

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27th APRIL 2010
AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK**

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)
Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer)
Mr A. Sutherland

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mr M. Bateman

Also present:

Councillor M. Davidson
Councillor D. Hendry
Police Constable A. Mathieson
Mr M. Sutherland, Loch Ness Marathon organiser
Mr P. Thompson and Mr G. Ambrose, South Loch Ness Way

Apologies received:

Mr K. Fraser
Mr A. MacPherson
Mr N. Kirkland

Mrs L. MacAdam
Mr A. Nicol
Councillor H. Carmichael

1. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2010 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr M. Bateman Seconded: Mrs K. Grant

2. Loch Ness Marathon

Mr Malcolm Sutherland attended the meeting to report on changes which have been made to the start and finish points for this year's Marathon on 3rd October. The finishing point has been moved from Queens Park to the Bught, where there will also be an 'event village'. It is hoped this will improve involvement in the event for the local community. The start line will now be further up the hill at Whitebridge, past the Knockie turning, on the long straight below the cattle grid. This takes the start away from any houses, and it is hoped will give a faster start and also allow for better management and safety at the start. The Chairman suggested that notices be provided well in advance of the event to notify residents of the changes, and any changes in traffic restrictions. Mr Sutherland agreed this was a good idea. The Chairman thanked Mr Sutherland for keeping the CC informed.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) South Loch Ness Way

Mr Graeme Ambrose and Mr Phil Thompson attended to give an update on progress with plans for the South Loch Ness Way. Some sections of the final route are still to be decided, but must be suitable for walkers and horse riders, and within the budget available. Maps showing the various options being considered were presented. The trail will be 1.5m wide and constructed using local material where possible. It is intended to connect with the various communities along the Way, and to provide suitable interpretive material and signs. Preparation towards construction is well under way. Work has been put out to tender, and a short-list of possible contractors selected, favouring those with appropriate past experience, and with emphasis being placed on Health & Safety issues and environmental aspects. It is hoped that a start can be made by early March 2011. Once in place, overall responsibility for organising maintenance and any necessary funding will rest with Destination Loch Ness. The Chairman thanked Mr Ambrose and Mr Thompson for their presentation.

(b) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Cllr. Davidson reported that she believed Albyn are currently hoping to submit their Planning Application in the next couple of months, with a view to making a start early next year. As previously reported, some serviced HSCHT plots may be available earlier than this.

(c) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge

Mr Bateman reported that it is hoped that stage one of the work planned will begin in July.

(d) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers

The Secretary reported that she has contacted Laing Traditional Masonry, and they will be sending their report and estimate shortly.

(e) Right of Way through Knockie Estate

There was no new information at present.

(f) Report of Leaking Sewage at Gorthleck Hall

The Chairman has made enquiries with the Hall Committee. The problem is not related to sewage, but is surface water. The best way of dealing with this is being explored.

4. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence

Development Plan Scheme 2010 - available at local post office or
online at: www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans

Update on Community Council Review

Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 - Highland Policy Statement

Budget Brief 2010-11

email: Budget Consultation (circulated)

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received

Minutes of Inverness Area CC Forum 19.04.10 (circulated)

Letter from residents of the Vennal re winter snow problems

Annual Report from Dave Thompson, MSP

Notice of events from British Waterways (Scotland)

Leaflets - SMP Outdoor play and fitness equipment

5. Treasurer's Report

Balances are as follows:

Project A/c - £5663.58

Ordinary A/c - £981.34 (including £362 in grant money for Fraser Monument, and £11.73 held for Mr J. Campbell, Senior Citizen's Fund)

The Treasurer will ask Mr Campbell if he will kindly audit our 2009/2010 accounts in preparation for the AGM.

6. Planning Matters

Cllr. Hendry left the meeting during discussion of planning matters.

(a) New applications:

Corriegarth Lodge, Gorthleck - Addition of two-storey tower and turret

Glenlia Farm, Foyers - Siting of portable deer larder

SSE Erection of 33,000 volt wood pole overhead line at Tyndrum, Gorthleck

There were no objections.

