

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29th MARCH 2012
AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK**

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)
Mr F. Ross (Treasurer)
Mr L. MacNally
Mr A. Sutherland

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mr K. Fraser
Mr A. MacPherson

Ex officio members present:

Councillor H. Carmichael

Councillor M. Davidson

Also present:

Mr C. Stephen, Ward Manager
Police Constable A. Mathieson

Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Brigade)

Apologies received:

Mrs M. Cameron

Councillor H. Wood

1. Constitutional Matters

Mr Charles Stephen presented an overview of the CC, and its role in partnership with Highland Council. He then gave advice on correct use of the Constitution, Standing Orders, and Code of Conduct. Meetings held outside the provisions of Standing Orders have officially not taken place. The Chairman thanked him for his valuable advice and guidance to the CC.

Answers to specific questions were given as follows:

Meetings called by outside bodies (e.g. SSE) involving CC members are not subject to CC Standing Orders.

As spokesman for the CC, the Chairman has discretion to answer enquiries put to him between meetings, or defer response to the next meeting.

The CC has a duty to listen to relevant matters raised by the public under AOB, under the direction of the Chair.

If the business of the CC is disrupted during the course of a meeting, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to a later date and time of his choosing.

Complaints to the CC are dealt with by all members present at the meeting.

Details of any CC expenditure are provided in the Treasurer's report.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2012 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr K. Fraser

Seconded: Mr A. MacPherson

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Affordable Housing Scheme - Gorthleck

Mr Sutherland and Mr MacNally for the CC, and Cllr. Davidson had attended a meeting with HSCHT and Albyn Housing. It had been agreed a further public meeting is required regarding possible options. There will be an article in the BB followed by a drop-in session at the Gorthleck Hall. A sign will be provided at the site presenting more information.

The Chairman advised Mr MacNally to bear in mind the need to discuss new matters with other members of the CC before raising them with outside agencies. Mr MacNally acknowledged this.

(b) Broadband Provision

Cllr. Carmichael advised the DLN application is with Leader and will be considered later in April.

(c) Local Care Project

There will be further discussion at a later meeting.

(d) Street Lighting - Energy Saving Measures

Feedback on this suggestion was largely in favour. A trial period was suggested. Mr Stephen will pass this request on.

(e) Foyers Public Toilets

Proposals for the lease of the toilets to the CC have been received. The building will be examined and a response sent to Mr Stephen as quickly as possible.

As arrangements cannot be finalised before Easter a request will be made for last year's arrangement to continue meantime so that the toilets can be opened. Mr Hargreaves is willing to undertake this.

An email has been received from the Glenlia Residents giving the impression that the CC is asking them to take joint responsibility for the toilets. Members agreed that this is not the case and a reply to this effect will be sent.

(f) Parking - Foyers Shop and Cafe

Cllr. Davidson reported land searches are ongoing.

(g) Foyers Schoolhouse Appraisal

Difficulties over sale on the open market, and on access were again discussed. Members agreed to request Housing & Property to inform the CC before any action to place the house on the market.

(h) Notice Boards

SSE had been contacted and repairs have been carried out to the Shop car park board. The new notice board has now been installed in Lower Foyers to replace the damaged one.

Cllr. Davidson noted that provision of a notice board is included in the Glenlia project.

(i) Day Care - Telford Centre

Cllr. Davidson reported that provision of day care is to continue as before.

(j) Community Questionnaire

Agreed this will be discussed at a later date after the new Local Plan is available. The Community Trust is also due to carry out a new survey of local aspirations.

(k) Correspondence

Mr Stephen advised that the Secretary is expected to carry out correspondence on behalf of the CC, without reference to all members. The Secretary is deemed to have the necessary judgement on when to consult with the Chairman or all members. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

4. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence

Charles Stephen - Proposed agreement Foyers Public Toilets - circulated

Cllr. Davidson - email re Knockie Lodge bus service extension
email re day care, Telford Centre

HC & SSE - Foyers road closure, access routes, signage - circulated

Cllr. Hendry - Information on Young Start scheme from Big Lottery Fund - circulated

Notice - Community Benefit Workshops - circulated

Information following meeting on timber transport HC & Forestry - circulated

Other Correspondence & Circulars received

Highland Small Communities Housing Trust - Housing options information note -
circulated

South Loch Ness Heritage - Talk on 22.3.12 - circulated

Glenlia Residents' Assn - Information on possible community buying club - circulated
email re Foyers toilets - circulated

Community Trust - Copy letter to Forestry re sub-station site
Copy letter from Boleskine Bulletin

Feedback on street lighting - circulated

Notice of Community Council Forum 25th April - circulated

NHS Highland Newsletter - circulated

Letter from Highland Folk Museum re relocation of old shinty pavilion to Newtonmore

Booklet - Highland & Moray Council Ranger Guided Walks

SSE - Correspondence re notice board Foyers shop

Mrs Ellam - Complaint about Minutes - circulated

Mr Stephen advised that approval of Minutes and their adoption as a true record are matters for members of the CC present at the meetings in question.

