

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 27th SEPTEMBER 2022
THE WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE
WITH VIDEO LINK OPTION

1. Present

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

Public attending

Cllr Chris Balance, Sharon Ferguson (Admin), Tony Foster and Mark Hindley

Apologies

Stephen Steiner (SS), Cllr David Fraser and Cllr Helen Crawford

2. Adoption of minutes – 30th August 2022

Minutes of the CC meeting on 30/08/2022 were adopted as a true record of the meeting
Proposed by CL, seconded by GG.

3. Matters arising

Mark Hindley from Whitebridge has kindly offered to be part of the CC. Next agenda to be annotated that the CC intend to co-opt a new member.

Discussion had about the AOCB part of the agenda; all agreed that ongoing, anybody wishing to raise anything under this point, will have to put it in writing prior to the meeting.

4. Micro Grant Applications

Stratherrick Primary Parent Council - £290.74 to pay for pantomime tickets for all pupils in the primary school and a toy tractor for the nursery – all agreed.

5. Reports

Treasurer

No report for this month as handover hasn't happened with the new treasurer and ex treasurer away so unable for forward copies of the most recent bank statements

Police Report

Road Safety - There were a number of calls in road traffic matters including abandoned vehicles. 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. Information in relation to reporting abandoned vehicles can be found on Highland Council's website. If the vehicle is causing an obstruction or is in a dangerous position, it can be reported to Police by calling 101.

Reports were submitted to Procurator Fiscal in relation to driving with no insurance and careless driving.

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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 - Officers attended a couple of disturbances which resulted in reports being submitted to Procurator Fiscal for assault.

Crimes of Dishonesty - There were a couple of reports of thefts and a break in to a property where no items were stolen. One person has been reported to Procurator Fiscal for theft. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area or become aware of damage to property please report the matter by contacting the Police on 999 in an emergency or on 101 if it is not urgent.

Other crimes - Local officers have carried out joint patrols with Highland Council Access Rangers to promote responsible access of the countryside.

Fire Report

Foyers Community Fire station now has a competent crew of 8 personnel with another person newly applied and starting on the recruitment process.

In September the crew have had a number off call outs both within and out with our station area. In the local area we attended a camp fire that had not been properly extinguished causing 8 meters square of burnt area in a forest, we also attended a RTC with American tourists who managed to put their car on its side, police and ambulance attended but no one hurt.

As we enter autumn we urge community members to get there chimney swept and with the rising electrical costs making sure appliances are fit for purpose.

We are still conducting home fire safety visits in the area, If you, or someone you know is over 50 years old and smokes and either lives alone, has mobility issues or uses medical oxygen, we need your help to identify them. Ask them to get in touch or if you are a family member or a carer, refer them to us. We will undertake a Home Fire Safety Visit where possible. Make the Call, it could save a life.

Boleskine Community Care

No written report but CL reported to the CC on the recent recruitment day; successful day with around 15 people attending, some being signed up as carers and some as volunteer drivers. Low wage is an issue with attracting candidates. Suggestion that SFCT could top up the wages. PH said this would be a discussion that BCC would have to have with SFCT.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

No written report received but Tony Foster, SFCT manager, gave a verbal update –

Land at the Wildside Centre – looking at purchasing this for Community housing. Test holes have just been done to check the suitability.

Housing needs survey – this is live and will feed into space planning that Nick Wright is undertaking Errogie Church project – final designs will be ready soon and will go to planning before Christmas Riverside field and Foyers bay – both still have planning issues to be resolved

Communications officer – the successful applicant for this post was Jillian Barclay. This post is funded by the SSE Stronelairg panel which is separate to SFCT funds.

Paths – group have done an audit of local paths and trails and along with looking to get improvements done, they are also looking at an app to show the community and visitors where all the paths are where they take you.

Transport – contacted BCC to see if they can help advertise the community transport scheme

Playparks – group looking into developing a play area at the Wildside centre

Childcare – Survey of needs has just finished. Outcome will be discussed by that group

Group meeting – plans for a meeting of all the local groups in November. Will be an opportunity to discuss successes and a social get together

Knockie Trust/help for households – the application form to apply for help with the cost of living crisis is now with SSE for approval. Will be shared with the community as soon as possible. Levels will be £250 for an individual and £500 for a family/couple.

PH thanked the Directors for their work to get this grant for the community.

6. Toilets

Since the last meeting, all extra funding required has been secured and the letter of acceptance has been sent to the Contractors, Compass.

The Contractor has been out on site last week to look at what areas of the car park will need to be closed off etc. ahead of the pre-start meeting which is scheduled for this Thursday, 29th

September. Following that, we will know more about start times and build time schedules. This will be shared with the Community then start doing regular communication to keep everyone updated.

Discussion had about cars parking on the road by the Falls and the safety implications; admin to raise with TEC services.

7. Planning

No planning applications submitted this month

8. 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. No further updates received
- Loch Kemp - proposed hydro pump storage at Dell Estate. **Community consultation ahead of full planning to be held in the Wildside centre on 7th December 2022.** Developers have stated they can't make the CC's November meeting and can attend the January one but all felt that was too late after the consultation if they couldn't make one before. Admin to request that they attend

the October or November meeting, failing that, invite them to attend a CC meeting on 13th December that will just discuss this matter.

- 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.

Discussion had about Community benefit and PH raised that he would like to see a grant for training and personal development. Tony Foster explained that the Trust's student grant does cover this but it maybe needs to be advertised to explain what it covers.

9. Roads

White lines have been done in several areas but in some parts, only at the edges. It might be as those areas too narrow for a middle line; admin to ask roads department for an explanation. Areas reported that need work – Killen road end to the bridge over Allt Breineag is badly damaged and needs resurfacing. Fire Station to Trinloist has bad potholes.

The Glenlia to Inverfarigaig road that had previously been reported, has now been fixed.

CL reported that there had been an unknown contractor with traffic management at Lower Foyers recently and they were digging up close to a badger set; admin to ask HC who the contractor was

10. Correspondence

Consultation Request for Felling Permission; 1 Ault Na Goire Errogie. All happy if using the timber trail for the extraction route. Discussion had about whether the Community could benefit from any wood. Admin to ask.

11. Upcoming events

5th November - Community Fireworks, Loch Ness Shores Campsite

7th December – Loch Kemp Community Consultation @ the Wildside Centre

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

12. AOCB

None

13. Next meeting

Next meeting will be on - Tuesday 25th October 2022 19.30 Venue TBC