

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 25th OCTOBER 2022

STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK

WITH VIDEO LINK OPTION

1. Loch Ness festival and Loch Ness Trail fund initiative – presentation by Graeme Ambrose

Graeme gave a presentation on the Loch Ness Festival that is planned for 26th May to 4th June. This is a trail running and mountain bike ultra-marathon event with the vision to create a festival and events property that will become an international Bucket list item for tourists, athletes and adventure seekers. This would be done sustainably through best practice, conscious travel, community involvement and employment and by showcasing the very best that Inverness, Loch Ness has to offer, while still holding onto the beautiful culture and heritage of the Scottish Highlands. The CC have been asked to provide a letter of support for this festival – see discussion at AOB. Graeme thanked for attending and left the meeting

2. Present

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

Public attending

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

Apologies

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

3. Co-option of new member

Mark Hindley from Whitebridge had kindly offered to become a member of the CC. All elected members voted to co-opt Mark; all in favour

4. Adoption of minutes – 27th September 2022

Minutes of the CC meeting on 27/09/2022 were adopted as a true record of the meeting
Proposed by SH, seconded by CL.

5. Matters arising

None

6. Micro Grant Applications

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust - £500 to go towards the cost of winter wonderland event. All agreed

7. Reports

Treasurer

Main bank account – Balance £21,975.00 Includes - £8,456.00 grant from SFCT for 22/23

Project/Micro grant account – Balance £527.96 awaiting this year's payment of £5k which is overdue

Police Report

Road Safety - There were no incidents of note in relation to road safety.

As winter approaches the conditions on the roads changes and it can become more hazardous. It is important to prepare for journeys and take more care when driving. More information can be found on Police Scotland and Traffic Scotland websites.

Local officers and Roads Policing Unit continue to carry out patrols of the roads in your area.

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 in relation to drugs or alcohol misuse.

Crimes of Dishonesty - There was one report of fraud involving a scam cryptocurrency investment.

Advice can be sought from Independent Financial Advisors prior to making investments. Their details can be checked on the Financial Conduct Authority website.

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 Sara Hamilton at Fort Augustus Police Station.

Other crimes - Nothing of note.

Discussion had about the offer of a fraud prevention presentation; admin to offer this to BCC

Fire Report

No report received

Boleskine Community Care

A cheese and wine evening was held at The Cameron's Tea Room last month as a recruitment drive to enrol more carers for our 'Care at Home' service. This was successful in attracting interest to join the Sunflower Care Team. BCC would like to thank Morag Cameron for organising this and providing the venue.

Loch Ness Marathon - A big thank you and praise goes to Douglas Stephen and Shaun Kelly for completing the marathon and raising around about £1000 for Boleskine Community Care. Well done to both.

IT Sessions - Our first session which is volunteer led went well and enjoyed by all who attended to learn the basics of how to use a computer/laptop/tablet/smart phone etc. Each session will focus on the individual's needs.

Nov - Dec Activities: - please check our website's 'What's On' section for dates

There will be other social events and activities introduced in the coming weeks.

Nov/Dec coffee mornings will also be having a table of small homemade Christmas gifts for sale.

South Loch Ness News - Volunteers are working with BCC to produce a small monthly newsletter. Copies can be found in the hub or at the Foyers Stores.

Community Transport Scheme funded by Highland Council – continues to be an important facility in our community, please contact our coordinator Kit on 07944 228830 to book a journey.

Winter Vaccine Clinic – The NHS will be using the BCC hub on 12 November as a winter vaccine clinic. Appointments only.

Farewell and congratulations to Tilly: Who has capably helped manage the administration at the hub for the past year. She recently graduated and has been snapped up by a highly reputable Accountants in Inverness, who will now train her to complete the full professional exams. This is a tremendous opportunity for her and we wish her all the best in her future career.

We are also saying good bye to Jan Stephen whose short time at BCC, brought her admin skills and experience to achieve, in particular the creation of much needed data base systems to back up the criteria necessary to support future grant applications. Thank you and wishing her all the best and success in where life takes her.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

GET YOUR HOUSING SURVEY IN - We have almost 70 Housing Surveys in but we are keen for more so to ensure the community have their say we've kept it open for one more week

www.chtrust.co.uk/surveys

COST OF LIVING - I'm pleased to say SSE have approved our grants and mechanism to cover the cost of living for this and next winter. This support should be up and running by beginning of November from the Knockie Trust. The Trust has committed £10,000 towards this fund.

