20th– Sunday 22nd May 2022

Email from SSE re Loch Mhor – attending Feb’s CC meeting to discuss the end of the works

Email from Steven Watson SFCT re work at smelter – scaffolding going up to allow repairs to the former smelter building at Lower Foyers

### **12. Upcoming events**

Lucky to be here training 7th Feb online. SH raised that the pads have still not arrived for the De-fib at the shop; Admin to follow up

Errogie church drop in @ Wildside 10th & 12th Feb

### **13. AOCB**

PH gave an update on the Ward 12 meeting that he had attended in December; there is money within the ward discretionary budget for playparks, paths and community recovery from Covid, ideally plans that join up Communities. The New local plan also discussed but no changes proposed for the Stratherrick and Foyers CC area.

### **14. Next meeting**

Next meeting will be on - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 19.30, by Zoom video conferencing unless otherwise directed by Highland Council