

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25th MAY 2010
AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL, FOYERS

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)	Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer)	Mr M. Bateman
Mrs L. McAdam	Mr A. MacPherson
Mr A. Nicol	Mr A. Sutherland

Also present:

Councillor H. Carmichael	Councillor M. Davidson
Councillor D. Hendry	Mr N. Kirkland

Apologies received:

Mr K. Fraser	Police Constable A. Mathieson
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1. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2010 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr A. Sutherland Seconded: Mrs K. Grant

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

No new information has been received.

(b) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge

Mr Bateman confirmed that initial work should be going ahead in June or July this year.

(c) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers

Report and estimate from Laing Traditional Masonry is awaited.

(d) Right of Way through Knockie Estate

A letter and map of the proposed new route has been received from Stewart Eastaugh, the Access Officer. Members felt that the proposal is acceptable, but made the point that the matter of the cattle feeding station on the route had not been mentioned, although it had been the subject of some discussion. The Chairman will speak to Mr Eastaugh about this, and if necessary a letter will be sent to emphasise the importance of re-siting the feeding station.

(e) Lorries Accessing Glendoe Scheme

Enquiries had established that some HQC lorries had been using the road through Gorthleck. Mr Douglas Gilchrist of SSE has advised HQC that this route should not be used. The Chairman advised that a note should be taken of registration numbers and company names of any vehicles believed to be using this route to access the scheme so that the necessary action can be taken. It was recognised that there will be lorries and other vehicles using this route which are nothing to do with the Glendoe scheme.

(f) Highland Council Budget Consultation

Notices have been received advising of meetings to discuss possible budget cuts in Highland Council area. Mrs Grant will attend one of these meetings for the CC.

3. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence:

- Highland Core Path Improvement Scheme
- Introduction of speed limit - B862 at Whitebridge
- Notification - Dates for Budget Consultation meetings (circulated)
- Proposed route - Knockie Estate right of way

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received:

Invoice - Publication of Minutes in Boleskine Bulletin
Invoice - Renewal of Data Protection Act registration
Scottish Health Council - Annual Report
Consumer Focus Scotland - Guide to Common Repairs
Leaflet - Outdoor play equipment

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the year 01.04.09 to 31.03.10. Mr J. Campbell had very kindly audited the accounts for the CC and signed them as correct.

Balances at present are as follows:

Project A/c - £4863.58

Ordinary A/c - £965.34 (including £362 in grant money for Fraser Monument, and £11.73 held for Mr J. Campbell, Senior Citizens' Fund)

Cheques were written at the meeting: £250.00 to the Boleskine Bulletin
 £35.00 for Data Protection Registration

5. Planning Matters

Cllr. Hendry left the meeting during discussions. Cllr. Carmichael took no part in discussions.

(a) New applications:

Erection of log cabin - land 250m North of Boleskine House, Foyers

A site visit was arranged.

Upgrading and extensions to cottage - Upper Cultie, Gorthleck

There were no objections.

(b) Other planning matters:

Cllr. Davidson had passed on information relating to Forestry Commission plans for timber clearance in an area adjacent to the pass in Inverfarigaig. It was felt that this would be an ideal opportunity for the problem of overhanging trees, and trees too close to the road to be dealt with throughout this area, where they are on FC land. The Chairman will contact Mr Risby of the Forestry Commission with a view to arranging a site meeting to discuss this. Cllr. Davidson also wishes to be involved in this meeting.

6. Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland reported that the Fire Service has to achieve budget cuts of £1.2 million this year. It is not known yet whether this will affect the provision of the new Fire Station at Gorthleck.

He confirmed that the scrap cars seen at the Fire Station are for the purpose of practising casualty extraction techniques, and are only on site short term. With the current high prices of scrap metal they are having difficulty in getting enough scrap cars, so will be putting an advertisement in the Boleskine Bulletin.

7. Policing Matters

No new matters have been reported.

8. Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

No response had been received to our letter of 30th April to Mr Richard Evans regarding matters raised at the last meeting. Cllr. Carmichael will follow this up.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers

Cllr. Davidson reported that decisions on the Capital Programme are due in June.

(c) Other Roads Items

A resident reported the presence of dangerous loose gravel across the road on the first sharp bend at the top of the Dores brae, which is causing vehicles to skid. A report will be sent.

A notice regarding the introduction of a 40 mph speed limit in Whitebridge has been received. Mr Nicol enquired about progress with the reduction in the speed limit through Foyers, which has already been agreed. An enquiry will be made.

Mrs Grant reported that the Parent Council at Stratherrick School has started the 'Safer Routes to School' application process with a view to getting more pavement provided. Mr Kirkland asked about the provision of flashing 'smiley face' speed warning signs. Cllr. Davidsion advised that these are not provided under the normal roads budget, and suggested that they might be included in the school application.

9. Water and Sewerage

There was nothing new to report.

10. Community Project - Gorthleck

The Chairman reported that information is awaited from the Project Manager on some changes to the current application.

11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland reported that a meeting in relation to the Dunmaglass scheme had been held with the other CCs involved. The CCs had agreed the percentage split for the community benefit. The developer was still making a very low offer per unit, and this had been rejected by the CCs. An improved offer is awaited.

12. Any Other Competent Business

(a) Parents from the Whitebridge area attended the meeting to raise the question of transport for secondary age children wishing to attend the Kilchuimen Academy in Fort Augustus. Whitebridge is not in the catchment area for the School, but it is the preferred School for a significant number of families in that area. Cllr. Davidson reported that there is to be a meeting for parents with the Education Manager to review the catchment area and transport provision. Cllr. Hendry advised that in this situation there has to be a statutory consultation. The CC noted that if there was a regular service bus between Foyers and Fort Augustus this would be extremely beneficial both for local residents and for tourists, who could then travel right round Loch Ness by bus. It would also solve the problem of school transport.

(b) There was a Public Consultation planning meeting in relation to the proposed application for a camp/caravan site in Lower Foyers. A Riverside resident wished to know why the CC had expressed their support for the project in November last year without a community consultation. The Chairman explained that there has been no detailed application made. The CC expressed support in principal for the provision of a facility of this type in Foyers. The Public Consultation was an opportunity for people to express their views, and there will be further opportunities if and when a detailed application is made. The CC will be able to decide on the appropriate course of action at that time, when it has all the relevant information.

(c) The Secretary reported that she has obtained an address for BT Broadband in Scotland. In view of the large number of complaints about the poor or totally absent service in many parts of the Gorthleck exchange area, it was agreed that she should write to try to get BT to improve the situation. It was agreed that copies should be sent to our MP and to HIE.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd June 2010 at the Stratherrick Hall in Gorthleck.

The meeting was closed at 8.30 p.m.