

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 26th APRIL 2022

HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

1. Report from Loch Kemp – Andrew Troup (Stratera Energy), Kirsty Cassie (Stratera Energy) & Jane Cumming (JMC Communications Scotland)

See written report

2. Present

Patrick Haston (PH), Simon Hargreaves (SH) Jim Cameron (JC), Craig Lightbody (CL) Cllr Margaret Davidson & Cllr David Fraser. Sharon Ferguson (Admin)

Public attending

Tony Foster, Catriona Fraser, Sarah Bryne & Mark Hindley

Apologies

Gill Gray

3. Adoption of minutes – 29th March 2022

Minutes of the CC meeting on 29/03/2022 were adopted as a true record of the meeting

Proposed by CL, seconded by SH

4. Matters arising

Local plan – public meeting to be held to look at the local plan. To be tied in with an action group meeting on housing. Admin to contact the planner from Highland Council, to arrange a date they can make. Meeting to be a hybrid meeting so attendees can be in person and online. TF told the members that the Community Trust are undertaking a housing needs survey

5. Micro Grant Applications

None received.

Await Stronelairg panel meeting to hear of any changes to the scheme

6. Reports

Treasurer

- Figures as of today: Main A/C £16,302.80
Micro-Grants £2004.96. A further allowance from SSE is expected in May.
- Ongoing costs of the portaloos remains a concern, with the number being increased to 4 for the summer. The Comfort Fund payments from Highland Council (£200 per month) have, however, been increased to cover a whole year; and another one-off payment from Highland Council has been requested.
- On a bright note, Peter Leyden has agreed to take over portaloos cleaning again, starting in May.

Police Report

- **Road Safety** There has been no real issues in regards to Road Safety, other than trees down and an abandoned vehicle (puncture awaiting recovery). As we move into the tourist season the number of Road safety incidents will no doubt rise with poor parking, poor lane discipline and general l'm on holiday driving. We will endeavour to spend as much time as possible out on patrol in order to provide advice, assistance and as a deterrent to bad behaviour. If there is a specific area you feel needs attention then please email and we will try and fit it into our plans.
- **Public Protection** There were a number of incidents involving Police in regards to public protection. These incidents would not impact the larger community and their inclusion here would not be appropriate. If you have concerns in regards to public protection whether it be mental health or child safety concerns or even if you feel someone is not coping medically, mentally or physically then there are resources online which will give advice how to help or who to inform if you need an outside agencies assistance.
- **Drugs / Alcohol Misuse** There were no incidents involving drug or alcohol misuse.
- **Crimes of Dishonesty** - There were no crimes of Dishonesty reported to Police Scotland. There were a couple of calls about a suspect vehicle which identified no crimes. If you believe a vehicle is acting suspiciously then it is helpful if when you contact Police you have a description of the vehicle and ideally a registration number. While it is not always possible or you may not feel safe to be within range of the vehicle in order to get the registration this can be helpful not only in tracing the vehicle but in checking and updating Police intelligence systems.
- **Other crimes** - No other incidents of note.

Fire Report

No report received

Boleskine Community Care

Recruitment - This month we welcome our new Care Coordinator Helen Grainger to the team. Helen is employed by Highland Hospice (Sunflower Home Care) and her role is to support and supervise the carers working in our community to deliver a high standard of care/support to individuals and their families/carers. Helen will also work closely with BCC's Community Liaison and Development Officer, Jan Stephen, to not only provide flexible high-quality care at home but also the associated support services necessary to assist our local residents to feel inclusive and live safe and healthy lives. Our ongoing drive to enrol more carers continues for our 'Care at Home' service - More carers are needed in both the Stratherrick /Foyers and the 3 Glens areas so teaming up to promote a recruitment drive makes sense.

Upcoming AGM - Is being held on Saturday 14th May at the Hub – registration 2pm for 2.30pm start. Further information and documents will be sent out to BCC members in the next week. Come along on the day and find out what BCC has been doing and the outcome of the survey for future development. Meet Jan and Helen and also some of our carers.

