

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER 2011**  
**AT THE FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)  
Mr F. Ross (Treasurer)  
Mr K. Fraser  
Mr A. MacPherson

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)  
Mrs M. Cameron  
Mr L. MacNally  
Mr A. Sutherland

Apologies received:

Councillor M. Davidson  
Councillor H. Wood  
Police Constable A. Mathieson

Councillor D. Hendry  
Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Brigade)

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2011 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr A. MacPherson      Seconded: Mr A. Sutherland

**2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

**(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing**

Mr Sutherland and Mr Ronnie MacRae of the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust visited the seller of the land for the Gorthleck scheme. They explained the reasons for the need to sell two of the plots, to fund further development of the site, and the seller is happy with their explanation.

**(b) Care in Strathnairn**

A brief questionnaire, based on advice from the Strathnairn organiser, has been sent for inclusion as a flyer in the Boleskine Bulletin. This is to assess the possible demand for such a service, and to seek possible volunteers. Feedback is awaited.

**(c) Parking - Foyers Shop and Cafe**

There has been no further report as yet.

**(d) Foyers Public Toilets**

The Chairman felt that the CC needs to know any legal requirements for the facility so that the cost of any necessary work can be assessed. There was some discussion on whether ownership should be with the Community Trust or the CC. It was agreed that it seems appropriate for the CC to take ownership, as long as suitable insurance is taken out.

**(e) Street Lighting - Energy Saving Measures**

The Secretary had sent a brief notice to the Boleskine Bulletin to gauge community opinion about a period of switch-off for streeting lighting. Unfortunately this has not been published in the December Bulletin so no further action can be taken at present. Mrs Cameron reported that a number of people she had spoken to in Glenlia were in favour of the suggestion.

**(f) Shinty Pavilion - Lower Foyers**

The Secretary had enquired with SSE as to whether they felt this building should be removed on safety grounds. In their reply they agreed that removal is desirable, and the CC has confirmed that they have no objection.

**(g) TV Reception - Glenlia and Inverfarigaig**

Mr Tony Williams, Chairman of the Glenlia Residents, has sent the CC a copy of his letter of complaint to Offcom regarding the lack of freeview and digital services in these areas, and also the mis-selling of broadband in this area by BT. He is awaiting

a reply.

(h) Foyers Schoolhouse Appraisal

Nothing new has been reported. Mrs Cameron noted that the School had been unaware of this and had not been consulted.

**3. Correspondence**

Reply from Editor of Boleskine Bulletin

It was agreed to invite the new Committee to the next CC meeting.

email from Rhoda Grant, MSP - Better Broadband Campaign

Danny Alexander, MP - Autumn Statement

NHS Highland - Pharmaceutical Care Services Plan 2012/13

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Current balances are reported as follows:

Ordinary A/c: £1641.32

Project A/c: £11,613.52

**5. Planning Matters**

(a) New applications:

Convert existing building to dwelling, Larkfield, Gorthleck (Full)

Erect house & site for garage, SW of Martinet, Gorthleck (Full. Outline already granted)

Erect one 500kW turbine, Easter Aberchalder, Gorthleck (Full)

(Mr Ross declared an interest.)

All plans were studied and discussed. There were no objections.

There was some general discussion about wind turbines and community benefit payments.

(b) Any other planning matters

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from HC indicating that an appeal is being made against the rejection of the application for a caravan/camping site in Lower Foyers. The CC was informed that their comments will be forwarded to the Scottish Government along with all other responses made.

Mrs Cameron had received an enquiry as to whether a new submission would be made by the new CC. The Chairman indicated that this will only be necessary if a new application is submitted.

**6. Fire Brigade Report**

Mr Kirkland was unable to attend but had sent a report that the access to the local Fire Station had been gritted in the recent snow, and he believes that a formal arrangement is now in place.

**7. Policing Matters**

No new matters had been reported.

**8. Roads and Signage**

(a) Outstanding Matters

Damage to Trinloist road - No further work has been done. The Chairman reported that, against regulations, three timber lorries had been seen leaving Knockie in convoy. The Chairman has details of the contractor concerned and the registration numbers and will pass details on. Problems caused by timber extraction continue to cause concern. The Timber Extraction Routes Strategy report from Colin MacKenzie of the Forestry Commission is awaited.

Drops on verges east of Calanour junction - work is ongoing.

Pot hole by first cattle grid, Bochruben road - Reported, but work not yet done.

Pot holes on the Garthbeg road and damage to the bridge at Aberchalder are still outstanding.

British Waterways report on Foyers Pier - Awaited

Traffic priorities at Calanour junction - Should be dealt with next year

#### **(b) Other Roads Items**

There was a meeting in the Town House on 25th November with members of TEC Services, attended on behalf of the CC by the Chairman, Secretary, and Mr Ross. This was to look at work proposed on South Loch Ness roads during the next year. The Chairman presented the plans given by TEC Services. It was agreed that CC members should consider these proposals further and discuss them at the January meeting with a view to presenting a list of priorities to TECS. It was agreed that a further meeting with TECS would be appropriate at that stage.

Mr Fraser reported that roads through the Strath on 12th December had been sheets of ice, and three cars had been seen to go off the road. It was felt that rates of salt spread in these conditions are inadequate, and the means of monitoring spread rates was queried. This will be passed to TECS.

Mrs Cameron enquired whether the entry signs to Foyers could be improved. It was noted that CC members attended a meeting in March regarding Loch Ness signage. The aim had been to achieve consistent signage for communities all around the Loch. Mr Ambrose for Destination Loch Ness was involved in this and further enquires will be made about progress.

Mr Sutherland reported that ditches down the Inverfarigaig pass badly need clearing, and a pot hole has developed where water appears to be undermining the road. It was noted that blocked drains and ditches are an issue throughout the area. A report will be made.

Mr Ross had received a complaint from a resident of Thain Road in Whitebridge about long grass and vegetation overgrowing onto the pavement. A report will be sent.

### **9. Water and Sewerage**

A further enquiry had been sent about the proposed pipeline. A reply is awaited.

### **10. Community Project**

The Chairman reported that application has been made to Leader for the final grant payment. There are currently two small problems with items of equipment, and he is waiting for the suppliers to rectify these. Mrs Cameron had received an enquiry about the Project. The Chairman confirmed that once the Project is complete a brief report will be prepared.

### **11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit**

Mr Sutherland reported that the Dunmaglass agreement is finalised and will be signed shortly. There had been a recent meeting with North British Windpower regarding Corriegarh, and negotiations are ongoing. SSE have recently published a prospectus giving details of their intended future payments per mW.

### **12. Any Other Competent Business**

Mr Sutherland reported that the door is off the telephone box at Errogie. He has reported this to BT.

Mrs Cameron had received an enquiry about a reduction in the speed limit through Errogie. Members thought arrangements may already be in hand for speed monitoring in this area, but enquiries will be made.

Mrs Cameron made arrangements for Santa Claus to attend the impending children's Christmas party.

It was noted that with the new Stagecoach bus timetables the afternoon bus at Stratherrick School is 20 minutes later. It was agreed that this is a long time for young children to have to wait, especially during the Winter. Enquiries will be made about a change to the old time.

### **13. Dates for Future Meetings**

Dates were noted as follows:

24th January 2012 - Stratherrick Hall

28th February 2012 - Foyers School

27th March 2012 - Stratherrick Hall

24th April 2012 - Foyers School

22nd May 2012 - Stratherrick Hall

26th June 2012 - Foyers School

The meeting was closed at 9.30 p.m.