BUSINESS SUPPORT - We are also investigating how we can support business more and I'm pleased to say SSE have agreed to this in principle. The project has to have social outcomes and support the community locally. More details on that soon. Both the Cost of Living Project and Business Support are unusual and specifically for this winter and next.

COMMUNICATIONS - Advice for Cost of Living here [Help with Cost of Living | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/help-with-cost-of-living) What's On section appearing at the beginning of the week on social media. Pages and news being updated and shared on social media more.

We've added more Community Action Plan Projects to keep you up to date on a weekly basis.

Magazine available here [Autumn magazine is here! | 21 October 2022 | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/magazine) with work done by the Paths and Audit Group and all the latest on the Action Group work from Parks, Childcare, Housing and all the Hub news. Slipway and Riverside Field still in planning and Errogie about to go to planning.

My 5 Things For A Friday captures the Board Report that takes place that Wednesday. Still note minutes only confirmed the following month.

JOINT EVENT - Community Enterprise are happy to hold a two hour joint event with the Trust and Community Council, so we can work better together.

DATES - Fireworks – 5th Nov, Trust AGM 23rd Nov, Winter Wonderland 9th & 10th Nov Local Place Plan Dates and info. The Local Place Plan is the next step on from the Community Action Plan:

Taking forward the themes and action areas set down by the community and beginning to visualise how priorities from the plan will land on the ground. Drop in for a chat and a cuppa at any of the events listed below and help plan your community for the future -

Errogie, Gorthleck and Torness - Thursday 17th November 3pm-6:30pm Stratherrick Public Hall

Whitebridge - Wednesday 23rd November 3pm-7pm Wildside Centre

Inverfarigaig - Thursday 24th November 3pm-6:30pm Cameron's Tea Room,

Foyers - Friday 25th November 3pm-6:30pm The Hub

Community-wide - Saturday 26th November 10am-12pm Foyers Store and Waterfall Café

Close your eyes and imagine: what do you want your village, and your community, to be like in the future? What changes would you like to see? Those are difficult questions, but we'll be helping you to answer them over the next few weeks. The Community Action Plan prepared a year ago is a great starting point. Over a third of you, the local community, put forward ideas. They led to a plan that reflects your priorities as a community: things like better playparks, more affordable homes for those who need them, better footpaths and safer cycling, community hubs in each village, better community transport, a year-round ranger squad for visitor management, and much more.

You can see all the priorities at a glance on this webpage: bit.ly/SFCAPposter Lots of folk across various local organisations are working away to make these things happen. The Community Action Plan is like an agenda for the future, channelling funding to the community's priorities. But there is unfinished business. The Community Action Plan doesn't say how playparks should be better or where new ones are needed. It doesn't say where those affordable homes are most needed.

It doesn't say which footpaths and cycle routes should be improved. And so on. So, in the second half of November we'll be running village events to find out what you think about all those things, and more. At those village events, we'll help you to visualise what could happen and where, and to answer the questions at the beginning of this page. Your answers will give you real influence over the future of your community, because they will be the basis of what's called a Local Place Plan – a new feature of Scottish planning legislation that influences Council planning policy and public services. We want to share a first draft of that plan for you to check in December, based on what you tell us at the village events. To achieve all that, we need you! Please drop in at one of the November events listed on the left for a chat and a cuppa. And then keep an eye out in December for the draft plan. To find out more, please check www.communityfuture.net or contact me direct at: nick@nickwrightplanning.co.uk or 07900 334110. I'd love to hear from you! For more information on Local Place Plans, visit this government website: www.ourplace.scot/local-place-plans

PH encouraged everyone to complete the housing needs survey

Discussion had about what businesses could apply. TF said that they would consider applications from any business as long as their project had social outcomes and support the community locally

8. Toilets

All additional funding required has now been secured. Construction started yesterday, 24th October and it is a 16 week build programme.

