

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27th OCTOBER 2009**  
**AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK**

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)  
Mr M. Bateman  
Mrs L. MacGregor  
Mr A. Nicol

Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)  
Mr K. Fraser  
Mr A. MacPherson

Also present:

Councillor M. Davidson  
Mr J. Taylor (TEC Services)

Councillor D. Hendry  
Mr N. Kirkland

Apologies received:

Mrs K. Grant  
Mr A. Sutherland

Mr P. Higham

1. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2009 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr A. Nicol

Seconded: Mr K. Fraser

2. Winter Gritting Schedule

Mr John Taylor of TEC Services kindly came along to the meeting to outline the gritting policy for this winter. He explained that although there are no changes to the policy, discussions have taken place to ensure that guidelines are followed more closely. Following discussion with the contractor there has been some rationalisation of the areas, and also a review of the road priorities. He explained that there are target times for gritting, and also target lengths of road to achieve. The use of larger gritters on some routes will reduce the need for frequent refills, which are sometimes necessary to maintain weight in the vehicle in icy conditions. Mr Angus Fraser, the Contractor, was present at the meeting, and outlined some of the difficulties experienced last winter, and the reasons for them.

Members expressed concern about the lack of blading in some areas after heavy snowfall last winter. Mr Fraser explained that in some cases this was due to machinery being unable to get access to roads due to obstruction with overhanging branches. These were causing damage to the vehicle. Much of the land concerned is Forestry owned. Cllr. Davidson will contact Forestry to arrange a meeting with the Chairman and Mr Taylor to look at the problem areas with a view to getting the growth cut back.

Also, after heavy snowfall, members were concerned that access to the Fire Station needs to be cleared as soon as possible. School parking areas are another problem, schools having to be closed if heavy snowfall prevents access to car parking. After some discussion it was agreed that blading of roads should take priority on these occasions, and school car parks could be dealt with later in the day. This should ensure access for school opening on the following day.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Nothing new to report at present.

(b) Community Web Site

CC Minutes are being forwarded to the web site when approved. Mr Holt and Mr Ellam are continuing to add information to the site.

(c) Tourist Route Signs

Some more detailed information has been received about the alternative signs from

Mr Simpson, and circulated to members. It was agreed that members prefer the stone sign and a letter will be sent to Mr Simpson indicating this. No details of costings are available as yet.

(d) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge

Mr Bateman reported that there has been an encouraging response from the meeting with the Consulting Engineer. There is due to be a further meeting and discussion in one week.

(e) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers

The Secretary has been advised by Historic Scotland to get in touch with Laing Traditional Masonry with a view to getting an assessment of what work should be done, and the likely costs. The Secretary will make contact to find out what the cost of an initial inspection/survey would be.

(f) Right of Way through Knockie Estate

Further information is awaited from Mr Stewart Eastaugh.

(g) Photocopier

Nothing further at present.

(h) Review of Community Council Boundaries

Maps and information on the first phase have been circulated to members. No changes were suggested.

#### 4. Correspondence

##### **Highland Council Correspondence**

Review of Community Councils - First phase (circulated)

A Guide to the Planning System in Scotland (circulated)

Notice of Winter Payments Scheme (circulated)

Notice of Ward Forum meeting - 18th November 2009 regarding TECS issues (circulated) - The Chairman and Mr K. Fraser hope to attend.

Licensing Application - Whitebridge Hotel (new regulations)

##### **Other Correspondence & Circulars Received**

Scottish Government - Changes in the Scottish Planning System (circulated)

Notice of ASCC Conference 2009 - 14th November (circulated)

Community Woodlands Association - Roots of Health Seminar (circulated)

Copy letter from Mr H. Nicol on behalf of the Stratherrick Hall Management Committee regarding anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Hall

Letter from Mrs M. Campbell regarding bus timetable

Dogs Trust Newsletter

##### **Letters Sent**

To Education Department - concerns re possible sale of Foyer Schoolhouse email requesting further detail on proposed tourist route signs

Reply to letter from Glenlia Residents' Ass'n regarding notice board etc.