BCC Survey – shaping future services. Results are in and will be your chance to discuss at the AGM

Other News - Newly recruited volunteers to our 'Boleskine Helping Hands' befriender service continue with induction and training and will soon be matched with individuals in our community at

risk of loneliness and isolation. Post-covid, our handyerson's service is up and running again and meeting current demand but we continue to recruit volunteers to help 'lighten the load'.

April/May Activities: - please check our website's 'What's On' section for dates

- Art Group is running fortnightly on a Monday afternoon from 2pm-4pm
 - 'Moovin About' and 'Strength and Balance' held fortnightly on a Tuesday
 - The Hub Walk is held as usual on the second Tuesday of every month.
 - Coffee Morning at the Hub is held every second Wednesday of the month – we look forward to a visit from local charity 'Spokes for Folks' who will offer 'trike rides' to those attending on May 11th (10.30am -12noon)
 - The 'Music and Song' group is looking like a popular addition to the activities - running fortnightly and will alternate with the Cinema Group every other Thursday afternoon.
- Our Community Transport Scheme funded by Highland Council– continues to be an important facility in our community and we welcome the continued demand for this service – please contact our coordinator Kit on 07944 228830 to book a journey.

Professional services:-

- Foot Care will run every 4 weeks. To book an appointment call us at the Hub on 01456 486247
- Holistic Therapies. To book an appointment ring Lindsey on 07787506093 or call us at the Hub on 01456 486247

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

- COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN - All Action groups have now met and notes circulated. We had 39 responses to the online survey for volunteers / skills and an additional 10 at other events.
- TRUST EMPLOYMENT AND TENDERS - Gail Marshall has joined us as our new cleaner for Wildside. The Trust are recruiting for a new Finance Officer. Apply here Be our new Finance Officer | 21 April 2022 | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust (stratherrickcommunity.org.uk)
- COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE REVIEW - We have discussed the first draft of the Review with Community Enterprise. It was very favourable but we want to stretch them to suggest ideas for us to improve.
- SSE - We have submitted our annual reports to SSE.
- QUEENS JUBILEE - It was the Queen's birthday this week and we have been collaborating with community members who came forward to run an event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. This will take place on Friday 3rd June at the Shinty Pitch, Lower Foyers. There will be an Afternoon Tea Party from 12.30 to 4.30pm. Bring a plate of nibbles and enjoy an afternoon of traditional music and family fun. This will be followed by an Evening Dance from 6.30pm to 11pm. BYOB to a ceilidh, disco and BBQ. Further details on this event to follow. For more information contact lurviesjubilee@gmail.com Tel 01456 486233. The event is hosted by the Loch Ness Lurvies with logistics support and funding from SFCT.
- PROJECTS AND ENGAGEMENT
- WILDSIDE - We had a wedding reception and a retirement party last week. Many of our staff will be in the Wildside on a Wednesday and we have opened the building for study and workspace if you would like a change of scenery from your home. Free Wi-Fi is available. If successful we will invest in more things to make you more comfortable. Try it out here Wildside open for work and study space | 14 April 2022 | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust (stratherrickcommunity.org.uk)
- ERROGIE - The Errogie Consultation is ongoing with Wind and Watertight delayed due to a Bat Survey. Initial designs were shown to the Steering Group and we are going to initial design concepts for public consultation next.

