

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26th MAY 2009
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members present: Mr P. Higham (Vice Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer) Mr M. Bateman Mr K. Fraser Mr A. MacPherson Mr A. Nicol

Also present: Councillor M. Davidson Mr Tom Hainey, Highland Small Communities Housing Trust Helen Cameron and Lucy Fraser of Albyn Housing

Apologies received: Mr M. Houston Mr A. Sutherland Mrs L. MacGregor Police Constable A. Mathieson Councillor D. Hendry Councillor H. Carmichael

Affordable Housing Development at Gorthleck

The representatives from HSCHT and Albyn Housing presented an update on the situation regarding this development. Each organisation owns half of the land in question, but will fully co-operate to achieve the best lay-out for the development, and will not impose any 'hard' boundary between the areas. The aim will be to create a development in keeping with the rural situation. Initial discussions with Scottish Water had indicated capacity for six units, but it now seems that a larger number will be possible. Further information is awaited from Scottish Water confirming the actual number, but the planners are happy for an increase in numbers, as it is a large site. The Architects have suggested ten, or possibly up to fifteen units, with development being phased. CC members felt that if the planners are happy with the proposed development then there are unlikely to be any local objections. The initial intention is to obtain funding to get the necessary infrastructure for the site in place as soon as possible. This will allow any sites designated for self-build to be made available first. The previous Housing Needs Survey showed a demand for all types of property - a mixture of three, four, and five person housing. An update of the Survey to assess any changes or additional needs will be carried out, and a 'drop in' session at the Stratherrick Hall to provide information on options likely to be available (rental; self-build; shared equity) and how these will work. The possible inclusion of some housing for the elderly was suggested. It is hoped to obtain funding to make a start on the development next year.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker Housing: This matter was discussed under item 2 above. HSCHT is looking at the best way to provide this facility within the new development.

(b) Gorthleck War Memorial: The War Memorials Trust has awarded us a grant of £870 towards the work on the Memorial, and Highland Council TEC Services will cover the balance of £464.00. The Secretary has contacted John Fraser, the monumental mason, to accept their quotation, and to obtain proposed start and completion dates. They have also been sent a simple contract to confirm that they will undertake the work as quoted, which is required by the Trust..

(c) Destination Loch Ness - Tourist Route Signs: Cllr. Carmichael has obtained confirmation for us that new village welcome signs are to be provided for Foyers, Whitebridge, and Inverfarigaig. These will be in the same style as the Great Glen Way signs, and are currently being designed. A member enquired whether signs are also to be provided for Gorthleck and Errogie. The Secretary will make enquiries.

(d) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge: Mr Bateman reported that good progress had been made at the last meeting. A slip is being included in the next Boleskine Bulletin indicating support for the project. He urged people to return these, as evidence of local support will assist with applications for funding.

(e) Photocopier: The Secretary had written to the Hall Committee about moving the copier into the next room where it is dry. They have been in touch to say that this is quite acceptable.

(f) Boleskine Bulletin: The Secretary will write indicating that we will pay half now towards the cost of publication of the Minutes, and the other half when we have received our next grant from Highland Council. This was felt to be a suitable solution.

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.

Reply from Foyers Power Station re abandoned boat

Treasurer's Report

Mr John Campbell had kindly audited the CC Annual Accounts, and they were signed by him as correct. The Treasurer presented copies of the accounts to members. Balances at the year end on 31.03.09 were: Ordinary A/c £268.41p and Project A/c £3663.58p. Current balances are: Ordinary A/c £718.41p (including £124.03 held for Mr J. Campbell – Senior Citizens Fund) and Project A/c £3663.58p. Cheques written on the Ordinary A/c and still to be deducted are: Boleskine Bulletin - £125.00 Secretary - Annual honorarium - £250.00 Hire of Gorthleck Hall - £15.00 Annual fee for Data Protection Registration - £35.00 Total £425.00

Planning Applications

Cllr. Davidson took no part in discussion on planning matters.

(a) Applications

(i) Single room/conservatory extension at Mains Cottage Foyers There were no objections.

(ii) Land at Drive Park, Foyers - change of use agricultural to housing development. Representations were heard from adjoining property owners setting out their objections and some concerns about the application. Copies of two letters were presented to the CC. It was agreed that a site visit will be arranged.

(iii) North East of Lyne Cottage, Gorthleck - House and stables (reserved matters) There were no objections.

(b) Other Planning Matters

(i) The Secretary reported that she had written a further letter regarding road safety issues at the Church Hall site in Foyers to express the CC's concern about the apparent inability of the planning system to safeguard pedestrians during work on the site.

(ii) Several enquiries had been received about a building in progress at Foyers House. The Planning Department informed us that they had no prior knowledge of this. They have informed the owner that planning permission is required and have instructed him to make a retrospective application.

Roads & Signage

(a) Response from TEC Services to list of road issues No further information has been received. Cllr. Davidson has arranged a further meeting for herself and CC members with Neil Gillies, Director of TEC Services, on Tuesday 2nd June to pursue these matters.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers: Cllr. John Laing, Chairman of the TEC Services Committee, had come out to Foyers with Cllr. Davidson to receive the petition regarding replacement of the bridge. He was sympathetic to the local difficulties and stressed the importance of keeping up the pressure on this issue. The event was well supported by local residents. Cllr. Davidson had also arranged a site visit by David MacKenzie of TEC Services, who is carrying out the review of Highland bridges. The Secretary attended this meeting, and was grateful to Bob Main and John Townshend who came along to offer their expert civil engineering knowledge. Mr MacKenzie agreed that a new bridge is required, but replacement will depend on the resources available. Our bridge is not at the top of the list, but it is important to keep up the pressure to ensure that it stays a high priority and gets into the new Capital Programme. The results of the review should be known in the Autumn.

(c) Traffic speed through Foyers: The Secretary has requested traffic surveys. A response is awaited.

(d) Street lights – Glenlia: A resident reports that work has been done on the street lights behind Glenlia and the situation is now much improved.

Renewable Energy & Community Benefit

Several members had attended the inauguration of the River E project, and reported a most interesting and enjoyable event.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd June 2009 at the Foyers Primary School.