Discussion had about sub-lease from the Community Trust for the toilets that the CC are entering into; all agreed that the Community Council has the power to enter into the sublease and approve of the sublease, subject to legal advice, which is being sought just to reassure all members.

9. Planning

Alterations and extension (In retrospect), Knockie Lodge Knockie Road Whitebridge - Boat house onto Loch Ness; All agreed to object on the grounds of several points on the Visual and environmental impact as well as issues with the planning application information

Erection of banners, Land 40M NW Of Penstock Cottage Foyers - VILN banners proposed for 5 lampposts on main road; All agreed to object on the grounds that they would look out of place in a rural setting and concerns about maintenance and lack of consultation on these plans

Query has come in from a member of the Community about a proposed Boleskine housing development (6 houses) on land that is still owned by the previous owner of Boleskine House; there has been no planning application submitted but the land owner may be considering this. No comment can be made until a planning application is submitted.

10. Renewables and Energy Projects

- Aberarder WF (SSE) – this development has now been sold to SSE. Admin has made contact regarding community benefit negotiations
- Cloiche WF (SSE) – Await outcome of planning. Due to be heard in Nov 22
- Glenshero WF (SIMEC) – Refused at public enquiry, no right to appeal
- Dell (Coriolis) WF – 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 WF (BayWar.e) – Objected to by Highland council, will go to public enquiry
- Bhlaraidh WF – at Glenmoriston. Extension plans passed but three turbines less
- Loch Liath WF – 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, 1pm -7.30pm on 7th December 2022. Then the developers will meet with the members of CC at 7.30pm following the community consultation
- Culachy Wind Farm WF (Fred. Olsen Renewables) – invite to meet. On an estate in Fort Augustus, at pre-scoping stage. Will invite to a future CC meeting.
- Foyers Substation and Switching Station Works - New substation comprising platform area, associated plant and infrastructure, ancillary facilities, laydown area(s), access road and landscape works, and extension to existing Foyers switching station. This proposal is at Pre application notice stage and a public consultation was held on the 19th Oct. MH attended and spoke about the proposal. There was options written about but no visuals available. Admin to invite developers to attend a future meeting once visuals available

11. Roads

Killen road end has been sprayed with tar which has made some improvements. Works at the Stratherrick Primary School entrance have been delayed but starting soon. Admin to enquire about grit delivery for the grit bins and get a list of the grit bin locations

12. Correspondence

Email from resident in Foyers regarding a lack of road sweeping resulting in large amounts of leaves on the roads and pavements in Foyers; Admin to check but members thought that there was only normally one sweep at the end of autumn to gather the leaves.

Email received enquiring about the housing allocation policy for the community housing planned for Inverfarigaig; admin had contacted the Community Housing Trust that are developing the site and will be managing the houses. They said that they will consult with both the Community Council and the Community Trust on the wording of the allocation policy

13. Upcoming events

5th November - Community Fireworks, Loch Ness Shores Campsite

13th November – Remembrance Day service, Stratherrick War Memorial, Gorthleck

Place planning events –

17th November - Stratherrick Public Hall for Errogie, Gorthleck and Torness

23rd November - 3pm-7pm Wildside Centre for Whitebridge

24th November - 3pm-6:30pm Cameron's Tea Room for Inverfarigaig

25th November - 3pm-6:30pm the Hub for Foyers

26th November 10am-12pm Foyers Store and Waterfall Café for Community wide

7th December – 1pm-7.30pm Loch Kemp Community Consultation @ the Wildside Centre

9th – 10th December – Winter Wonderland and Christmas Market @ the Wildside Centre

14. AOCB

Discussion had about letter of support for Loch Ness festival; whilst in support of events like this, it was felt that everyone should read the document that Graeme Ambrose had brought along and then discuss at the next meeting as many implications to be considered.

Glass recycling – MH asked how to report that the glass recycling is full; admin to look into this

Mobile library – MH highlighted that since Covid restrictions, the mobile library is just a van that isn't running the full service. Issue to be raised

15. Next meeting

Next meeting will be on - Tuesday 29th November 2022 19.30 Venue TBC