- RIVERSIDE - The Trust newsletter, which summarises the decision made by Highland Council, has been delivered to residents and we are confirming our planning in principle. We are contacting people to be on the steering group.
- INVERFARIGAIG - Forestry have followed up with colleagues to get final approval to instruct solicitors to progress the disposal of the other piece of land at Inverfarigaig. We are awaiting details.
- CRAFTS AND CROFTERS FAIR - This will be taken forward by Fundraiser Sarah Byrne, supporting local crafters and food suppliers, four times a year. The first event is on May 7th.
- NOTES - I've circulated with this report some of the notes additional to the Action Groups which are being suggested that may be of interest to CC including homes, pathways and the Brolly Group meeting.
- INFORMATION - 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. We are also starting a Funding Thursday section identifying help for people re funding. 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 Check out each section here Projects | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust (stratherrickcommunity.org.uk)

7. Toilets

The QS has prepared all the tender documents and a quality assurance document agreed by the sub-group (this will ensure that the contract is not just awarded purely on a cost basis) and the contract should be live on Public Contract Scotland tomorrow. Although we have had to use this system, we are getting to use the quick quote facility and have been giving local contractors that are interested, the guide on how to use the PCS quick quote as well as a link to get bespoke help from Business Gateway with their tender application. The sub-group are meeting shortly to discuss the finances and the procedure following the 4 week tender period.

Highland Council have been asked for money to help pay for the portaloos again this year. We will be looking to increase the number of loos back up to 4 ahead of the increase in visitors. We will know by tomorrow or Thursday what support we can get from the tourism management budget. As Jim mentioned in his finance report, we have managed to get the Comfort Scheme increased to 12 months a year rather than 7 as this was what was applied for previously when the toilets were not opened all year round.

8. Planning

22/01696/FUL Formation of additional storey | Foyers House Foyers Inverness – *No comment*
 22/01646/PIP Erection of house | Land 270M SW of Dhuhallow Erroglie – *No comment*
 22/01608/FUL Construction of access track and slipway | Foyers Inverness IV2 6YB – *No comment*
 22/01563/PIP Erection of house. | Land 110M NE of Ballan Ruadh Whitebridge – *No comment*

9. Renewables

- Loch Mhor Dam – works complete, see report at point 1
- 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 dealt with in June 22

- Glenshero (SIMEC) – **Refused at 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 – Admin to invite developers to a CC meeting
- Corriegarth Extension (BayWar.e) – Await outcome of planning
- Bhlaraidh – Extension plans passed at last planning meeting but three turbines less
- Loch Liath – same as above for location. At pre-planning stage
- Red John – Pump storage at Dores, approved at public inquiry
- Loch Kemp - proposed hydro pump storage at Dell Estate – See report
- 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.

10. Roads

CL reported that the white lines had now been re-done at the Loch Tarff area. CL asked about how the CC can get work done on the side roads i.e. the Trinloist road; Cllr Fraser noted he was working on this at the moment with John Taylor from HC roads department

11. Correspondence

Email from SSEN; a community consultation is being held on 28th Apr at the Lochardil House Hotel to discuss the proposed connection from the Red John Pump Storage scheme above Dores to the Knocknagael Substation. Admin will attend and has shared the event on Social Media

Email from Alex Catto of Easter Aberchalder Estate; His wind turbine is not working and wanted to notify the CC that he going to apply to planning for another one

Email from SSE re Ali Energy; Company that SSE are suggesting we could use to look at energy efficiency measures for the Community. Admin to look into

Email from organisers of the Loch Ness Challenge event; they are looking for volunteers

12. Upcoming events

SSE Red John connection consultation – 28th April @ Lochardil House Hotel

Crafters and Crofters Market – 7th May @ the Wildside Centre, Whitebridge

Loch Ness Challenge – 20th, 21st & 22nd May

Jubilee Community event – 3rd June @ Old Shinty pitch, Lower Foyers

13. AOCB

JC thanked Jan Hargreaves and the Luvvies for taking forward the idea of a Jubilee event

PH thanked Cllr Davidson for her remarkable service as a Cllr to the South Loch Ness area for 27 years, over which time she has helped in so many ways and will be missed by all.

CL highlighted parking issues at Glenlia, Upper Foyers; Cllr Fraser has been working on this with John Taylor as part of this issue and to create disabled parking for the playpark. There is an area of land that could be made into parking but due to the terrain, it would not be simple

14. Next meeting

Next meeting will be on - Tuesday 31st May 2022 19.30, by Zoom video conferencing