

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER 2011
AT THE FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Members present:

Mr A Sutherland (Chairman)

Mr D. Forbes

Mr M. Houston

Mr F. Ross

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)

Mr K. Fraser

Mr A. MacPherson

Mr J. Sharp

Also present:

Councillor M. Davidson

Mr N. Kirkland

Councillor D. Hendry

P.C. A. Mathieson

Apologies received:

Mrs K. Grant

Councillor H. Carmichael

1. Adoption of Minutes

Mr Houston requested that item 10 be amended to record that completion of the Community Project is being jointly managed by himself and Mrs Fiona Kirkland.

With this amendment the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2011 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr M. Houston

Seconded: Mr A. MacPherson

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Albyn Housing have indicated that in the current, difficult financial climate they propose the sale of two plots to finance the infrastructure for further development on the Gorthleck site. Cllr. Davidson felt there should be a further public meeting locally so that Albyn can update the community on the proposed changes in the development plans. She will enquire about a suitable date for a meeting, which can be advertised in the Boleskine Bulletin.

(b) Broadband Provision

Cllr. Davidson reported that Destination Loch Ness intend to make a further bid for Leader funding.

(c) Care in Strathnairn

The Secretary reported she had made further contact with Mr Paul Davies. The Trust running Care in Strathnairn feel it will not be possible to include our area under their own Scheme, so it will be necessary to set up our own organisation for this area. They are, however, happy to offer as much help and advice as required to assist with our own set up. A questionnaire is being drawn up for the December Boleskine Bulletin to gauge likely demand, types of jobs needed, and numbers of possible volunteers.

(d) Firework Display

Mr Houston reported that the marquee for the joint firework display and launch of the community space in Gorthleck will be delivered on Friday 4th November. He requested as many volunteers as possible for the Friday evening so that the bulk of the setting up can be done before the event on the 5th. There will be various events on the 5th from 5.30 p.m. onwards, culminating in the firework display.

(e) CC Elections November 2011

The Secretary confirmed that ballot papers are being sent out by Highland Council today (25th), and that the current CC will be officially disbanded at 23.59 on 15th

November. The new CC will consist of eight rather than ten members.

(f) Parking - Foyers Shop & Cafe

Cllr. Davidson reported that Highland Council is currently in the process of confirming ownership of the land in question.

(g) Charity Event Signage

The Secretary had been in contact with Mr Charles Stephen, Ward Manager, about this matter. She has requested that a note be included in the consent for these events to encourage organisers to remove signage after events.

(h) Community Web Site

The Secretary confirmed that a letter has been sent to the Boleskine Bulletin in response to Mr Law's letter published in the last issue, in order to clarify the facts of this matter.

3. Correspondence

Highland Council correspondence:

Information on winter 'self help' kits for communities adjacent to trunk roads.

Cllr. Hendry will enquire about the provision of such kits to other communities, and the cost.

Other correspondence and circulars received:

'Paths for All' Leaflet

Bulb Catalogue - J. Parker's Wholesale

Forestry Commission Scotland - Felling Licence Application, Losbanan, Whitebridge. The Chairman presented this letter and, after discussion, it was agreed that clarification should be sought on several matters to try to avoid problems encountered previously with timber extraction in the area. The Secretary will write to request details of exactly when the extraction is planned, the proposed extraction route, and the number of lorries expected to be travelling the route each day.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting.

5. Planning Matters

(a) New application:

Meteorological mast in connection with windfarm application, Stronlairig. Additional period of 5 years for existing permission. No objections.

(b) Other planning matters:

There was discussion regarding the possible route of power lines from the Dunmaglass and Corriegarth schemes. It was agreed that it is important to engage in discussion on routes at an early stage in order to achieve any adjustments, such as areas where underground routing might be desirable.

6. Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland had nothing new to report.

7. Policing Matters

P.C. Mathieson had nothing new to report.

8. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

Roadside tree clearance - The Chairman reported that work in the Inverfarigaig pass

is progressing. It is hoped this will be completed on time. There are still concerns about the stability of some slopes after timber is removed, and how the Forestry Commission intend to deal with any problems arising from this. It was agreed that CC members should be present when FC hand over the road to TEC Services. The Secretary will write to Julian Fryer requesting confirmation that the work is expected to be completed on time, and also requesting that CC members attend the final hand-over.

Access road to Foyers Burial Ground - Vegetation has been scraped from the centre of the road, and work is ongoing to lay scalplings to improve the surface.

Damage to Trinloist road by timber lorries - the damaged culvert under the road has been repaired, but damaged road edges have still to be repaired.

The following items have not yet been dealt with, and Cllr. Davidson has raised these with TECS again: Pot holes on the Garthbeg road; Traffic priorities at the Calanour junction; Drops on verges east of Calanour junction; Need for additional passing places, Errogie; Damage to bridge at Aberchalder.

Cllr. Davidson reported that HC intend putting some money into the South Loch Ness roads. This will be HC money, some wind farm road improvement money, and the remainder of the Glendoe money earmarked for this use. She is waiting to hear details of the proposals, which should be available at the end of November.

9. Water and Sewerage

It was reported that Scottish Water intend to lay pipes to bring in additional water to Aberchalder, which will be pumped from Loch Ashie. It was agreed that this seems a very expensive way of bringing in a further supply, and members wondered if this might be due to limitations on an extraction licence. Cllr. Davidson will make enquiries.

10. Community Project - Gorthleck

Mr Houston reported that the Project is now nearing its conclusion. HC has advanced a loan to cover some of the invoices until the final grant is received. Insurance has been obtained through HC. Cllr. Davidson said that HC has adopted a number of play areas to carry out equipment inspections, and that this might be considered as an option in future.

11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

The Chairman reported that the Dunmaglass negotiations are almost complete, and there is a meeting regarding Corriegarth in the near future. First steps in relation to the Stronlairig application will be taken.

It was reported that SSE would prefer to leave community benefit negotiations until after the grant of planning permission. However, it was agreed that this is not a desirable course of action.

12. Any Other Competent Business

Foyers public toilets - Cllr. Davidson presented a survey of the minor repair work required if the CC or Community Trust take them over. She will enquire with HC about the likely cost, and suggested that it would also be sensible to obtain local quotes.

The Chairman wondered about possible energy saving measures with street lighting. Cllr. Hendry reported that a switch-off period from 12 midnight till 6.00 a.m. had been implemented in some areas and had been very successful. It was agreed that the new CC might wish to enquire about this option.

Cllr. Davidson reported that there are to be Energy Efficiency Workshops held in Fort Augustus on 10th November and Farr on 17th November.

The Secretary had enquired about arrangements for snow clearing/gritting at the access to the local Fire Station. She has been advised that the Fire Service need to make a formal arrangement with TEC Services for this. She will write to the Chief Fire Officer to advise him of this.

Cllr. Davidson reported that the British Waterways survey of the Foyers Pier should be available in early November. Destination Loch Ness is involved in looking at what can be done there.

The Secretary had received a complaint about the dangerous state of the old shinty pavilion in Lower Foyers, largely due to vandalism. Members agreed that we should write to SSE requesting them to look at possible removal of the building on safety grounds.

The Chairman wished the death of a former, long-serving member of the CC, Rev. Martyn Bateman, to be noted, and to record that the CC were grateful for his valuable contribution over the years.

At this final meeting of the current CC, the Chairman thanked members for their work over the past year. Cllr. Hendry also wished to record the thanks of our Highland Councillors to members.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the new CC will be on Tuesday 22nd November at the Stratherrick Hall in Gorthleck.

The meeting was closed at 8.35 p.m.