

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 30th AUGUST 2022

THE WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE

WITH VIDEO LINK OPTION

1. Present

Patrick Haston (PH), Gill Gray (GG) Simon Hargreaves (SH), Stephen Steiner (SS) and Craig Lightbody (CL)

Public attending

Cllr Chris Ballance & Cllr David Fraser. Sharon Ferguson (Admin), Tony Foster, Zoe Illife and Peter Faye

Apologies

None received

2. Presentation from Tim Francis, Highland Council Senior Access Ranger

Tim gave a talk on his role; he works as part of the access team. Part of the role is to educate visitors on the access code as well as cleaning up waste, putting out fires and collecting data. Ranger patrols are until 30th October then the rangers work on improvements over the winter. Part of the role is funded by Visit Inverness Loch Ness. The team also produce leaflets with QR codes on them. They are happy to help arrange litter picks and for volunteers to work with them but do not recommend anyone doing any patrol work on their own. Email addresses to contact the rangers or report anything is - accessrangers@highland.gov.uk

3. Adoption of minutes – 31st May 2022

Minutes of the CC meeting on 31/05/2022 were adopted as a true record of the meeting

Proposed by CL, seconded by SH.

Meeting planned for 28th June was postponed due to the internet connection failing at the start of the meeting and it remained off for some time hence no minutes from that meeting

4. Matters arising

None

5. Micro Grant Applications

No new applications received.

Bowls for everyone £500 – Group application to part fund equipment for carpet bowling club @ The Wildside Centre; this was looked at in May 22 where a few questions arose, all questions have been answered and all agreed to the grant

6. Reports

Treasurer

No report for this month as new treasurer just appointed

Police Report

No report received

Fire Report

No report received

Boleskine Community Care

BCC are continuing our drive to enrol more carers for our 'Care at Home' service and we are currently planning an evening event at Cameron's Tearoom – potentially attracting parents looking for flexible hours to accommodate family commitments.

An EGM took place on the 25th of August with two objectives.

1. Nick Wright gave a presentation on the outcomes of the BCC survey held earlier in the year which will now feed into the development plan and shape the future services.
2. To discuss proposed changes to the constitution with members of BCC.

Iain McKenzie from Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) who has worked with the trustees over the past few months on the suggested changes, attended to clarify any points and answer questions. Engagement by members who attended was well received and influenced the final outcome. A vote was taken on the proposed changes and adopted unanimously by those members who attended. The meeting was well attended and was found to be very interesting and informative.

Befriender's service - The befriending service has not attracted as many referrals as we'd like so the CLDO is relaunching the service using a combination of methods – Trust newsletter, flyers and Facebook to advertise the service.

Sept - Nov 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: -

- Podiatry visits (Foot Care) are every 4 weeks and continue to be popular with local residents. 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 STAGE 2 - Nick Wright will be undertaking the second part of the CAP before December, visualising the hamlets with items identified in the CAP

TRUST EMPLOYMENT AND TENDERS - Marie Keenan is the new Finance Officer. We have interviewed for the Communications and Events Officer.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE REVIEW - Next steps are to review all our governance policies.

SSE - SSE have relaxed individual benefit for winter this and next year, allowing the Trust to free up to £25,000 for the cost of living crisis.

PROJECTS AND ENGAGEMENT

WILDSIDE - The purchase of land at Wildside is progressing once a trial dig has taken place.

ERROGIE - Errogie is progressing well and out of this project we hope to have a Bio Diversity Group for the Strath.

RIVERSIDE - We are still awaiting feedback on information from the current planning application and a date when it will be determined

FOYERS BAY SLIPWAY - Now in planning – waiting for a determination date.

INVERFARIGAIG - Forestry are liaising with our solicitors re land at Inverfarigaig following questions raised by the group who will take over the lease

BROADBAND - CFWN has agreed a lease at Dunmaglass Estate and this option is now live.

