

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2009**

Members present: Mr M. Houston (Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mr M. Bateman

Mrs L. MacGregor Mr A. Nicol Mr A. Sutherland

Also present: Councillor M. Davidson Councillor H. Carmichael

Apologies received: Mr K. Fraser Mrs K. Grant Mr. P. Higham Police Constable A. Mathieson Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Brigade)

### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

(a) Key Worker Housing: Mr Sutherland and Cllr. Davidson had a meeting with representatives of Albyn Housing and the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust regarding the sites at Gorthleck and Inverfarigaig. They had received a commitment that sketch designs would be prepared for the Gorthleck site by 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009, and that the project would go out to tender before Christmas this year. The site should provide eight units for Albyn and six or seven for HSCHT. At a later date the Inverfarigaig site could provide three or four units. It is proposed to hold meetings in the area to update the local Housing Needs Survey. Albyn are also looking at potential sites around Foyers.

(b) Community Web Site: An application for funding has been submitted to the Community Trust. The Trust is supportive in principle, and has asked for more information regarding maintenance of the site. They feel it may be necessary to pay someone to have responsibility for maintaining the site.

(c) Gorthleck War Memorial: The War Memorials Trust contacted the Secretary for more detailed information about the Memorial, which has now been supplied. A decision on the grant application is due at the beginning of May.

In discussions with the Ward Manager the Secretary has been informed that TEC Services carried out a survey of the Memorial in around 2003, and may be able to help with any costs not covered by the grant. She will keep them informed. A copy of the survey has been supplied for our records.

(d) Destination Loch Ness - Tourist Route Signs: The Chairman reported that Mr Ambrose had suggested that some signs might be provided, and he believed this might have been from some 'end of year' funds. Cllr. Carmichael had been meeting with DLN, and will make enquiries.

(e) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge: Mr. Bateman reported that following their last meeting, the Bridge Trust now has three directors. More will be needed, and as many volunteers as possible to be members. A notice will be placed in the Boleskine Bulletin inviting volunteers. Mr. Sutherland suggested that local land-owners would be ideal as directors.

(f) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers: The Secretary has provided photographs and historical information on the Monument to the Highland Buildings Preservation Trust. She has been invited to a meeting presenting information on a successful, ongoing kirkyards restoration project which was set up in Aberdeenshire. It is hoped to set up a similar project for Highland kirkyards, and the meeting will look at possible ways forward with this. It is hoped that restoration of the Monument may be included in this project.

### **Tabling of Correspondence**

Highland Council Correspondence: Rural Inverness Community Development Plan,  
Scottish Government documents for Community Councils: Model for the Establishment of a  
Community Council,

Model Constitution, Model Code of Conduct, Model Standing Orders

(The Secretary will go over these documents and bring forward any matters for discussion to the next meeting. She will copy the 'Code of Conduct' for each member.)

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received:

Inverness Area Community Councils Forum - Notice of Meeting 12th May 2009 - circulated

Letter and Grant Acceptance Form from Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

NHS Highland - Update and Leaflets on Emergency Dental Service

BMA Scotland - General Practice in Scotland: The Way Ahead

Letters Sent: Foyers Power Station - re abandoned boat, Highland Buildings Preservation Trust - re

Fraser Monument and Highland Kirkyards project, War Memorials Trust - re grant application

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer was not present, but had send details of balances as follows:

Ordinary account: £718.41 (including £124.03 held for Mr J. Campbell) Project account: £3663.58

### **Planning Applications**

(a) The only application was for an extension to the time for monitoring of a wind mast at Land at Carn Na Saobhaidhe, Gorthleck. There were no objections to this.

(b) A letter had been received from planning indicating that permission had been granted for the Church Hall site at Foyers. The Secretary reported that no mention had been made of our concerns about pedestrian safety, including the children's access to the Primary School, during work on the site. A letter had been written to Planning about this in December and acknowledgement received. The Secretary had contacted the local Police who had dealt with this as a road safety issue, getting the site fencing moved back from the road edge. Members felt that we should write to the Planning Department expressing our disappointment that our concerns over serious road safety issues had not been addressed. A letter will be sent.

(c) Application for trader's licence - Mandalay, Gorthleck. A site visit had been undertaken. Cllr. Carmichael informed the CC that the application had been refused, but the Chairman felt that the broader issue of whether the CC should write letters of support in such circumstances should be discussed by the full Council. This item will be carried forward to the next Agenda for discussion.

### **Fire Brigade Report**

Mr Kirkland was unable to attend but had given a report by phone. He informed the CC that the problem of the European Working Time Directive has been resolved, and that there is now no threat to the retained Fire Service.