5. Treasurer's Report

There was no expenditure since previous meeting. A cheque for £228 will be written for the new notice board.

Account balances are as follows:

Ordinary A/c: £1339.50

Project A/c: £7227.66

6. Planning Matters

Details of the rest sites approved for the Great Glen Canoe Trail at Knockie and Foyers were circulated.

Cllr. Davidson reported that the application for a caravan and camping site in Lower Foyers has been granted on Appeal.

7. Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland commented on recent publicity regarding possible closure of small stations. The problem of lack of trained crew does not apply locally, and Cllr. Carmichael indicated she will be strongly supporting our local Station.

8. Policing Matters

P.C. Mathieson had no new local matters to report.

9. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

Timber extraction - The Chairman had attended a meeting at HC on timber transport. A current review of transport routes is under way. Cllr. Davidson felt a further meeting is needed with Forestry Commission.

Bridge by Boleskine Cemetery - Diversion signs have come down this evening and the road is now open.

(b) Meeting with TECS to Discuss Proposed Road Improvements

A probable March date for a meeting had been mentioned. Talks have been taking place with land owners. An enquiry will be made regarding progress.

(c) Other Roads Items

Causeway at Aberchalder - Repairs had been delayed awaiting a low water level. It was noted that the level is currently extremely low and work could be done. Mr Stephen will pass this information on.

Mr Kirkland has repaired a pot hole on the Aberchalder road himself.

Several complaints have been received regarding the standard of patching work being done on the Dores-Inverness road. Reports are of a 'corrugated' surface. Mr Stephen will raise this with TECS.

Cllr. Davidson reported Stagecoach have agreed to extend the Whitebridge service to Knockie once again, and the Dunmaglass quarry will be included as a stop on the Croachy route. There was no positive response to her requests at the Ward Forum either for an evening service Foyers-Inverness, or a 'missing link' service Foyers-Fort

Augustus. It was noted that a local petition is being collected regarding the Fort Augustus link.

10. Water and Sewerage

A representative of Scottish Water is attending on 3rd April to provide information regarding the proposed new pipeline to Aberchalder.

The question of water quality will be raised.

11. Community Project - Gorthleck

All paperwork is still with Leader. Cllr. Carmichael reported that they are always very slow to return grant documentation, and check all details very thoroughly. The Chairman will prepare a report when the Project is signed off by Leader.

12. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland reported as follows:

Dunmaglass scheme negotiations have been completed and signed off.

An approach has been made to Forestry Commission regarding the sub-station site for Dunmaglass grid connection. This is adjacent to nine properties without mains electricity. The possibility of offering mains connection has been raised.

Further contact regarding the Aberchalder hydro project is awaited.

Negotiations for the Corriegarth scheme are awaited.

SSE have provided the CC with initial information on Stronelaig proposals. Further details will be available later in the year.

13. Any Other Competent Business

Chairman - An enquiry received regarding payments from Loch Ness Marathon and how funds are allocated. Enquiries will be made.

Secretary - Enquiries received regarding local notices about a community web site. CC will post notices for clarification that this is not the CC web site.

Mrs McGuire - Enquiry on planning enforcement. Advised anyone can report suspected failure to follow planning conditions to the Planning Department.

Mrs Chattington - Dangerous driving by timber lorries. Advised always report to Police. If possible obtain registration number.

Mrs Chattington - Problem with Scottish Water vehicles blocking access roads. Will be raised with SW.

Mr Brown - Enquiry regarding SSE community benefit payments. Mr Sutherland provided details.

Mrs Brown - Possibility of placing brochures of interest sent to CC in Shop.

Mr Ian Fraser - Thanks to Cllr. Davidson and other Highland Councillors for their support for community members.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th April 2012 at the Foyers Primary School.

The meeting was closed at 9.30 p.m.