

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd JUNE 2009
AT THE FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)

Mrs K. Fraser (Treasurer)

Mrs L. MacGregor

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)

Mr M. Bateman

Mr A. MacPherson

Apologies received:

Mr K. Fraser

Mr A. Sutherland

Cllr. D. Hendry

Mr A. Nicol

Police Constable A. Mathieson

1. Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr M. Bateman

Seconded: Mr A. MacPherson

2. BBC Village SOS

Mr Frank Ellam kindly presented information on this scheme. The BBC is looking for villages of less than 3000 residents to compete for funding of £40,000 each. Villages need to come forward with business ideas which will promote regeneration, employment, and possibly training opportunities for their village. It was agreed that the Chairman and any interested parties would attend a meeting to discuss this opportunity on Monday 29th June.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Anyone interested in the new affordable housing development in Gorthleck will be able to go along to Stratherrick Hall on 24th June to obtain further information on the options likely to be available. This has been advertised in the Boleskine Bulletin.

(b) Community Web Site

The Trust has approved the funding for this. All being well the site should be up and running in two to three weeks. The Chairman and Mr A. Holt will look after the site for the first year.

(c) War Memorial at Gorthleck

The Secretary reported that work on repainting of the lettering is now complete. Highland Council TEC Services will pay the bill direct to John Fraser's, and will then invoice us for the amount of the grant from the War Memorials Trust. The Secretary has taken photographs as required by the Trust and will submit all the paperwork to claim the grant as soon as it is all available.

(d) Destination Loch Ness - Tourist Route Signs

No further information available as yet. We have had no reply to our enquiry about whether Gorthleck and Errogie will be included in the signage.

(e) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge

Mr Bateman reported that a form had been included in the Boleskine Bulletin for people to indicate their support for the project. He hoped that as many people as possible would return these forms, as evidence of local support is crucial in obtaining funding.

(f) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers

The Secretary had received information on the Aberdeen Kirkyards Project from the Highland Buildings Preservation Trust. As it is likely to be some time before a

similar project is under way in the Highlands she offered to make enquiries with Historic Scotland to obtain advice about what needs to be done, and the likely costs, which may help to determine the next action. It was agreed that this should be done.

4. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence

Housing in the Countryside Interim Supplementary Guidance - Consultation
Notice of Joint City Wide Forum - "Local Transport Strategy for the Highlands"
Development Plan Scheme 2009

Draft Supplementary Guidance: Education & New Residential Development
Contact details for "First Responders Scheme" and "Heartstart"

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received

Inverness Area Community Councils Forum

Draft Minutes of Meeting 12th May 2009

Update on ASDA application enquiry

David Stewart, MSP - Letter regarding Bill on victims of crime, and witnesses.

Notification of Military Flying Exercise 11th - 22nd May 2009

Environmental Law Centre Scotland - Seminar on Common Good on 13th June 2009

Scottish Health Council - Spring Newsletter

Circular regarding Highland Developmental Co-ordination Disorders Group

Reply from Foyers Power Station re abandoned boat

Letter regarding grass cutting at the shinty pitch in Foyers

Letters Sent

email to Les Houlker, Highland Council - Traffic surveys in Foyers

email to Stewart Eastaugh, Highland Council - Footpath diversion signs

Letter to Stratherrick Hall Committee - Photocopier

Letter to Forest Enterprise - Clearance after timber harvesting

Letter of thanks to Community Trust for award of grant

Letter to Planning Department - Pedestrian safety adjacent to building site

Letter to John Fraser & Son - Repainting of War Memorial lettering

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported current balances as follows:

Ordinary A/c £293.41 (including £124.03 held for Mr J. Campbell - Senior Citizens Fund), and Project A/c £3663.58p.

No cheques had been written since the last meeting.

The Secretary reported that copies of the audited accounts had been forwarded to Highland Council, who will be paying the CC annual grant shortly.

6. Planning Applications

(a) Applications

(i) House at land SW of Upper Cultie Gorthleck

It was agreed that a site visit will be carried out.

(ii) Erect workshop at Foyers House (retrospective)

There were no objections

(b) Other planning matters

Drive Park, Foyers - change of use agricultural to housing development

A site visit had been carried out, and there were no objections.

