

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26th FEBRUARY 2013
AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK**

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)	Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mr L. MacNally (Treasurer)	Mrs M. Cameron
Mr K. Fraser	Mr A. MacPherson
Mr A. Sutherland	

Ex officio members present:

Councillor M. Davidson

Also present:

Police Sergeant A. Blakey	PC A. Mathieson
Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Service)	

1. Green Highland Renewables

Mr Alex Reading of GHR kindly gave a presentation on the proposed small hydro scheme on Forestry Commission land at Allt Luaidhe, Whitebridge. He explained the development and construction processes, possible financial arrangements, and likely timescale. More detailed information on possible community benefit will be available in approximately one year, after the planning process. He dealt with a number of questions regarding continued land access, grid connection, access for site equipment, and burial of pipes. More detail will become available as the development process continues. The Chairman thanked him for his presentation and for attending the meeting.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Item 4 'Correspondence' under 'emails regarding Minutes and Community Trust' Final sentence changed to read: "The majority of members felt that this".

Item 13 'AOCB' Final sentence now reads: "No final decision taken."

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Affordable Housing Scheme - Gorthleck

No new information. Cllr. Davidson will make enquiries.

(b) Foyers Public Toilets

One quotation for hot water being prepared, and a second awaited. Comfort Scheme payment confirmed as £200 per month from April to October. Steps will be taken to get toilets open for Easter if possible. Cllr. Davidson suggested an approach to the Discretionary Budget to cover cost of hot water installation.

(c) Parking - Foyers Shop and Cafe

Cllr. Davidson reports negotiations ongoing.

(d) Winter Resilience Scheme

Mrs Cameron reports sites identified around the district for grit heaps and extra grit bins. Plenty of volunteers have come forward and Scheme should be in place for next winter. Reminder in the Boleskine Bulletin next Autumn suggested.

(e) Resignation of CC Member

Notice given of intention to discuss this item in private at next CC meeting to look at options for filling this vacancy.

4. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence:

Community Council Scheme Evaluation

Bulky Uplift Service Review

Inverness Royal Academy (New School Campus) - Presentation 12.3.13

[Two members will attend.]

Play Seminar (4.3.13) and Health Inequalities Event (30.4.13) (circulated)
Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (circulated)
Redesigning the Justice System (Government consultation) (circulated)
Reminder - Tell Me Scotland information website (circulated)
Notice - Inaugural meeting, Inverness East District Partnership (circulated)

Other Correspondence:

SSE - Public Exhibition, proposed new substation, Farigaig (circulated)
[This is at pre-planning, consultation stage. Letters of objection received, and community generally unhappy with proposal and SSE response. Cllr. Davidson will give SSE contact details for letter from CC.]

Notice of SF Community Trust AGM

UPM Tilhill - Glenfarigaig - Forest Plan Scoping (circulated)

SSE - Notice, Meet the Buyer Event (circulated)

Fields in Trust - Information

Highland Environmental Network - Green Routes Conference (circulated)

South Loch Ness Heritage Group - Highland Droving talk (circulated)

Inverness Leisure - Vacancy on Board of Trustees

5. Treasurer's Report

Mrs Merther gave a final report and handed over all documentation to Mr MacNally.

Ordinary A/c Balance: £1383.53 (includes £362 for Monument survey)
Cheques cleared since last meeting:

 £27.00 - Remembrance Day wreath

 £168.00 - Boleskine Bulletin, printing of Minutes

 £150.00 - Solicitor, checking Lease for public toilets

Project A/c Balance: £2286.94 (unchanged)

6. Planning Matters

No new applications notified.

7. Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland noted moor burn season approaching, which is a busy time for them.

Progress being made with acquisition of defibrillator (as reported in October) and training.

8. Policing Matters

P.C. Mathieson reported on Public Contact Project. With the new Force from 1.4.13 all non-emergency calls will go to 101 phone number which will be routed through an enlarged, centralised, control room in Inverness. There will also be a public assistance desk in the control room to screen calls and route them to the correct resource. Requests to contact local officers will have to be made through the control room.

9. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding matters:

No progress on: Calanour junction priorities; Aberchalder causeway (increased damage by lorries on SW project noted); Boleskine bridge resurfacing; Patching of 'corkscrew' road; Reflective roadside posts near Calanour junction.

Errogie corner re-alignment - Cllr. Davidson will enquire on progress.

Bridge - Lower Foyers. Money possibly available for 'shovel ready' projects. Further letter needed to TECS to press for design and preparatory work to be done.

Whitebridge brae - Speed wires in place. Further information awaited.

Sight lines at Allt na Criche bridge - Reflective verge marker posts installed, which have improved the situation.

SW damage to Abersky road - Repairs to pot holes carried out.

(b) Other roads items:

(i) Cllr. Davidson, Chairman, Secretary, Mr Fraser and Mr MacPherson attended a meeting with TECS and SW regarding Newlands road and other SW roads matters. Lay-bys on Newlands road too few and not large enough and TECS had required these to be enlarged. Noted that this has been done, but still not enough lay-bys.

Members also unhappy about inaccurate information being sent to community about road closure dates. No information received by CC as yet regarding road closure order. Chairman will enquire.

Mr Fraser reports no agreement with land owners as yet on road widening. Maps and drawings have been inaccurate, and SW keep changing what they are going to do. 'Road closed' signs are being left up inappropriately.

No further information on gritting of the Inverfarigaig pass road as yet. Chairman will enquire.

A further meeting is scheduled for 12th March.

(ii) Mr MacPherson reports that RES road improvement work has started, and they hope to use traffic management rather than road closures. So far this is working well.

10. Water and Sewerage

See Roads above.

11. Community Project

Chairman noted need to deal with moles on the site. All members agreed to necessary expenditure.

12. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

(a) New Articles of Association:

Matters raised at the last meeting were discussed with Trust Directors at a special meeting called by them. A number of queries were then taken back to the Solicitor, some minor amendments made, and further advice received, resulting in a final draft.

Mr MacNally wished the Articles checked by another solicitor. After discussion no agreement was reached so the Chairman called a vote. Check by another solicitor: those in favour 2 (Mr MacNally wished his name recorded as in favour); those against 5. Proposal not passed.

A number of items were raised in relation to the Articles, all of which had been discussed at the last CC meeting and at the meeting with the Trust Directors. The Chairman noted it was unfortunate that the two members chiefly responsible for the meeting with Trust Directors being called had not been present at this meeting. Members then discussed acceptance of the Articles as now presented. After discussion no agreement was reached so the Chairman called a vote. Accept Articles as now presented: those in favour 5; those against 2 (Mr MacNally wished his name recorded as against). Proposal passed.

Additional CC members were needed for the vacant CC places on the Trust. Mrs Merther and Mrs Cameron agreed to fill the vacancies.

Mr Sutherland noted that some large payments are expected again this year.

He also noted that no recent information has been received about the Corriegarth scheme. Cllr. Davidson will make enquiries.

13. Any Other Competent Business

The question of a possible CC 'blog'/diary was raised again. Discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr. Davidson - Work on the National Cycle Route expected to start next Spring.

Cllr. Davidson - Lack of services in Torness area. Mr Sutherland will supply details of households without services and Cllr. Davidson will speak to those concerned.

Mrs Cameron - Safe routes to school. Query on progress with Foyers pavement. Cllr. Davidson will enquire.

Matters raised by community members:

Cllr. Davidson in response to an enquiry - There is no suggestion of withdrawing the mobile library service.

Problem with missed bin collections believed to be due to lack of gritting on Ardochy road - Chairman will make enquiries.

Forestry Commission community benefit conditions now on FC web site.

Minutes not always in notice boards. Believed some are being removed. Members will try to make sure all notice boards have copies.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 26th March 2013 at the Foyers Primary School.

The meeting was closed at 9.40 p.m.