

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 24th JUNE 2025

AT STRATHERRICK HALL GORTHLECK

WITH VIDEO LINK OPTION

1. Present	<u>Actions</u>
<p>Mark Hindley (MH) – chair, Michael Slater (MS), Craig Lightbody (CL), Chris Joyce (CJ), Olivia Grant (OG) and Helen Grainger (HG) Sharon Ferguson (Admin) Public attending - Cllr Balance, Peter Faye, Ken Sinclair, Aliona Priima, Tina Jordan and Keith Oversby. Apologies – Gary McGowan and Cllr Fraser Conflicts - No conflicts</p>	
<p>2. Adoption of minutes – 27th May 2025 Proposed by HG, seconded by OG</p>	
<p>3. Matter arising not on the agenda Parking problems at Foyers shop – No major issues with coaches since the last meeting. OG reported that some smaller minibuses have been parking in the disabled bay; photos to be taken if anyone witnesses parking like this and Admin can follow up with company. Statkraft apprenticeship scheme – no updates. De-fibs – Hugh Nicol happy with plans to install de-fibs at Inverfarigaig and Errogie. Admin to obtain permission from SFCT for us to put them on trust buildings. MH to organise de-fib training. All happy with the poster that Admin has done with info. To be shared.</p>	<p>Admin to get permission from SFCT Admin to share poster</p>
<p>4. Micro Grant Applications None received.</p>	
<p>5. Reports Treasurer report Main account - £16,533.84 Micro grant account - £4,513.30 Toilets at Foyers receipts included in main account balance Via Stripe (QR code donations) = £123.19 Via NAYAX (card payment system) = £96.04 Cash = £471.01</p>	
<p>Boleskine Community Care Community Larder - The build of our community larder is complete, and we have a lot of stock. SFCT have very kindly agreed to purchase both the fridge and the freezer for the larder. We have received that fridge and are looking forward to the freezer coming. We have had a great amount of donations and lots of people are starting to use it. The larder is open to everyone and aimed at reducing food waste in the community. Electric vehicles - The electric cars continue to be used for every shift by the carers, they have both covered almost 2000 miles each. Seagull Trust Sailings - We have booked 4 sailings with the Seagull Trust. The first of these was on Wednesday the 28th of May. We had 10 people attending this trip from the community. We would like to thank SFCT for providing the community minibus and a driver for us to attend this trip free of charge.</p>	

Summer Event - Our Pizza and Party event takes place at the BCC Hub on Saturday the 5th of July. We have giant inflatables, live music, a beer tent and many stalls all attending. We are really looking forward to it and hope that this is well attended by the community.

SCVO Charity Awards - We had a fantastic night in Glasgow at the Scottish Charity Awards. Unfortunately, we did not win but were in the final 4 in our category out of thousands of entries. We are really grateful for this recognition of all the hard work the BCC team have been doing for the community.

Foyers Stores Acquisition Steering Group - The steering group are still awaiting the feasibility report from Community Enterprise, once the steering group have seen this, they will update the community. We have also received the valuation of the building however would like to discuss this with the steering group and current shop owners before we share this publicly.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust – Craig Lightbody liaison Director

A draft copy of the Trusts minutes for their meeting on the 4th of June 2025 can be found on their website. This is subject to change until they can be adopted at their next meeting on the 2nd of July.

The last meeting of the trust went on until 11.30 pm! I would like it to be known to the Community Council that I will no longer remain at any Trust meeting beyond 10.30pm at the very latest. I intend to ask the Trust to review their meeting criteria and better manage discussions on topics which may overrun. Some items on the agenda were pushed back to a later meeting because of this.

There was no time for discussion on the 'discretionary grant' which was awarded to the new tenants at Dodds Park and will now take place on 2nd July.

In my last report I asked if the CEO report to the Board can be published without sensitive material included. The board agreed that the CEO report is to the board only and that anything which can come from that will be in the minutes.

The Trust now has the Community Minibus up and running. Members of the community who would like to make use of the facility can contact the trust via their website. This will be a free service for the time being in order for the Trust to gauge need and use of the facility.