7. Fire Brigade Report

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

8. Policing Matters

Constable Mathieson was unable to attend, but had no new matters to report.

9. Roads & Signage

(a) Meeting with TEC Services

Several members of the CC met with Mr Neil Gillies, Mr Les Houlker of TEC Services, and Cllr. Davidson, following which site visits were arranged to look at some of the areas where ongoing problems have been raised over the past 18 months. Copies of all our letters over this period were supplied to Mr Gillies and Mr Houlker. Action has been promised on the following matters:

Edge of road potholes - Regular repairs following safety patrols & inclusion in patching programmes if relevant.

More resources to be devoted to routine maintenance of ditches and clearing roadside vegetation.

Repair of collapsing culvert at the Callanour junction.

Promotion of traffic order to reduce speed limit through Foyers from 40 to 30mph.

Repairs and surface dressing to several sections of local roads, including part of the Foyers-Dores road.

The scheduled widening of a section of the B862.

Review of the winter gritting for 2009/10.

Replacement of cattle grid on the Newlands road.

More efforts to be made in getting clear up and road repair operations completed following timber extraction by private contractors in the area.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers

The Secretary pointed out that the old bridge carries the water main across the river, and also the BT cable which not only serves the various households, but also the communications mast. She wondered whether Scottish Water and BT should be notified about the reported dangerous state of the bridge. This was agreed. The Secretary will enquire about the date of the Highland Council meeting when the capital programme will be decided, and ask the Courier if they can time a suitable article about our need for a bridge shortly before the meeting.

(c) Other roads issues

Overhanging trees on the Killin road caused problems for snow clearing equipment last winter. The Chairman will enquire about responsibility for cutting these back.

The Glenlia Residents' Association reported that the owner of the Church hall site has made land available for the provision of a footpath adjacent to the site, and believed this could be provided under the 'Safer Routes to School' scheme. Enquiries will be made.

10. Water & Sewerage

There were no new matters to report.

11. Community Project

The Chairman reported that a meeting had taken place with a possible project manager to handle the paperwork. Costings should be available in the next week or so, following which an application can be made to the Community Trust.

12. Renewable Energy & Community Benefit

(a) Cllr. Hendry had emailed us regarding the possible provision of solar panels for the school. It was not clear which school, so a reply has been sent requesting this information.

(b) There has been no further contact from Ruth Liddicoat of Scottish & Southern Energy regarding a meeting to discuss energy saving measures. This was cancelled several times over the winter due to weather problems. Enquiries will be made.

13. Any Other Competent Business

(a) There have been several reports of problems with access to the right of way through the Knockie Estate. A letter will be sent to Stewart Eastaugh to establish the current situation.

(b) The Glenlia Residents Association raised two items:

(i) Some residents felt that a community aerial was needed, as terrestrial reception is poor or non-existent in some areas, and wondered if the CC should deal with this. This is the situation in many places in this area, and Chairman suggested that they gather detailed information about the number of people affected in Glenlia before proceeding further. It was noted that many people now have access via satellite.

(ii) It is felt that a notice board is needed for Glenlia. Cllr. Davidson had suggested that the CC could apply to provide this. Enquiries will be made.

(c) A letter had been received from Mr Ellis enquiring about grass cutting on the shinty pitch, when it is no longer used for shinty. The CC felt that this is a useful amenity for the village, and the grass cutting takes place when the Council is carrying out other cutting in the village in any case. It was felt that the community would wish this continued. A reply will be sent.

(d) It was reported that the key has been removed from the notice board at Inverfarigaig. The Chairman will see about getting more spare keys cut. The Secretary will enquire whether it is possible to replace the locks with a simple turn catch.

(e) A letter was received from the Parent Council at Stratherrick School enquiring about support for a community minibus. This would need a specific organisation to be responsible for it, and the School could possibly do this, though the minibus would be generally available, and not solely for the School. There was some discussion about the pros and cons of a minibus, but the CC felt that a letter of support for the proposal should be sent.

(f) The Chairman will contact Canon to service the photocopier now that it has been moved. He will ask them to contact the Secretary for access to the Hall.

Date of Next Meeting

There will be no meeting during July, so our next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th August 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at the Stratherrick Hall.

The meeting was closed at 8.50 p.m.