FIREWORKS AND WINTER WONDERLAND - Will take place on Sat 5th Nov and 9th and 10th Dec

The Highland Gathering at Corriegarth was successful and the date for next year is 22nd July

MAGAZINE - The deadline for the Magazine is 5th September

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. 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 tender period closed in June and unfortunately, we only received one tender in but it is from a Highland Company that have a very good reputation. We have spoken to all the other companies that said they would tender and all bar one, didn't tender because they were just too busy.

As predicted with the current volatility in the construction industry, the tender came in around 25% more than the last costing done by the QS. The toilet sub-group, along with the QS, architects and contractor have been working through a bill of revisions for the build to look at cost savings. The tender cost had originally come in at £270,809 but it is now under £235k. Once the final figure is agreed, which is imminent, we will work with the funders, who have been kept abreast of the situation the whole way through. Funding has also being applied for the elements of the building that make it net zero and this should help with the costs.

If the final finances can be agreed and the quote accepted, the contractors hope to be on-site Sep/Oct this year. We will share a build schedule once timings are agreed.

8. Planning

22/03411/S37. Installation of overhead line for communication mast. Land 365M West Of Gorthleck House. SSE communication mast. *No comment*

22/03227/PIP | Erection of house | Land 100M SE of Highfield Gorthleck

Outline planning for one house. *No comment*

22/02752/FUL | Alterations to No. 63 and 64 to form single house, erection of extension, workshop, replacement of shed | 63 Glenlia Foyers Inverness IV2 6XZ. *No comment*

22/03231/MSC | Matters specified in conditions 1, 2, and 5 of 18/02585/PIP - Erection of house and garage with associated works | Land 60M NE of Highfield Gorthleck. *No comment*

22/03256/FUL | Erect replacement house | Teanassie Whitebridge Inverness IV2 6UN. *No comment*

22/03496/FUL | Erection of house | Land 30M NW of Martinet Gorthleck. *No comment*

9. Renewables

- Aberarder (RES) – going ahead with original plans for 12 turbines at 130m
- Cloiche (SSE) – Await outcome of planning. Due to be heard in Nov 22

- Glenshero (SIMEC) – **Refused at public enquiry, no right to appeal**
- Dell (Coriolis) – Scoping application in to alter the original approved plans from 14 turbines to 10, amend height from 130.5m to 200m and to vary the layout – Admin has invited developers to a CC meeting. No reply yet. Admin will chase up again.
- Corriegarth Extension (BayWar.e) – Objected to by Highland council, will go to public enquiry
- Bhlaraidh – at Glenmoriston. Extension plans passed 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.
- 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 road between Glenlia and Inverfarigaig is in a very bad condition following it being used when the B862 Foyers to Inverness was closed for works. CL has reported.

11. Correspondence

Admin was contacted via the website by local resident Tina Jordan; although Tina doesn't live by the Riverside field development, she had been reading up on it and was concerned that it was going ahead despite the local objections. Admin had explained that it was just planning in principle that had been awarded. Query also over why the community liaison meeting hadn't taken place; to be raised with SFCT.

12. Upcoming events

5th November - Community Fireworks (venue to be confirmed by SFCT)

9th – 10th December – Winter Wonderland @ the Wildside Centre

CL queried whether the Community wants to spend money on fireworks. All agreed that the social event is much appreciated but perhaps just a bonfire and BBQ would be better. Admin to do a letter to the trust to ask them to consider this option.

13. AOCB

Admin raised that the CC has money from a grant from SFCT for signs in the area and we had previously been looking at installing signs but awaiting permissions; Cllr Fraser to pick this up again. Peter Faye made a complaint that a member of the CC had made a defamatory remark on social media about Directors of the Trust and queried the Community Councils stance on this. The CC member stated that any remark made by himself was that of his own opinion and not the view of the Community Council.

14. Next meeting

Next meeting will be on - Tuesday 27th September 2022 19.30