

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7th DECEMBER 2010
AT THE FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Present:

Mr A. MacLure, Returning Officer	Mr M. Houston, Outgoing Chairman
Mrs E. Merther, Outgoing Secretary	Mrs K. Grant, Outgoing Treasurer
Mr D. Forbes	Mr K. Fraser
Mr S. Hunt	Mr A. MacPherson
Mr F. Ross	Mr J. Sharp
Mr A. Sutherland	

Apologies received:

Mrs J. Hunt

1. Election of Office Bearers

Mr MacLure thanked the previous Community Council members for their work over the previous three years, and welcomed the new members to the Council. He then invited nominations for the office of Chairman.

Mr A. Sutherland was elected unanimously as Chairman - Proposed: Mrs E. Merther. Seconded: Mr K. Fraser. Mr Sutherland then took the Chair and thanked Mr MacLure for his work as Returning Officer.

The following officers were then elected unopposed:

Secretary - Mrs E. Merther: Proposed: Mr A. Sutherland. Seconded: Mr A. MacPherson

Treasurer - Mrs K. Grant: Proposed: Mrs E. Merther. Seconded: Mr A. Sutherland

Vice Chairman - Mr D. Forbes. Proposed: Mr A. Sutherland. Seconded: Mrs K. Grant

Owing to a mix up with paperwork Mr Houston had been unable to stand for re-election. It was unanimously agreed that he should be co-opted as a non-voting member of the CC.

Mr Sutherland advised members that, ideally, he would only wish to hold the office of Chairman for a year in view of his involvement with a number of other local Committees. He hoped that another CC member would take over after that time. He welcomed the new members to the CC, and briefly outlined the responsibilities of members. As there had only been ten nominations he pointed out that the CC was non-elected, and must therefore make even more of an effort to make sure that the views of the whole community are fairly represented.

There was no formal Agenda for this meeting, other than election of office bearers, but Mr Sutherland invited members to raise any issues which needed immediate attention.

2. Request for Donation

The Secretary had received a request from Foyers Primary School for a donation to the children's Christmas party. It was agreed that a donation of £50 should be made (as had been done last year), and that the same amount should be sent to Stratherrick School.

3. Hedges at Inverfarigaig Visitor Centre

Mr Sutherland reported that he has been pressing the Forestry Commission to allow one of the badly overgrown hedges at the Visitor Centre to be cut into a topiary Nessie. Various objections have now been overcome, and Mr Angus Fraser has agreed to carry out the work, with guidance from Mr Sutherland. South Loch Ness Tourist Association will pay for this. The Forestry Commission have now agreed to this providing the CC is in agreement. Members all felt that this is a very good idea and will enhance the experience at the Centre, as well as tidying up the hedge. It was

noted that hedges now encroach to such an extent that they narrow the road in this area.

4. Core Paths

Mr Sutherland noted that some of the local paths in the Highland Council network of 'core paths' are in need of attention, and that Highland Council will pay for any work required. He will provide them with details of the paths concerned.

5. Community Trust

The Constitution of the Community Trust requires that membership should include at least two members of the CC. Following retirement of one member Mr Sutherland requested a volunteer to join the Trust. Mr F. Ross agreed to do this.

6. Community Project - Gorthleck

Mrs Grant advised members that the Project Manager has now gathered a small committee to assist with taking the Project forward. Mr Sutherland informed new CC members on the background to the Project.

7. Roads

(a) Mrs Grant expressed concern about the closure of Stratherrick School in the recent bad weather, due to delays in clearing access and car park. Evidently the same problem had been experienced at Fort Augustus. She has been given to understand that approved contractors for this work are all some distance away. She believed the local contractor did not submit a tender due to a requirement to provide a specific type of equipment, which was not available to him. When clearance was finally carried out, such equipment was, apparently, not used. Member were very concerned about this situation, and wondered whether a requirement to carry out clearance by a specified time had been included in the contract. The Secretary will make enquiries.

It was also noted that the access road to Foyers School had been very well cleared and gritted by our local contractor, as the road is not School property.

(b) Some members have been given to understand that stocks of road salt are very low, and it is likely to be the New Year before more is available. Enquiries will be made to ascertain if this is the case, and if so, why.

(c) Mr Houston reported that there was some serious damage to a section of the Leadclune road where Chisholms had recovered a lorry which had gone off the road. This will need to be properly repaired, and he felt this should be Chisholms' responsibility. A report will be made.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

It was agreed that the present pattern of meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month should be continued. Future dates will be as follows unless members are notified otherwise:

25th January 2011 - Foyers School	22nd February - Stratherrick Hall
22nd March - Foyers School	26th April - Stratherrick Hall
24th May - Foyers School	28th June - Stratherrick Hall

The meeting was closed at 8.00 p.m.