

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF INAGURAUl MEETING HELD 7TH NOVEMBER 2023

AT THE WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE

WITH OPTION OF VIDEO LINK

As this is the inaugural meeting of SFCC following CC elections, the start of the meeting was chaired by Cllr David Fraser until new office bearers appointed Cllr Fraser confirmed that the CC elections took place on 11th October. There was 8 vacancies and 4 nominations. Cllr Fraser thanked everyone for putting themselves forward.

1. Present

Mark Hindley (MH), Craig Lightbody (CL), Janet Hobson (JH) and Chris Joyce (CJ)

Public attending

Cllr David Fraser, Cllr Chris Balance, Peter Faye and Sharon Ferguson (Admin)

Apologies

None

2. Appointment of new office bearers

Chair – Mark Hindley, proposed by CL seconded by JH

Vice-chair – Chris Joyce, proposed by JH seconded by MH

Treasurer – Janet Hobson, proposed by CL seconded by CJ

Craig Lightbody to be nominated to SFCT as the Community Liaison officer. This role has been vacant for several years but can be very useful in strengthening communications between the two groups. Admin to write letter to SFCT nominating CL as per article 69 of SFCT articles of association

3. Co-option of any new members

All members to discuss with members of the Community about becoming a co-opted member of the CC. Discussion had about how many could be co-opted; admin to confirm with HC

4. Adoption of minutes – 26th September 2023

Minutes of the CC meeting on 26/09/2023 were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by CL seconded by CJ

5. Matters arising

Communities Housing Trust, who are building the houses at Inverfarigaig, have written with name suggestions for the new street and also asking if CC are happy with the allocation policy – email with street names to be circulated but all agreed asking the local area or wider community for their thoughts would be a good way to decide. Up to date allocation policy to be circulated

6. Micro Grant Applications

None received

Admin gave update on micro grant income; SSE have now clarified that the options with the remaining £24,311.42 from the Stronelairg panel fund was to pay a further £5k to the CC for another year of micro grants and the remaining £19,311.42 to the Trust or pay the full £24,311.42 to the Trust. The previous wording had been interpreted that one of the options was that the remaining monies would continue to be paid to the CC yearly as micro grants until depleted. SSE have apologised if this wasn't clear. They have suggested that a discussion takes place with the Trust to see if they would support continuing the payment of £5k per year to the CC for the purpose of micro grants but it would have to come from a different fund as the current memorandum of agreement for the Stronelairg fund with SFCT does support the use of funds for Micro Grants.

7. Reports

Treasurer

Main account - £15,894.56

Project/Micro grant account - £1,278.65

The main account balance is made up of many figures that all have a spend purpose including £2,500 for signs relating to the toilets, £3,906 from the Stronelairg panel grant for works at the toilets and running costs, and money from the SFCT grant for admin wages, Christmas trees etc. Some of that grant money will be paid back to the SFCT and I will work with new Treasurer on this. We are awaiting the final £5k towards the micro grant fund from SSE. As discussed at micro grants, the leftover £19,311.42 from the Stronelairg panel, will be getting paid to SFCT. Discussions to be had to see if an MOU can be agreed to continue these yearly payments to allow micro grants to continue.

Fire Report

No report received

Boleskine Community Care

BCC is happy to announce that Jo Mitchell started her role as Community Engagement Coordinator on the 1st November. We thank SFCT for funding this role for 1 year and supporting BCC with a year's operational grant.

Our Service Coordinator has arranged for an optician to come to the Hub on the 16th of November, this is already fully booked and we are looking to arrange a second date. Sunflower Home Care are looking for evening and weekend carers for our area. We are also still in the process of looking for volunteers to get our Befriending Service up and running.

Our weekly activities remain very popular, we are in the process of setting up a light lunch club which we plan to run on the first Monday of each month.

The NHS will be using the Hub to carry out their Winter Vaccination Programme. The next date is the 1st of December for flu and Covid.

Feedback from CC – all members felt it was a real pity that a light lunch club would be set up on a Monday when soup to go is on. Admin to feed this back to BCC

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

You help guide us and community groups and where to direct our resources to make things happen. You help to do this via filling out the annual Pulse Survey from the 5th November for two

weeks. This will be the third Pulse Survey. The results help advise the new Board after the AGM where to direct our resources and takes about five minutes to complete. Details here and the link will be live from Sunday Pulse Survey Launch | 05 November 2023 | Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust (stratherrickcommunity.org.uk)

SFCT AGM - The AGM will be on 29th November 7.30pm

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN OUTCOMES

WILDSIDE - Fantastic progress has been made on the polycrub at the Wildside Centre over the last couple of weeks! We will share more information on this project in due course but if you are interested in becoming part of the community growing group please contact sarah@sfctrust.org.uk for more information.

ERROGIE - We received the news that we have been granted planning permission for phase 2 at Errogie. We are now seeking external funding for the next stage

SLIPWAY - We have discussed options to tidy up the boat yard and make the whole area more user-friendly by the end of the year. Planning has been granted for the slipway, QS tenders are in and we hope to build it in May next year.

RIVERSIDE - All Planning in Principle condition documents have or are nearing completion and the local residents will hopefully sign off their landscape design for consultation with the wider community before the end of the year.

PATHWAYS - Project activity to date has focussed on two sections of the South Loch Ness Trail. £20K of funding was awarded by Highland Council to the group and together with funding of £20K from the Trust, we have been working to finalise how exactly the funds will be spent. It has taken a number of twists and turns as all projects do, but as of September 2023, work is expected to commence soon on improvements between Whitebridge and Foyers while at the same time we are in talks with Forestry and Land Scotland to collaborate on improvements between Inverfarigaig and Foyers.