Letter to NBW Wind Energy re abnormal load trial run

Letters on roads matters arising from last meeting plus letter regarding proposed winter gritting schedule

#### 5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had sent apologies. Account balances were not available at the meeting.

#### 6. Planning Matters

##### (a) Applications

There were no new applications. As arranged at the last meeting, a site visit was

undertaken at West Drummond, Whitebridge. There were no objections.

(b) Other Planning Matters

Letters received notifying the following applications granted:

2 house plots NW of Heatherly, Errogie (outline) with access and other conditions

Erection of meteorological monitoring equipment at Sidhean Dubh and Meallan Odhar, Whitebridge

7. Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland had nothing new to report.

8. Policing Matters

No new matters have been reported.

9. Roads and Signage

(a) Progress on Outstanding Roads Issues

Confirmation has been received that a 'No Through Road' sign will be provided at the approach to the bailey bridge in Lower Foyers, and also that speed monitoring will be undertaken on the approaches to the Whitebridge Hotel. A further letter will be sent to clarify the need for a warning sign regarding children on the road at Riverside.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers

Cllr. Davidson reported that no final decisions have been made on the capital programme as yet. The CC has sent reminders about the bridge to the parties involved in decision making.

(c) Other Roads Items

A copy of a 'stopping up' notice for the U1221 at Garthbeg had been received and circulated to members. There were no concerns raised.

A letter had been sent to NBW Wind Energy about traffic delays caused by the trial load run in relation to the Corriegarth project. Their reply was rather dismissive, but a letter was also received from Les Houlker of TEC Services, who indicated that he will follow this up.

It was reported that low growth from a lime tree adjacent to Riverside is obstructing vision for traffic. A request will be made for this to be cut back.

With winter approaching it was felt that some sort of shelter is required at the new bus stop beside Riverside. A request will be made.

10. Water and Sewerage

There was nothing new to report.

11. Community Project

The Chairman and Mrs Kirkland met with Sarah Hartley, who will manage and fund-raise for the Project. She will be submitting an application to the Community Trust, and is hopeful that the Project may be completed for next summer.

12. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

No new matters were reported.

13. Any Other Competent Business

(a) A number of people have approached CC members expressing concerns about the possible sale of the Schoolhouse in Foyers. Given the difficulties experienced in Gorthleck, largely due to the lack of accommodation for a teacher, members felt that

the CC should object to any such sale in the strongest possible terms. A letter was sent but the initial response from the Education Department was not helpful. A further letter has been sent to Hugh Fraser the Director. His reply is awaited.

(b) A resident from Errogie attended the meeting, also representing other Errogie residents involved. A number of people have received letters from TEC Services regarding surfacing of new bell mouth entrances. People concerned accept that this work will have to be carried out where it is a condition of their planning permission, but are upset by the aggressive and threatening tone of the letters, particularly as these letters are the first contact about this matter. The letters have caused considerable distress and anxiety to a number of people. Having seen a copy of the letter, the CC agreed that the tone of the letter is quite unacceptable. Members were also under the impression that this was an enforcement issue which should be dealt with by the Planning Department. A letter will be sent to the Chief Executive about the way in which this has been handled.

(c) Mr Nicol reported that dog fouling on the children's play area in Lower Foyers is a problem. Cllr. Davidson suggested that we contact the Dog Warden with a view to provision of warning signs and a disposal bin.

(d) Mr Kirkland reported that the delay to the start of the Marathon this year was due to Stagecoach failing to provide the number of coaches required. They were nine short, and have admitted their blame in this matter. Other than this there were no problems, and numbers taking part were up again.

(d) Mr Bateman reported that he had attended the Canal Customer Forum regarding development of facilities around the Loch.

(e) The Chairman is hoping to put on a firework display at Gorthleck next month, as in previous years, and is approaching the Trust for some funding.

#### 14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th November 2009 at the Foyers Primary School.

The meeting was closed at 9.15 p.m.