

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2022

### HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCING

#### **1. Present**

Patrick Haston (PH), Gill Gray (GG) Jim Cameron (JC), Craig Lightbody (CL) Cllr Chris Ballance & Cllr David Fraser. Sharon Ferguson (Admin)

#### **Public attending**

Catriona Fraser & Peter Faye

#### **Apologies**

Simon Hargreaves, Cllr Knox & Cllr Crawford

#### **2. Adoption of minutes – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Minutes of the CC meeting on 26/04/2022 were adopted as a true record of the meeting  
Proposed by JC, seconded by CL (still await notes from Loch Kemp developers)

#### **3. Matters arising**

Local plan meeting to be held on Wed 8<sup>th</sup> June with planner in attendance. Admin to advertise.  
Proposed hybrid style meeting @ the Wildside Centre as planner unable to attend in person

#### **4. Micro Grant Applications**

Verity Cameron £500 – Individual application for help with fees to participate in 'Camp America'.  
Members discussed at length and following a vote of 1 for, 2 against and 1 abstention; the application was refused on the grounds that it was individual benefit.

Stratherrick Primary Parent Council £384.50 – Group application to take all pupils from Stratherrick Primary school to the Highland Wildlife Park, Kingussie for an educational visit and all of the nursery children to the soft play centre in Inverness. All agreed

Foyers Primary Parent Council £304 – Group application to take all pupils from Foyers Primary on a joint trip with Stratherrick Primary to the Highland Wildlife Park for an educational visit. All agreed  
Garry Fentiman £200 – Individual application to put flowers on the Bailey bridge. All agreed.

Bowls for everyone £500 – Group application to part fund equipment for carpet bowling club @ The Wildside Centre. Deferred for further information.

#### **5. Reports**

##### Treasurer

Main A/C: As of today, standing at £18,482.84. This includes input from Highland Council (£2500) and Etape (£1000). Rental payment for portaloos (2) continues (£269.64): this will increase next month, for 4 portaloos. Other payments were Admin costs (£555) and portaloos cleaning (£200).

Micro-Grant A/C: At £2004.96, no change from last month. This will probably change after today's meeting. Now would be a good time to receive the annual top-up from SSE.

Admin added that yearly operational grant will need to be completed & submitted

### **Police Report**

Road Safety - There were a small number of calls in road traffic matters. As summer brings in tourists, cyclists and motorbikes this is likely to increase. If you feel that a vehicle is being driven in a careless or dangerous way you can contact the Police on 999 if it is safe for you to do so or on 101 if it is not urgent. Local officers are working regularly with colleagues in Roads Policing and Camera Enforcement Unit to enforce road traffic legislation and influence driver behaviour.

Public Protection - There were no incidents of note in relation to public protection. 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 of note involving drug or alcohol misuse.

Crimes of Dishonesty - There were no crimes of dishonesty reported however local officers are aware of a number of incidents in the wider area whereby mail and egg boxes have been damaged, presumably to steal from within. It is important to report all instances of vandalism and theft by contacting the Police on 999 in an emergency or on 101 if it is not urgent. This information is crucial to developing an intelligence picture of what is happening in our community and can be used by local officers to focus on problem areas with additional high visibility mobile patrols and community engagement. There were a couple of instances of low level fraud reported. With the ever increasing reliance on online banking and shopping, criminals are becoming more sophisticated in how they carry out fraud. Should any community group feel they would benefit from a fraud prevention and online safety presentation from one of Police Scotland's financial investigators, please contact PC Hamilton.

Other crimes - No other incidents of note.

### **Fire Report**

We are pleased to say we have another two recruits joined us at Foyers Community fire station at the beginning of May, bringing the establishment up to eight, but we still have room for more should anyone be interested. The recruitment advertisement for retained firefighters is changing to what the public think about our role in our communities, we are moving away from " Retained " to " On call firefighters " as we are on call, this has no impact on operational duty's.

Home fire safety visits have now commenced again, should you know of anyone in need of a visit, please contact 0800 0731999

We have attended a number of incidents within and outside our station area, ranging from small house fire, road traffic collisions to wildfires.

We are hoping to attend a number of local events to promote fire safety, water safety and recruitment throughout the summer.

### **Boleskine Community Care**

Our ongoing drive to enrol more carers continues for our 'Care at Home' service. Our next opportunity to do this will be at the 'Gala Day' at the Corriegarth Estate in July.

AGM - This was held on Saturday 14th May at the Hub

BCC Survey – shaping future services – will form the basis of our updated development plan  
Befriender's service - Our CLDO as Coordinator of this service continues to be kept busy with referrals and assessments as we address the issue of Isolation and Loneliness in our community  
June/July Activities - please check our website's 'What's On' section for dates

Our Community Transport Scheme funded by Highland Council– continues to be an important facility in our community and also supports the drivers volunteering for our 'Helping Hands' Befrienders 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 - More CAP actions in June with housing, pathways and transport being taken forward by volunteers.

TRUST EMPLOYMENT AND TENDERS - Gail Marshall has been employed as a cleaner. We are interviewing four people for the Finance Officer.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE REVIEW - The review is complete and will be made available soon.

SSE - The Fundraisers but forward applications on behalf of the Luvvies for the Jubilee celebrations and we put in for a Communications Officer to the Stronelairg Panel. Both were successful, easing pressure on our budgets.

