

# STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

### VIDEO LINK ONLY DUE TO NO WIFI AT THE WILDSIDE CENTRE

#### **1. Present**

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

#### **Public attending**

Cllr Chris Ballance, Sharon Ferguson (Admin), Catriona Fraser and Gareth Jones

#### **Apologies**

Cllr David Fraser

#### **2. Presentation from SSEN re the new substation and extension to existing Foyers switching station**

Lee Wilson, Jeni Herbert and Ryan Davidson from SSE discussed why the new substation and extension of the switching station was required.

The proposal at Foyers power station is to replace two failing transformers. The original option was to provide an offline build replacing the two transformers. However, with the space constraints and limitations of technology the only way to feasibly make this work is to create a platform which would require a retaining wall on the banks of Loch Ness. SSE are now exploring and designing an option to replace the transformers with a single transformer (due to space constraints) in the same place that the failing transformers currently sit negating the requirement for a platform and retaining wall.

CL asked if blasting would be used in the construction process; no. Gareth Jones asked about the expected noise of the new transformers; they will be quieter than the current ones as they are 50 years old. Discussion had about screening and visual impact; Lee said the preferred plan was to have a living wall created after construction.

All agreed that SFCC is fully supportive of the new plan that SSE are exploring and would like to avoid the platform and retaining wall being constructed.

#### **3. Place planning presentation**

Nick Wright and Gareth Jones discussed the place plan and the work done to get to this stage. The draft plan will soon be ready to share with the community and Nick asked that when they got to this stage, would the CC be happy to share with all local Councillors and neighbouring CCs as this was a legal requirement but only the CC can do this process; all agreed.

Cllr Ballance also suggested sharing the HC's planning department.

#### **4. Adoption of minutes – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

Minutes of the CC meeting on 31/01/2023 were adopted as a true record of the meeting

Proposed by CL, seconded by PH

## 5. Matters arising

Admin still to do letter to Loch Ness Shores Campsite re compliance with planning conditions as discussed at the last meeting.

## 6. Micro Grant Applications

SFCC applied for £500 to cover initial costs for running the toilets – all agreed

## 7. Reports

### Treasurer

Main: £16,465.84

Micro-Grant: £3,572.82

Admin went through report of current restricted and unrestricted balances. There are some funds that were awarded from SFCT but have yet to be spent and should be paid back if not spent soon. For funds to re-instate the land that the playpark at Gorthleck, Admin to contact landowner and have a site meeting then get quotes for the work required. For the money for road signs, Admin to contact HC to get quotes for squirrel signs as 'please allow overtaking' ones that had been requested are not allowed. For the cemetery fence and gates in Lower Foyers, CL to do an inspection to see if there are any works required then a decision can be made about the money.

### Fire Report

No report received

### Boleskine Community Care

Adverts are out for three great employment opportunities with BCC. 'Community Services Coordinator', 'Community Engagement Coordinator' and 'Business Administrator'. Please look out on the BCC website, Facebook group pages and SFCT website for more information. Job descriptions and application forms can be found on BCC website. Closing date for applications end of February – still time to apply!

Sunflower Care - even if you already have a job, becoming a carer and joining a local care team is a great way of giving to our community. An hour or two on an evening or at the weekend, you choose. You could make such a difference to someone and help them to remain at home.

Its simple phone BCC hub on 01456 486274 and leave a message, or drop in for a chat. We will put you in touch with the Sunflower 'care coordinator'

Baby Clinics - NHS have requested to use the BCC hub to hold fortnightly baby clinics as from Thursday 6th March 9-12am

March Activities - The hub continues to hold a hive of activities and is also used as a space to hold formal community meetings.

South Loch Ness News - This small monthly newsletter, volunteer led, is growing very popular. Any articles from the community are welcomed for publication. All hub activities can be found on the back page. March's issue will be out soon and can be picked up at 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.

### Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

FIREWOOD - 80 people signed up for the one off Free Firewood Offer – collections begin 2nd March

HIGHLAND DANCING - Following a request after the Highland Gathering last year Highland Dancing classes for children begin in April at the Wildside Centre.

LETS - We are organising a new let for the land at the Hub, including more of the parking area across from the Hub, and will complete the let with BCC once the solicitors confirm. This will be a 10 year let. Land purchase at Wildside is continuing as solicitors confirm questions regarding the site. The Housing Group meets next week. The sale of land from Forestry to Inverfarigaig residents is nearly complete.

LIBRARY PICK UP - The Wildside Centre is now a Mobile Library Pick Up Point from 8th March

PLACE PLAN EVENT - A Place Plan event with Nick Wright will take place in the Wildside Centre on 15th March. We plan to invite other groups to share their successes over the last year.

PLANNING - The Slipway remains in planning but the Steering Group met to discuss a tidy up around the Bay. Errogie Church Steering Group met after the last Community Council and came to a consensus on design. As soon as we get the final design, due to go into planning early March, we will circulate.

The Consultative Liaison Group for Riverside met last week. Minutes from that meeting will be available soon

PLAYPARK ACTION GROUP - The Playpark Action Group, which came from the CAP Outcomes, meets tomorrow. Highland Council have offered their help with this.

PRE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB ACTION GROUP - Parents/Carers got together following the CAP and this Action Group is progressing this project and we will update once we know more.

POLYCRUBS - Polycrubs will be installed at Inverfarigaig and Wildside by end of March

## 8. Toilets

The new toilet block is almost ready and the handover is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> March. Admin and Tony working on the roles and responsibilities which will then form the concordat agreement between the Community Trust and the Community Council.

## 9. Planning

23/00596/FUL | Erect extensions | Cuilfail Whitebridge Inverness IV2 6UN – *no comment*

22/06131/FUL | Conversion of hardstanding areas to 4No. Staff pitches. Erection of fence | Loch Ness Shores Camping and Caravaning Site Monument Park Foyers IV2 6YH – *Object on the grounds of change of use from current planning permission and visual impact*

## 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) – Highland council have now removed there objection, Admin to clarify but it seems to still be going 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. Statera attending the next meeting**
- 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.

## **11. Roads**

Lots of potholes have been filled in but the Trinloist and the Aberchalder roads are still very bad and the Killen road end has deteriorated again.

## **12. Correspondence**

Email from ward manager – The Scottish Government are holding engagement workshops around Scotland on firework control zones, which are being introduced as part of ‘The Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022’. Invite shared and CL attending.

Email from SFCT – asking if the CC would like to run the raffle at the Gathering; all agreed not to as feel that all members put a lot of volunteer hours in over the year running the CC.

## **13. Upcoming events**

Stratherrick Public Hall Grand re-opening – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March

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

## **14. AOCB**

Website – MH has offered to help with the CC’s website and will start by adding pictures and biog of all the CC members. All to send info to MH

Catriona Fraser raised that the community trust is going to be running De-fib training for all of the Trust’s staff and community groups and asked if the members of the CC would like to attend; all agreed

Admin to speak with Hugh from the Stratherrick hall to discuss conference facilities there to allow the CC to hold some meetings in that venue too

It was noted that the local drama group, the Luvvies, won best stage presentation at Scottish community drama association in the 1<sup>st</sup> round at Nairn – well done to all involved!

## **15. Next meeting**

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