

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2023

### THE WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE

#### WITH VIDEO LINK OPTION

#### **1. Present**

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

#### **Public attending**

Cllr David Fraser, Cllr Chris Ballance, Sharon Ferguson (Admin), Tony Foster, Peter Faye, Helen Grainger, Hugh Nicol, Ros Nicol, Sarah Byrne, Karan Ayland, Gary Fentiman, Alister Chisholm, Keith Readdy, Kyra Motley, J Reed, Christopher Joyce and Mary Joyce

#### **Apologies**

Simon Hargreaves (SH) and Stephen Steiner

#### **2. Nick Wright - Place planning presentation**

Nick went through the principles of place planning and what information has gone into this one. As the plan is still being developed and not ready to view, Nick requested that he also attends the February CC meeting. PH asked if the plan can be reviewed; yes, the next stage is where the plan goes out to the community for review and comment. Kyra Motley commented that the local plan once adopted is a legal document and choosing where housing is designated must be done carefully

#### **3. Morven Taylor, Communities Housing Trust - Allocation policy for Inverfarigaig houses**

Morven gave a talk on the housing allocation policy for the new houses being built at Inverfarigaig and discussion followed. Those living in the area and/or have a local connection will have priority. Timescales confirmed – construction start date of Mar 23, with an expected construction period of 10 months and houses allocated 3 – 4 months before they are finished.

#### **4. Planning**

PH moved planning to this point of the meeting as this was why most people were attending 22/06031/FUL Erection of house and associated infrastructure, Land 30M NW of Martinet, Gorthleck – no comment

22/05975/PIP Erection of 6 houses (4no private and 2no affordable), Land 160M NE of Wester Farigaig, Foyers – discussion had about this planning in principle application; there was strong feelings from many attending that this development should not go ahead and members had read the large amount of objections on HC's planning portal, although there was a recognition from some that there is a need for affordable housing. All agreed to put in an objection.

Cllr Fraser and Cllr Ballance listened to the discussion but did not comment.

Loch Mhor – letter received from SSE; recognition that consultation had not taken place for the access steps that were installed. They have now been removed until consultation takes place.

## **5. Adoption of minutes – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Minutes of the CC meeting on 29/11/2022 were adopted as a true record of the meeting  
Proposed by MH, seconded by CL

## **6. Matters arising**

Loch Ness Festival – all agreed that they did not feel that the event would bring any real community benefit and as such, they did not feel that they could issue a letter of support until this was proven.  
Admin to contact.

Glass recycling – all issues have now been resolved.

## **7. Micro Grant Applications**

None received

## **8. Reports**

### **Treasurer**

Main: £18, 746.96

Micro-Grant: £3, 572.82

### **Police Report**

Admin has been told that Police Scotland will no longer be producing monthly reports for any CC. They have done a newsletter but nothing in it that relates to this area. Admin to raise this with ward manager.

### **Fire Report**

No local significant incidents to report but the appliance has been out supporting our neighbouring station on a number of occasions. We have a fully trained crew of 8 firefighters at the moment and still have space for anyone interested to join.

Home Fire Safety Visits - We still continue to go out in the community to provide this free service, offering advice, contact details are on the Scottish Fire and Rescue service web site. To book a FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT Call 0800 0731 999 Text 'FIRE' to 80800 or visit [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

Safety - In the coming months we will be engaging with local tourism business on a number of seasonal safety issues, including camping and wildfires, also we aim to distribute leaflets to local notice boards to provide more information. Should the Foyers and Stratherrick community council require and further information please get in touch.

### **Boleskine Community Care**

No report received

### **Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust**

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER OUT NOW - The Team have been working hard on the latest newsletter and you can read it here [Layout 1 \(stratherrickcommunity.org.uk\)](http://Layout 1 (stratherrickcommunity.org.uk))

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS - Our Fundraisers have had a number of successes that will be share over the next few weeks – and the Polycrubs are one of them!

WILDSIDE CENTRE - The request to purchase land is with solicitor and Highland Council

WORK BEGINS AT ERROGIE CHURCH - Phase 1 Wind and Watertight has begun at Errogie Church. Details can be found on the website. We have designs in from the architects of Phase 2. These will be circulated with the CC members soon.