WILDSIDE - We have instructed solicitors re purchase of the land at Wildside and are intending to do a test dig to see suitability for affordable housing prior to purchase.

ERROGIE - We have had to conduct a Bat Survey which has delayed the wind and watertight work. The final designs are available for consultation.

RIVERSIDE - Riverside Field has been granted 'planning in principle'. We have asked local residents to join the steering group. We will recruit more to the group who are interested in what the facilities have to offer. Before that we are working through the Planning in Principle document to share something meaningful to the group when we first meet and what the first phase is likely to be for feedback.

FOYERS BAY SLIPWAY - Now in for planning

INVERFARIGAIG - The Forest School and surrounding land has been costed and we are looking to purchase as a Community Asset Transfer, so may be less. We will likely make a Land Fund application for this. Forestry are liaising with our solicitors re land at Inverfarigaig.

BROADBAND - CFWN has agreed a lease at Dunmaglass Estate and is progressing as expected

CRAFTS AND FOOD FAIR - Thus will continue after the first one. Attendance was small but enough for those with stalls to grow with the event.

MAGAZINE - We currently have 7 people looking to advertise in future issues of the magazine.

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](http://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)

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

CL raised that the Foyers bay area does have a public right away running through it, contrary to what is in the planning papers; Catriona Fraser noted this and will raise at the next board meeting CL also asked about the land that the Trust were proposing to purchase at Wildside and its proposed use; Catriona Fraser explained that most of the land was zoned for housing and a smaller area may be used for a forest playground area should the purchase go ahead

## 6. Toilets

Tender – The tender for the toilets is live on PCS and the closing date is 12 noon on 17th June  
Building Warrant - Building warrant has been approved

Funding - Admin had meetings with three out of the four current funders to discuss the concerns over the expected increase in the costs due to inflated building costs. RTIF confirmed that there is scope to revisit the agreed RTIF grant and increase the figure. SSE Stronelaig panel have agreed that they would look at increasing their grant from £10k to £20k without the need for another application and HC have said they would consider a further application to the discretionary budget once the council is set up but all felt it was only fair that all funders were approached. At a recent toilet sub-group meeting, SFCT were asked if there would be any flexibility in the grant figure that had been awarded. Exact figures are not known yet but we know we may have to move fast from the 17th June to confirm funds to allow us to be in a position to accept a tender price and this is why we would appreciate a board discussion on the matter. Await the outcome of the next SFCT board meeting

Portaloos - Following the last CC meeting, Highland Council have agreed to pay £2,500 towards the portaloos for this summer. This is very much appreciated and meant that we could increase the loos back up to 4 for the busy summer period. 2 extra portaloos were delivered on 20th May.

## 7. Planning

Erection of replacement 500kw wind turbine, Land 2km SE of Easter Aberchalder – *No comment*

Plans for 6 affordable houses at Inverfarigaig have been permitted

Non-compliance for site at Loch Mhor dam permitted; discussion had about how planning conditions can be overturned. Cllr Fraser suggested reading the planners report to get some insight on this decision

## 8. Renewables

- Aberarder (RES) – work to start on entrance to enable planning to continue as due to expire
- Cloiche (SSE) – Await outcome of planning. Due to be heard 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 has invited developers to a CC meeting. No reply yet.
- 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. Admin attended Red John SSEN connection consultation; there are three proposed routes for the power connection, with the preferred option being the one that runs close to the Essich road then all the way to Knocknagael substation near Inverness. All cabling will be underground and the works will be done within the same time period as the construction of the pump storage scheme

- Loch Kemp - proposed hydro pump storage at Dell Estate. At pre-planning stage. Email from developers with route for cabling & all scoping comments but still awaiting typed report from the CC meeting they attended last month
- 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.

## **9. Roads**

Road closure planned for w/c 6<sup>th</sup> June for the Dalcrag area and the area between Boleskine graveyard and Foyers Hotel, for resurfacing works. Admin to share info

## **10. Correspondence**

Email from Paula Page; Paula no longer wants to act as benefit negotiator for the CC. Thanks to Paula for doing this role. CL volunteered offer to take over this role

Email from Stephen Steiner – suggesting outdoor washing machines be added to the new toilet area; admin has been in touch with some places that have them, awaiting install costs & revenue vs running costs

## **11. Upcoming events**

Jubilee Community event – 3<sup>rd</sup> June @ Old Shinty pitch, Lower Foyers

Highland Gathering – 23<sup>rd</sup> July @ Corriegarth Estate

## **12. AOCB**

De-fibs – Neil Kirkland has volunteered to oversee all of the de-fibs in the area. He already does this for Dores. Admin & Neil collating details of all batteries, pads etc & arranging for any new items required. There has been delays getting equipment from Lucky2BHere as main volunteer is off sick  
Brolly group – there is a fund that opened today (Investing in Communities Fund) that the CC could potentially apply for on behalf of the Community. Ideas to be discussed with Brolly group but grant is for projects starting from Apr 2023. Closing date 28th June

CL suggested that the expression of interest form (EIO) for the Highland Council's regeneration capital fund could be filled in for the Stratherrick Hall; admin explained that the EIO requires quite a depth of detail about a project and as such, the project details aren't ready for the hall but if work could be done to form an action plan, this fund will open again and it could be applied for next time  
CL suggested that all the CC's in Ward 12 could come together to discuss the area becoming a nature reserve

## **13. Next meeting**

Next meeting will be on - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 19.30

This will be the AGM followed by an ordinary meeting