

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

AT THE WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE

WITH OPTION OF VIDEO LINK

**1. Present**

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

**Public attending**

Cllr David Fraser, Cllr Chris Balance, Catriona Fraser, Gary MacGowan, Ernie Randall, Margaret Cormack, Mike Cormack, Rob Gooch, Linda Cameron, Liam McNally and Sharon Ferguson (Admin)

**Apologies**

None

**2. Adoption of minutes – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Minutes of the CC meeting on 07/11/2023 were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by CJ seconded by JH

**3. Matters arising**

Communities Housing Trust, who are building the houses at Inverfarigaig, had been in touch about name suggestions for the new street and also checking if SFCC were happy with the allocation policy; everyone agreed that the Inverfarigaig residents group's suggestion of 'Dodd's Park' was good as this was the surname of the last crofter on that land. Admin to report back this decision to the street naming team at Highland Council. All agreed that the allocation policy was fine as it was and had enough weight towards giving priority to those with a local connection.

Co-option - MH explained the co-option process and it was decided that co-option would be advertised ahead of the next meeting and new members could be co-opted at that point.

Website – MH has done some work on the website and added some bios and pictures of the members. CL and Admin still to supply a picture and info.

Loch Ness 360 – a meeting with VILN has been arranged for 29<sup>th</sup> Nov to discuss the Ardochy Bridge

**4. Micro Grant Applications**

None received. BCC have asked about getting grant help for their befriending scheme as other areas pay travel costs; all agreed to look at an application for this.

**5. Reports**

**Treasurer**

Main account - £13,672.10

Micro grant account - £536.11

## **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 of November. We thank SFCT for providing the funding for this role and we are excited to see what Jo will bring to BCC.

It is one of our main objectives to get our Befriending Service up and running again within the community as we are now aware that there is a large unmet need. We have had multiple referrals but really need some volunteers.

Our weekly activities are also very popular, especially Moovin About which had 13 people attending last week. We had previously mentioned that we were going to start a light lunch club on the last Monday of each month. A Monday was decided as it was the most popular day amongst our regulars. We have now discussed the fact that Soup to Go is also on at this time and we have decided to host our light lunch every 3rd Thursday instead.

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. If you are eligible for this, you would have received a letter from the NHS. We also have Hall Opticians attending the Hub again on the 8th of December. These appointments are free of charge and open to all.

We are always looking for ideas from the community on what else they would like to see BCC offer, so please feel free to contact us.

## **Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust**

Link to annual report - <https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/userfiles/publications/49.pdf>

Reply from Trust CEO on previous queries from the CC –

Take the pulse survey - We will offer to deliver or send out paper copies to those who wish them next year. I think we will probably have to include people's names as at the moment we can monitor if people 'vote' twice online. This will also mean the results will come out later as depending on how many we get back processing may take a little longer.

Interim minutes that could be out quicker to the community - I don't think there is any major issue with interim minutes, as long as people realise they are a draft and need to be ratified at the next meeting. We brought this up at our Board when discussing moving to every two months and the Board felt, once minutes are completed, they would sign off via email and make them available.

Continuing micro grant funding to the CC now that the Stronelaig panel has finished - That shouldn't be a problem. I will clarify with SSE anything we have to consider but the Board wish the funds to go to CC for micro grants as long as you want to do them.

## **Riverside field**

CJ is now the CC's representative at these meetings and he read out the minutes. These can be viewed at - <https://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/projects/Riverside-Field-Foyers/>

CL spoke as a member of the community; he feels that there are some items on the masterplan that were chosen by the board at the time, not the community and would like to see more engagement with local residents. Catriona Fraser stated that the reason for the liaison group is so that local residents are involved at every stage and thanked the residents group for their input into the landscaping plans - and asked CL if the residents group could bring forward a plan of what they would like on the field.

## **6. Toilets**

No update – running well

## 7. Planning

23/05190/PIP | Erection of 6no. holiday cabins | Lodges On Loch Ness The Turns Foyers  
See location map circulated – *make comment on two points; loss of Scots Pine and access to one of the chalets from the main road would be an issue*

Update on –

23/00798/FUL | Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm Grid Connection - Construction of a 1km long temporary stone access track for the construction of an underground cable | Land 3660M SE Of Garthbeg Farm Gorthleck - This has been approved but wind farm awaiting planning

23/02567/PIP | Erection of house | Land 30M West Of Fechlin House Moor Of Knockchoilum Whitebridge - Refused

## 8. Renewables

- Aberarder (SSE) – going ahead with original plans for 12 turbines at 130m. SSE bought from RES – **Await info on liaison group.**
- 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 there objection but still awaiting planning permission – **they are planning a mock run of a lorry with a load the length of a blade but not enough notice given and HC not informed. Admin to contact developers.**
- 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. **Planning app imminent. Site investigation work has started. Any road issues to be reported to HC.**
- 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.

## 9. Roads

The grit bins have previously been filled by a lot of goodwill by the local fire service, still awaiting definite answer if they can do it again but admin to ask HC if they can drop some grit piles and members of the community to be told that they can help themselves to grit pile at Gorthleck. CL still working on roads fault list.

## 10. Correspondence

All dealt with above

## 11. Upcoming events

SFCT AGM – 29<sup>th</sup> Nov @ the Wildside Centre

Stratherrick Primary School Parent Council St Andrews day Ceilidh – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec @ Wildside Centre

Winter Wonderland - 8th & 9th Dec @ the Wildside Centre

Christmas lunch – 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec @ Stratherrick hall, Gorthleck (tickets from Jan at the shop)

**12. AOCB**

CJ raised that the Boleskine House Foundation will be submitting an application for the final listed building consent for the works being done at Boleskine House.

**13. Next meeting**

Next meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024

DRAFT