The board had a long discussion on the leasing of the Foyers Primary School and use, initially for the local heritage group. More clarity was required for the estimates on running costs and funding for the heritage group and to look at opening it up for other groups to make use of it too. This will be up for further discussion at the next meeting.

An exceptionally long discussion was had on the Errogie Church project. Further quotes and investigation into suitability of septic tank and heating systems are required. The community have been informed that this facility is unlikely to be opened for use until the new year.

The Inverfarigaig Forestry School purchase is now complete. The priority now is to get the toilets operational and further consultations into the use of the remainder of the premises will follow.

Community Liaison Director Role description is now in draft. I was going to attach it to this report, but the Trust CEO has now asked that it be discussed between the SFCT chair and the CC chair. Why, I don't know but I feel that this is ready for the CC to ratify and get it back to the Trust for completion. This is now wearing very thin with me now. This has been on the cards since early November 2024!

I would like to suggest to the trust that they hold a 'Directors Surgery' every now and then, (perhaps once a month). Fort Augustus CC does this and provides a direct interaction between the Trust and the community and will help promote accountability.

The Board co-opted a Finance Director, Lewis Fraser who will assist the Finance Officer, Fiona Mustarde in the financial arm of the Trust.

The Trust recently sent out communication announcing the temporary closure of the Foyers Bay core path due to the felling of the burnt-out fir tree by the shore.

If anyone has anything for me to take to the next Trust Board meeting on the 2nd of July, please let me know beforehand.

<p>6. Foyers Public Toilets Nothing to report.</p> <p>7. Planning applications lodged since last SFCC meeting 25/01732/FUL Change of use of annexe to dwellinghouse, Annex Grianach Allt Na Goibhre Errogie Inverness IV2 6UH – <i>No comment</i></p> <p>8. Energy Schemes Aberarder WF – holding an evening onsite on 30th July to show how the Environmental Clerk of Works functions onsite and the work they do. MH to notify Gary MacGowan. MH attended HC’s training on community benefit and their social value charter that they are hoping developers will sign up to. More info here - Social Value Charter set to unlock renewables investment The Highland Council Lock Kemp PSH – At the recent South planning committee, HC objected to this so it will now go to public enquiry which is likely to be in the new year. SFCC could register to give evidence at this if they wanted to. MH has received many comments from community members remarking on how magnificent both Cllr Balance and Cllr Fraser were at the planning meeting. Thanks to both for listening to the community’s concerns. On the felling on Dell estate, Scottish Forestry insist that they did consult with SFCC but that email was never received. There are some out of date felling licenses on Dell estate where re-stocking hasn’t taken place yet; all agreed to raise this. Of the two new tracks that have been created on Dell estate, one has been requested to put in a planning application for but the for the one that runs into and through the SAC, MH still hasn’t had a reply from HC planning – to be followed up. Lynemore WF – objection submitted. Glen Earrach PSH – reply to objection received querying the sound levels quoted; agreed to ask developer for peak sound levels and refraction of sound over the loch.</p> <p>9. Roads Alliona Priima had come to the meeting to ask if the 30mph speed limit in Whitebridge could be extended to Knockie Estate Road end; Cllr Balance said he could put in a request to the road safety team to consider this. Ken Sinclair raised a concern about livestock on that same stretch of road and surface dressing on roads that seem ok; this is normally done to preserve the life of a surface but Admin to check with the roads department.</p> <p>10. Correspondences None that haven’t been covered.</p> <p>11. Up and coming events BCC Pizza and Party – 5th July @ BCC Hub SFCT Highland Gathering – 19th July @ Corriegarth Estate</p> <p>12. AOCB Issues with vegetation in playpark at Lower Foyers; CL to look into this problem.</p> <p>13. Next meeting Tuesday 26th August 2025 7pm @ the Wildside centre. No CC meeting held in July.</p>	<p>Contact Scottish Forestry re re-planting</p> <p>MH to contact planning</p> <p>Admin to contact developer</p> <p>Admin to check with HC roads department</p> <p>CL to investigate</p>
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