

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24th AUGUST 2010  
AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL, FOYERS**

Members present:

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

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)  
Mr M. Bateman  
Mr A. Sutherland

Also present:

Councillor M. Davidson

Councillor D. Hendry

Apologies received:

Mr K. Fraser  
Mr A. MacPherson

Mrs L. McAdam  
Councillor H. Wood

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2010 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr M. Bateman

Seconded: Mr M. Houston

**2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

No further information has been received. Cllr. Davidson will enquire about progress with the Gorthleck scheme.

(b) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge

Mr Bateman reported that immediately necessary work is under way, and that parapets and buttresses are being repaired. This initial work is hoped to be complete by mid September. Some of the original cobbled road surface has been discovered, and it is hoped eventually to reveal all of this.

(c) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers

The Secretary reported that the Survey and Quotation for necessary work has now been received from Laing Traditional Masonry. Grant funding will now be sought for the amount required - £19,340.

(d) Right of Way through Knockie Estate

The Rights of Way Officer has requested that the cattle feeding station be re-sited if possible.

(e) Broadband Provision

The CC has finally received a response from BT, indicating that they have no plans to improve the current situation in this area. Cllr. Hendry has also been in touch with them and received a similar response, indicating that they do not regard improvements in this area as economically beneficial to them. Destination Loch Ness is involved in an application for funds to enable broadband access for boats on the Loch, which may extend to properties around the shore, but will not benefit anyone away from the shoreline. The CC will continue to press the case with BT, and Cllrs. Davidson and Hendry are pursuing the matter further. It was felt that in an area so dependent on tourism, and with so much business now internet dependent, the attitude of BT is unacceptable.

(f) Care in Strathnairn

There was nothing further to report at present. The Chairman will follow this up.

### **3. Correspondence**

#### Highland Council Correspondence

Notice of City Forum "Community Care Plan Consultation" 2.8.10

Notice of Kirking of the Council 12.9.10

Cllr Hendry - Copy of Forestry Commission Deer Management Operations Poster & leaflets - HC history and culture website - [www.ambaile.org.uk](http://www.ambaile.org.uk)

#### Other Correspondence & Circulars Received

SSE - Update on proposals for meteorological masts at Balmacaan

Graeme Ambrose DLN - Update on progress with South Loch Ness trail

Link for Highland Environmental Network newsletter

Notice of Inverness High School Community Gala 11.9.10

NHS Highland - Links for June and July Team Updates

Leaflet - SMP Playground equipment

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

This year's grant has been received from Highland Council. Account balances are as follows:

Project A/c - £4863.58 (Cheque for £800 to Project Manager written at the meeting)

Ordinary A/c - £1671.94 (including £362 in grant money for Fraser Monument and £11.73 held for Mr J. Campbell, Senior Citizens' Fund)

### **5. Planning Matters**

New applications:

House & granny flat - Land north of Bridge Cottage, Torness (Full)

House - Development site at Foyers Stores (In principle)

Site visits were arranged.

House at Land 150m East of Easter Drummond Whitebridge (reserved matters)

No objections.

### **6. Fire Brigade Report**

Mr Kirkland was not present, but no new matters had been reported.

### **7. Policing Matters**

No Police representative was present. No new matters had been reported.

### **8. Roads and Signage**

#### **(a) Outstanding Matters**

The Secretary had made enquiries about replacement of the culvert at the Calanour junction. This has been delayed due to wet weather but is now scheduled to go ahead. Mr Angus Fraser was present at the meeting and indicated that this work is now due to start.

#### **(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers**

Cllr. Hendry reported that unfortunately he had not been able to secure any of the money from the cancelled Ness Hydro Scheme. However, Cllr. Davidson is continuing with the preliminary work required, in the hope that "slippage" money will become available from larger schemes. She emphasised that with a new Local Plan due we will need to stress the need for a new bridge, with all the

economic and social benefits this will provide.

**(c) Other Roads Items**

(i) The Chairman attended a meeting with members of TEC Services organised by Cllr. Davidson, when South Loch Ness roads were discussed. Details of the work proposed in relation to the wind farm projects at Corriegarth and Dunmaglass were presented. There will be further wind farm funds available over a number of years for road improvements in the area, and members should forward to the Chairman details of problem areas where work is needed, so that bids for funding can be made.

(ii) It was noted that the road opposite the junction to Lower Foyers has still not been cleared, and half of the road is still closed. Cllr. Davidson will make enquiries.

(iii) The Forestry Commission indicated that they intended to start clearance along the roadside on the tunnel road in August. There is no sign of this as yet, other than one or two paint marks. Mr Sutherland reported that they have started pushing in some new forestry roads in the Inverfarigaig gorge for major timber clearance, but have still not held the promised community consultation about the work required along roads in the area.

(iv) Mr Nicol enquired about the progress with the 30 mph speed limit through Foyers. The Secretary reported that this had been overlooked by TEC Services, but is now in hand.

(v) Mr Nicol also noted the need for trees/vegetation to be cut back along the school road in Foyers. It was also reported that the small parking area outside the school gates is to be extended.

(vi) Mr Sutherland reported that Errogie residents were concerned about the speed of traffic through the village, and had requested a speed limit. Cllr. Davidson will request speed monitoring with a view to getting a speed limit. Mr Sutherland also reported that discussions are continuing with a view to making improvements at the bad corner in Errogie.

(vii) It was noted that there has been some significant damage to road edges, and a lot of stone debris across the roads around Lower Foyers following the recent abnormally heavy rain. Cllr. Hendry has taken a note of problem areas and will ask TEC Services to deal with them.

**9. Water and Sewerage**

There was nothing new to report.

**10. Community Project - Gorthleck**

The Chairman reported that the Project Manager has secured a grant of £22,394 from Leader funding, and the project can now go forward.

**11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit**

Mr Sutherland reported that a further meeting is scheduled to continue discussion regarding the level of Community Benefit from the Dunmaglass scheme.

**12. Any Other Competent Business**

(a) Mr Forbes presented an update regarding the proposed caravan/camping site.

He reported that a pre-planning meeting has taken place, and he and his wife are waiting to hear from the Planning Department regarding any problems.

(b) The Secretary had received notification that the gentleman planning a Loch Ness ferry is to place an advert in the Boleskine Bulletin requesting letters of support for his scheme.

(c) Cllr. Davidson reported that British Waterways are now planning to go ahead with a survey of the pier at Foyers with a view to repairs/improvements.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th September 2010 at the Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck.

The meeting was closed at 8.40 p.m.