PLAYPARKS - Following consultation on the Wildside Centre Playpark design we have agreed the company to take it forward, with an expectation this will be built from March next year. The Playpark has planning.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE - We are waiting for one further piece of information from the Highland Council for After School Care, and we were informed this week that we should receive this in November. We hope to have this in place for the next academic year.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT - Funding applications went in this week to assist with the provision of a community minibus and the purchase of e-bikes. We will update you on further progress on both of these in due course.

COMMUNITY HOUSING - We are currently discussing with Community Housing Trust opportunities in the development at Inverfarigaig. We will keep you posted on that.

FOREST SCHOOL - An approach has been made for a Community Asset Transfer of the Forest School at Inverfarigaig. This and all our plans were recently covered in the Press and Journal.

Feedback from CC – could there be paper copies of the survey mentioned available in paper form.

This was raised by the CC after last year's survey. A query had been made previously re getting board minutes out quicker, especially if the board were to move to bi-monthly meetings. Tony Foster had suggested at the August 23 CC meeting that interim minutes could be shared and he was to raise this with the board but no reply as yet. Admin to contact SFCT

Discussion had about circulating CC minutes quicker and admin will endeavour to do this.

Riverside field

There has been confirmation of the landscaping and some suggestions of sensory gardens and a water feature had been made. The plan is that the finalised plans will be agreed by the River Foyers residents group, then the wider Foyers residents before going out to the whole community for approval. CL spoke as a member of the residents group and said they are still finding that the trust does not communicate directly with the group. Directors had met with the group some time ago and questions re the development had been asked but the group have still not had the answers.

8. Toilets

The CCTV, outside tap and payment system for the waste disposal point are all now in place. Final claim to go through the RTIF by end of November.

Now the payment system is in for the waste point, we can get the signs made as has to wait and see the location of it. Hopefully have them up soon.

The donations are doing well and the cash box is taking on average £12 per day for the two months it has been in place. It is emptied daily and counted in daily amounts so we can get an idea of how it is going and for security. The GiveTap donations have gone down a bit since we have installed the cash box but taken £155.77 up to end of Oct. This figure is after bank charges - £187.50 gross.

Currently we are just about even on the income and outgoings of running the toilets, although still awaiting an electricity bill. Will be next year before we receive any monies from the car parking charges. We will also know more after a year of operating and taking donations.

Still awaiting a meeting to discuss the Car park issues but Cllr Fraser is chasing this up.

Discussion had about parking in the area; admin to contact the road department to look at safety issues and problems with the bus turning.

9. Planning

Installation of forestry track, Land 2300M SE of Killin Whitebridge; *Prior notification & been decided*
Erection of house, Land 590M North West of Maryland Whitebridge; *Site was granted PIP in May 2022. No comment*

Erection of replacement house, Teanassie Whitebridge; *full planning previously granted Dec 22. No comment*

Update on –23/04565/PNO Application under Regulation 62 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) regulations 1994 for ground investigation works | Land 1300M SW Of Dell Lodge Whitebridge; *This now has permission to proceed in strict accordance with the particulars given by NatureScot*
Request for a scoping opinion or the proposed section 37 application for the Melgarve Cluster Project - Cloiche and Dell Wind Farm Connections; *all members asked to look at this and report back by email with any points to be raised. Closing date for comments 21st November.*

Admin to find out when training on planning matters for CC's is.

10. Renewables

- Aberarder (SSE) – going ahead with original plans for 12 turbines at 130m. SSE bought from RES – **SSE have been in touch to arrange a meeting to discuss enabling works and the liaison group. Community Benefit discussions to take place too. Admin to introduce new Chair of the CC.**
- Cloiche (SSE) – Await outcome of planning.
- 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 their 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. **Now in for planning**
- Red John – Pump storage at Dores, approved at public inquiry. No further updates received
- Loch Kemp (Statera) - proposed hydro pump storage at Dell Estate. **Still awaiting planning app**
- 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

The recent road speed survey showed strong support for dropping the speed limit from 40 to 30 in all village areas. Final figures to be announced when last of paper copies collected.

Discussion had about the grit bins that the CC had previously funded; admin to ask the fire service if they can help fill them again and create a map of all the locations.

Bad pothole outside the medical centre that has been reported several times. Some work has been done on it but water coming from a private drive. Admin to report to roads department.

CL kindly agreed to compile another list of road defects.

12. Correspondence

Email from Etape organisers; dates for next year is Sunday 28th April 2024. Road closure times will remain the same as last year.

Admin to re-send the CC's invite to the Inverness CC forum on 5th December

13. Upcoming events

Winter Wonderland @ the Wildside Centre 8th & 9th December

Cookery demonstration @ Stratherrick hall, Gorthleck

14. AOCB

Complaint received that beech trees that form part of an ancient woodland, have been taken down as part for forestry felling by the roadside between Inverfarigaig and Dores; admin to raise with HC, FLS and NatureScot.

CL raised about surveying the community on their thoughts on fireworks and the SG's recent work on firework free zones; admin to put together wording and share round then create a survey.

Admin suggested that we could look at doing a short newsletter to get CC information out to those not on social media and to highlight things as not everyone reads the minutes. To be considered

15. Next meeting

Next meeting – 28th November 2023.