(b) Other planning matters:

Mrs Grant had received a complaint about erection of unauthorised B & B signs. She was advised that the complainants themselves could contact the Enforcement Office in the Planning Department to report exact details of the problem.

The Secretary had received an enquiry about a building extension to a property in Foyers. She has passed the enquiry to the Enforcement Office who will ascertain if this is a permitted development.

7. Fire Brigade Report

No new matters had been reported.

8. Policing Matters

PC Mathieson had no new matters to report.

9. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

Ditch in front of Lynemhor Lodge - Mr Fraser was present and reported that the Council has started work on this. The water has been drained away, but he believes there is still work to be completed.

Pavement to Foyers School - Cllr. Davidson reported that the Parent Council is pursuing this through the Safer Routes to School fund. There are many forms to be completed and stages to go through, but a start has been made, and she will help to move things forward.

Safety at Foyers bailey bridge - PC Mathieson suggested that if drivers using excessive speed on this route can be identified, he will speak to them about the problem. He would also be willing to carry out some speed checks if this was thought to be useful. It was noted that apart from one or two local drivers the main problem is with delivery vans.

(b) Bridge in Lower Foyers

Cllr. Davidson reported that a meeting on the Capital Programme is imminent.

(c) Other Roads Items

The Chairman reported that there is currently some forestry work under way at Dell, Whitebridge, and the many large potholes along the Dell road have been filled with concrete for the present.

Following the severe winter weather there are reports of many badly broken road edges - notably at Loch Ceoglais, the Calanour junction, and on the Torness to Newlands road. A letter will be sent.

Mr Fraser also reported that there is still a large amount of debris from the trees which fell across roads with the snowfall. Roads were cleared, but nothing has been done since. Branches and tree debris are impeding lay-bys and passing places on all the roads affected, and it was felt that a good clearance is needed. Cllrs. Davidson and Hendry will raise this matter.

10. Water and Sewerage

There was nothing new to report.

11. Community Project - Gorthleck

The Chairman reported that the Project is still slowly moving forward. The Project Manager has made applications for funds.

12. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland reported that a further meeting is scheduled regarding community benefit from the Dunmaglass scheme. It is hoped to negotiate an improved offer.

He also reported that the Community Trust has given an grant of £10,000 towards the section of the South Loch Ness Way which falls within the Trust area, and also subject to some conditions such as choice of route, and planning permission.

13. Any Other Competent Business

(a) Mr Sutherland reported that a recent litter tidying exercise had identified areas where fly tipping of building rubble is a problem. PC Mathieson said that there is due to be some press publicity about this matter, and that it is important to report any incidents to the Police. There has been a recent successful prosecution. The Highland Council also has Enforcement Officers to deal with these incidents. Mrs Grant identified an area on the Torness road where dumping is a problem, and Cllr. Davidson said that she would see about getting rubbish removed.

(b) Mr Donald Forbes attended the meeting to inform the CC about a public meeting arranged for 12th May 2010. This is about the plans he and his wife have for a camping and caravan park at Lower Foyers. It will be a drop-in event from 5.00 to 8.00 p.m. at the Foyers Primary School. Notices will be posted.

(c) Mrs Grant had received a complaint about unsightly scrap cars dumped at the Fire Station in Gorthleck. PC Mathieson explained that these are used for training purposes by the Fire Brigade, and he believes they are not there long-term. An enquiry will be made.

(d) Mrs Grant had received complaints about articulated lorries for the Glendoe scheme travelling at speed along the Gorthleck road. It was understood that the lorries should not be using this route. Cllr. Davidson will speak to SSE, and the CC will also write to the Liaison Officer.

(e) Mrs Grant enquired about the possibility of some pavement being provided for school access at Gorthleck. Cllr. Davidson indicated that funds should be available under the Safer Routes to School scheme. Mrs Grant will speak to the Parent Council about this, and Cllr. Davidson will be able to help them with the necessary procedures.

(f) The Chairman has made enquiries with the Forestry Commission about the matter of tree seeding between adjacent plantations, and is awaiting a written confirmation of their reply.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting, which will be the AGM will be on Tuesday 25th May 2010 at the Foyers Primary School.

The meeting was closed at 8.55 p.m.