FOYERS BAY / RIVERSIDE FIELD - Foyers Bay in planning. When Malcolm returns we will send out info to the steering group for their meeting on 22nd February. The next meeting for Riverside Field is 15th February at the Hub. The leased area around the Hub has been agreed and is with the solicitors. This will be for 10 years. We will then sign a new lease with BCC.

PATHS GROUP - Highland Council have an audit of their trails, work to be done and costs and are hoping to get that soon to Visit Inverness Loch Ness and share with us. We have an opportunity to get £40,000 funding for some of this work.

HOUSING GROUP - The Housing Group suggested seeing what the demand is at Inverfarigaig and see what the demand is for current affordable housing in the area.

STRATHERRICK HALL - Works at the Hall has been supported by the Trust and they hope to be open for business in March.

KNOCKIE TRUST - The Knockie Trust has over 60 applications for the funds provided by SSE/Trust for food/fuel grants this Winter. This £25,000 fund is now closed.

## 9. Toilets

The build is progressing well, with wet walls and sanitary ware to be fitted soon.

The lamppost by the old toilets has had to be removed; when SSEN came out to move the power supply, they found that the street lamp was connected to the old toilets for power, whereas it should have been the street light across the road. SSEN could not leave it like this and it was removed. Admin will report this to HC. There are external lights on the toilet block that will now light that area though.

Admin has been in touch with Highland Third Sector Interface for advice on the sub-lease from the Community Trust for the toilets; this has revealed that even with a lease, due to the setup of Community Councils, there would still be individual liability on the CC's office bearers the same as owning the building, which isn't acceptable. As the owners of the new building, the Community Trust have kindly agreed to work on a concordat between the Trust and the CC for the CC still to run the toilets but without the legal responsibility. The Trust have also agreed to employ the cleaner. Admin and Tony working on a document to look at the roles and responsibilities of running the toilets.

We have just had contact from HC to warn that the Comfort scheme, which pays a fee for free to use toilets, may end in April of this year unless agreed otherwise in the March budgets. Local Councillors to be asked for support on this matter and to press for this payment to continue to help support free access to public conveniences in the whole of the Highland region

## 10. Renewables

- Aberarder (SSE) – going ahead with original plans for 12 turbines at 130m. SSE bought from RES. SSE asking to attend a meeting – agreed March 23
- Cloiche (SSE) – Await outcome of planning. Due to be heard in Nov 22 but no news yet
- 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 (Statera) - proposed hydro pump storage at Dell Estate. **Going to full planning in Apr**
- 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.

All agreed to having SSEN (to discuss new sub-station and extension of switching station at Lower Foyers) and Nick Wright (further discussion of place planning) at Feb meeting. Statera (Loch Kemp and SSE (Aberarder) to be invited to Mar meeting.

### **11. Roads**

Potholes are appearing some of which have been reported but admin to share link to report to Facebook and the website to encourage everyone to report when they see them.

CL asked if there had been an answer on creating more parking at Glenlia; Cllr Fraser reported that HC felt that due to the gradient, it would not be a suitable site but might be a solution if funding was available. To be looked into more.

Alex Sutherland had got in touch and asked for a 'not suitable for caravans' sign for the All Na Goire road; Admin has sent an email to HC roads department to request this.

Neil Kirkland requested more grit for the pile in Gorthleck for the grit bins in the area; Admin has sent an email to HC roads department to request this. Still to resolve who will fill the bins.

### **12. Correspondence**

Etape – advance notice of road closures received. It was noted with thanks earlier reopening of the Lower Foyers junction to Inverfarigaig Pass by 1hr (re-opening at 1120 instead of 1220)

Request for advice on how to write planning objections/letter of support – request received from member of the Community; all felt this was a good idea. Cllr Fraser to forward some information and Admin to ask Nick Wright for advice as well.

### **13. Upcoming events**

Warm Wednesday – Every Wednesday at the Wildside Centre. Free Wi-Fi and Tea/Coffee

### **14. AOCB**

CL raised issues at the caravan site and non-compliance with some planning conditions. CC to write to the caravan club to see if they are aware of these conditions.

CL asked if the CC had seen the notes from the 1<sup>st</sup> Riverside field liaison meeting; not yet. CL reported that group not officially started yet as membership not yet agreed.

### **15. Next meeting**

Next meeting will be on - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 19.30 Venue TBC