### **Roads & Signage**

(a) Response from TEC Services following meeting of 20.2.09: An email from Les Houliker giving a breakdown of spending of the Glendoe money was read out. It was felt that further detail was needed, and that a number of other issues raised at the meeting had still not been addressed. Cllr. Davidson will arrange a further meeting.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers: Mr Nicol had obtained some good publicity on this issue via the Highland News. Mrs MacGregor & the Secretary had been organising a petition, and it was felt that the next stage should be to arrange a formal handover of the petition, with more publicity, photographs etc. Cllr. Davidson will ask John Laing, Chairman of TEC Services to be present to receive the petition, and will discuss suitable dates. She is also trying to get David MacKenzie, who is carrying out the review of Highland bridge priorities, to come out to Foyers to see the situation on the ground. The Secretary noted that footpath diversion signs are needed, as the old bridge is included on many tourist walking guides and maps. Cllr. Davidson advised that Stewart Eastaugh, the Access Officer is the person to contact, and the Secretary will do this.

(c) The problem of roadside obstructions such as boulders was again mentioned. Dick Brown of the Highland Council deals with this, and Mr Sutherland offered to give him a guided tour of the problem areas. The Secretary will pass on contact details. The Secretary noted that there was still no programme of regular 'housekeeping' for ditches etc. around the district. For example, the ditch opposite the Medical Centre in Lower Foyers had been completely blocked since the winter snow, and was reported for clearance. However, a local resident had cleared this himself before TEC Services came out. When workmen did come, material cleared from roadside ditches is still being piled up beside the road, instead of being removed, despite this being reported as a problem. Ownership of the Dell Estate road is still unresolved, and it is in an extremely bad condition. Tenants have done some work themselves. Cllr. Davidson reported that the Unadopted Roads Fund is very limited, and priority goes to situations where elderly or disabled residents are affected. Enquiries are continuing. No action has yet been taken on the Foyers Cemetery road. Cllr. Davidson will arrange for Mr Fridge to meet with her and the Secretary at the Cemetery to look at this. Roadside trees left following forestry clearance are still a problem at Trinloist and Knockie. A further letter will be sent.

### **Water & Sewerage**

Following last month's report the Secretary had made enquiries with Scottish Water. They have informed us that the only current work in the area is to upgrade the old water main at Lochmhor cottages in Gorthleck. They are also looking into options to improve water quality in the Gorthleck area, and have notified relevant land owners about this. Improvements are planned for the 2010 - 2014 period.

### **Community Project**

The Chairman reported that he and Mrs Kirkland will be meeting with HIE next week to move this project forward. Cllrs. Carmichael and Davidson advised that if further funding is needed then Leader money could be applied for.

### **Renewable Energy & Community Benefit**

The Secretary passed on the invitations received for the Inauguration of the River E Hydroelectric Scheme on 21st May. Mr Sutherland reported that the meeting with SSE to discuss allocation of funds for energy saving measures is still being re-scheduled.

### **Any Other Competent Business**

(b) Cllr. Davidson reported that she and John Taylor had been to Foyers to look at possible options for parking solutions both at Glenlia and at the shop. Discussions are ongoing.

(c) Mrs MacGregor reported that a tree had been removed, which had improved visibility at the Medical Centre access.

(d) Mr Colquhoun reported a good response to the initial meeting on creation of a residents association for Glenlia. A further meeting is scheduled for this week to formalise the Association, and they will be getting further advice on organisation and funding.

(e) Cllr. Davidson indicated that with the start of the new financial year there are now funds in the Council Discretionary Budget.

(f) Mr Nicol felt that there might be a need to reduce the speed limit through Foyers, and possibly introduce a speed limit on the road to Lower Foyers. Cllr. Davidson advised that Les Houlker should be asked to arrange traffic surveys to assess this need. The Secretary will request this.

(g) An Invoice has been received from the Boleskine Bulletin for publication of the Minutes in the next four issues. It was felt that our funds are not sufficient to pay the full amount of this invoice at present, and that payment should be split. This will allow part of the payment to be made after receipt of our new grant. A letter will be sent.

(h) The Chairman reported that the photocopier has been unusable for many months now due to the damp in the room where it is housed. It was agreed to request that it be moved into the adjoining room so that Canon can be called in to get the machine working again. Enquiries should also be made about the situation with the Hall roof. A letter will be written to the Hall Committee.

(i) The next CC meeting will be the AGM on 26th May 2009. Final accounts will need to be prepared for auditing. The Secretary will obtain the final figures from the Treasurer to update the balance sheets. It was agreed to ask Mr J. Campbell to audit the accounts for us.