

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd JUNE 2010
AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK**

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)
Mr M. Bateman
Mr A. Sutherland

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mr A. MacPherson

Also present:

Councillor M. Davidson
Mr Paul Davies and representatives of Care in Strathnairn

Apologies received:

Mr K. Fraser
Mr A. Nicol
Councillor D. Hendry

Mrs L. McAdam
Councillor H. Carmichael

1. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2010 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr A. Sutherland

Seconded: Mr M. Bateman

2. Care In Strathnairn

Mr Paul Davies and other members of the Care in Strathnairn scheme kindly attended to outline how their scheme works. They have recently received several requests from the Stratherrick area, and it was agreed that we need to look at the possibility of setting up a scheme in our own area, or linking with Strathnairn, where the necessary infrastructure is already in place.

Mr Davies explained that they have some funding from Highland Council and some from their Community Benefit Fund. As with our own Community Trust, money from the Benefit Fund has to be spent within their own area. After a fairly slow start they now find that requests for help are growing, and their volunteers are quite fully occupied. He outlined the type of jobs their volunteers can do for people who qualify for help. Broadly these are practical tasks around the house and garden which able-bodied people would normally carry out for themselves, but not jobs which would definitely need to be carried out by a tradesman. They have a Friendship Group and a befriending scheme, both aimed at reducing the isolation of elderly or infirm residents, and also operate a very successful minibus transport scheme.

There was some discussion on how Strathnairn organise and prioritise requests for jobs and use of their minibus, and the procedures required in the recruitment of volunteers.

It was agreed that further discussion is needed on the best way to proceed with this, and Strathnairn representatives kindly agreed to provide some financial information on their scheme, and to help in any other way they could. It was felt that links between the two areas could be very beneficial.

The Chairman thanked Mr Davies and the other members for attending, and for their very helpful information.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

No new information has been received.

(b) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge

Mr Bateman reported that it is hoped to start work at the beginning of July.

(c) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers

The Secretary has been in touch with Laing Traditional Masonry and the report on the Monument is in preparation.

(d) Right of Way through Knockie Estate

As previously discussed, a letter has been sent regarding re-siting of the cattle feeding station.

(e) Lorries Accessing Glendoe Scheme

No further reports have been received.

(f) Highland Council Budget Consultation

Mrs Grant, our Treasurer, is attending one of these meetings.

(g) Broadband Provision

As previously discussed, the Secretary has sent a letter to BT Broadband regarding the very poor service in this area, and asking what plans they have to improve the service. Copies have been sent to our MP and to HIE. No response has been received as yet. Cllr. Davidson will speak to Andrea Rutherford of HIE to see if she will discuss this with us.

4. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence:

Notification of CC Grant for 2010/11

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received:

Community Councils Forum - Notice of AGM on 24th August 2010 (circulated)

Confirmation of Renewal of Data Protection Registration

Information on proposal for Foyers Ferry

Notice on SURF (Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network)

Digital Switchover - Digital Outreach scheme

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was not present, and is believed to be attending a Budget Consultation Meeting.

6. Planning Matters

(a) New application:

Erection of house at Cultie, Gorthleck (PIP) - A site visit was arranged.

(b) Other planning matters:

A date for the meeting with the Forestry Commission is still to be finalised.

7. Fire Brigade Report

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

8. Policing Matters

Constable Mathieson was not present. A report had been received that he may no longer be in this area, and enquiries will be made.

9. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

Matters raised in our letter of 30th April are now receiving attention, and an apology has been received for the delay in response.

The Secretary has been in touch about the change in the speed limit through Foyers.

It appears that this has been overlooked. She has passed on all the relevant information to Mr Angus MacDonald of TEC Services, and he has promised to follow this up. Cllr. Davidson will enquire about progress.

Cllr. Davidson reported that the loose gravel on the Dores brae has been swept up on a couple of occasions, and will probably need to be done again.

(b) Bridge in Lower Foyers

There is still no certainty about when this project is likely to go ahead, particularly with all the present budget cuts. However, Cllr. Davidson is going to make a start on the preliminary work required by contacting Historic Scotland regarding the old bridge. The aim will be to get any potential obstacles to the project removed, so that if "slippage" money becomes available from other bridge projects ours can go ahead.

(c) Other Roads Items

Cllr. Davidson reported on the funds available for work on minor roads, and also that there is some wind farm money available for this. She will try to find out exactly what work is planned.

The problem of the sunken culvert at the Calanour junction remains. It was reported that a poor patching job has been done. A further letter will be sent.

There is a spring which persistently forces its way up in the middle of the road close to one of the sharp bends about half way between Foyers and Dores on the B852. A large hole is developing. A letter will be sent.

10. Water and Sewerage

There was nothing new to report.

11. Community Project - Gorthleck

A response to the application for Lottery funding is awaited.

12. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland reported that negotiations on the Dunmaglass scheme are continuing. In future schemes the possibility of community purchase of one of the wind turbines may be considered.

13. Any Other Competent Business

(a) A further copy letter regarding anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Stratherrick Hall had been received from the Hall Committee. It was reported that the Housing Department are dealing with this. A suggestion had been made that CCTV should be installed at the Hall, and members felt this was an excellent idea. A letter of support will be sent.

It was noted that there was a report in the Boleskine Bulletin regarding the drainage problems at the Hall. It was found that the drain at the front of the Hall had been vandalised, causing sewage to back up. This has now been repaired, at considerable cost to Hall funds.

(b) It was noted that CC elections will be due again towards the end of the year, and the necessary preliminary steps will be set in motion shortly. The Chairman has spoken to Mr Sandy MacLure, who has agreed to act as Returning Officer.

(c) Mr Sutherland reported that an excellent South Loch Ness Handbook has been produced by the Heritage Group, and is available through Graeme Ambrose.

(d) Two residents from Lower Foyers presented letters from nine residents expressing concern regarding the proposed caravan/camping development in Lower

Foyers. Copies of these will be forwarded to the Planning Department. Cllr. Davidson advised that no application has yet been made, and it may be that the proposal might have to be amended in the light of residents' comments. She also advised the residents that they should send details of their concerns to the developers.

(e) Mr MacPherson reported that the Stratherrick Clay Target Club has recently celebrated its 120th anniversary. He advised that their regular shoot is on alternate Thursday evenings at 6.30 p.m., and they are happy to welcome new members.

14. Date of Next Meeting

There is no meeting in July, so the next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th August 2010 at the Foyers Primary School.

The meeting was closed at 8.50 p.m.