

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2009
AT THE FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman)	Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer)	Mr M. Bateman
Mr K. Fraser	Mr P. Higham
Mr A. MacPherson	Mr A. Nicol
Mr A. Sutherland	

Also present:

Councillor M. Davidson	Mr N. Kirkland
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Apologies received:

Mrs L. MacGregor	Cllr. H. Carmichael
Cllr. D. Hendry	

1. Adoption of Minutes

Under Item 13(a) Mr Fraser noted that this was a reported item rather than a full CC discussion and decision. It was agreed that the penultimate sentence should read: 'He felt that this is an unsatisfactory situation'. With this amendment the Minutes of the last meeting were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mrs K. Grant Seconded: Mr K. Fraser

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Mr Higham has submitted the nomination form to become the CC representative on the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.

(b) Community Web Site

The web site is now in operation and Mr Frank Ellam and Mr Andy Holt are in the process of adding information to it. The CC Minutes will be forwarded for inclusion on the web site as they are approved, and it was agreed that they will continue to be published in the Boleskine Bulletin for people who do not have access to the web site. The site can be accessed at: www.stratherrick.net.

(c) Tourist Route Signs

Cllr. Drew Hendry had forwarded details of the proposed welcome signs for local villages, with photographic mock-ups of the different options. It is proposed to erect the Whitebridge sign first. CC members wished to know what materials would be used for the different types of sign, the durability and maintenance implications, and the comparative costs. The Secretary will make enquiries with Mr Colin Simpson, the Tourism Co-ordinator.

(d) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge

Mr Bateman reported that progress is being made, and Mr John Townshend is in the process of preparing grant applications.

(e) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers

The Secretary has written to Historic Scotland and supplied them with photographs, for advice/guidance on what action would be needed, and how best to go about it.

Cllr. Davidson advised the CC of the existence of the Inverness Burial Ground Commutation Fund. She will enquire whether the Monument and/or burial plot would qualify for any money from this fund. She felt that there might be money available from the fund for work needed in the Foyers Cemetery, such as the additional fencing.

(f) Right of Way through Knockie Estate

There has been no further feedback on this matter. It is known that some local residents have contacted Stewart Eastaugh with information. Further enquiries will

be made.

(g) Photocopier

There is nothing further to report at present.

3. Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence

Copy of updated Ward/CC map

Notice of Highland Archaeology Festival 3-18 October 2009

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received

Inverness Area Community Councils Forum:

Minutes of AGM and Meeting held on 15.09.09

Forestry Commission Scotland:

Initial Notification of Proposed sale of land at Inverfarigaig

NBW Wind Energy Ltd.: Notification of trial run of transporter lorry to Corriegarh

It was reported that this trial run caused considerable delays and inconvenience to other road users, much of which was avoidable. The lorry and escort failed to pull over to allow built up traffic to pass, although it would have been possible to do so on several occasions. A letter will be sent.

British Waterways Scotland: Invitation to Annual Customer Forum 3.10.09

Loch Ness Marathon: Invitation to Reception and lunch 4.10.09

Paths for All: Letter and questionnaire - Mr Sutherland agreed to look at this.

Highland Environmental Network Newsletter

Crossroads Newsletter

Letters Sent

Mr N. Gillies, TEC Services: Roads matters discussed at last meeting

Historic Scotland: Fraser Monument

4. Treasurer's Report

Account balances were not available at the meeting.

Received since last meeting:

From the Community Trust for the Community Web Site	£4190.00
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Cheques issued since last meeting:

Mr A. Holt for Community Web Site:	£4190.00
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Mrs E. Merther, Secretarial expenses 27.1.09 to 21.9.09	£41.73
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5. Planning Matters

(a) Applications

Erection of house at West Drummond, Whitebridge - It was agreed that a site visit will be undertaken.

(b) Local Development Plan

Members had looked at the Plan and had no comments to submit at this stage.

6. Fire Brigade report

Mr Kirkland reported that the new Assistant Chief Fire Officer had been visiting all the outlying stations. As previously reported, plans are ongoing for a new local Fire Station. A new, larger appliance is also needed, although not a full sized appliance, as this would be unsuitable for our local roads. These improvements are dependent on funding, and will wait until after improvements at other, worse off stations.

7. Policing Matters

No new matters have been reported

8. Roads and Signage

(a) Progress on Outstanding Matters

There was nothing new to report.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers

Projects for the capital list are currently being reviewed. A letter will be sent to Cllr. John Laing, with a copy to Mr David MacKenzie, the Structures Engineer, to remind them of our case. Enquiries will be made to clear any obstacles to the project, so that if funding becomes available there will be no delays.

(c) Other roads items

(i) Concern was expressed about the speed of traffic approaching the Whitebridge Hotel, particularly from the Fort Augustus direction, as there is poor visibility at the Hotel entrance. A speed monitoring exercise will be requested, with a view to the possible provision of warning signs.

(ii) Cllr. Hendry reported by email that he has requested a No Through Road sign at the bailey bridge in Lower Foyers, but has not heard back about this yet.

It was also noted that there are a number of young children at Riverside, and a sign such as 'Slow - children' would help to improve safety for them. A request will be made.

9. Water & Sewerage

There were no new matters to report.

10. Community Project

The Chairman and Mrs Kirkland will be attending a meeting this week to receive some proposals for the project.

11. Renewable Energy & Community Benefit

(a) It was reported that the home energy audits, which residents were able to request some time ago, are now under way.

(b) The Chairman had seen information about grant funding being available under an energy efficiency scheme for heating community halls, and thought that the Hall Committee at Gorthleck might wish to look at this.

(c) It was reported that some of the energy efficiency money at Fort Augustus had been used to provide grant assistance for people wishing to buy more energy efficient fridges or freezers.

12. Any Other Competent Business

(a) Mr Sutherland reported that site visits and meetings had taken place regarding the proposed Forestry plantings at Ardochy. Mr Patton in the Planning Department had requested a note from the CC confirming the issues to be dealt with, which are chiefly in relation to protection of water supplies and identification of archaeology. An email will be sent.

(b) Mr Bateman noted that Remembrance Sunday this year is on 8th November. It was agreed that, as in previous years, Mr John Campbell will be asked to obtain a suitable wreath and the CC will pay for this. The Chairman agreed to lay the wreath.

(c) Mr Kirkland reported that marshalls are being recruited for the Loch Ness Marathon, which is on Sunday 4th October. It was noted that the 'Monster Challenge' took place earlier in the month, with some local teams participating. Mr Nicol felt that

there was a shortage of toilet facilities at the change-over point at Foyers, and also a delay in clearing the rubbish bags afterwards. The organisers will be advised about this.

(d) A local resident voiced concerns about proposed changes in regulations relating to burial lairs, and felt there might be legal implications surrounding the changes. Enquiries will be made to get the full details of the proposed changes.

(e) Cllr. Davidson reported the launch of the Handy Person Scheme in this area. She will arrange a supply of information leaflets to be placed in the Medical Centre at Foyers.

(f) There was a public meeting in Foyers on 19th June 2008 to try to identify local needs and priorities. Cllr. Davidson felt that a follow up meeting is needed, and will speak to our Ward Manager, Louise McCaul, about this.

(g) The Secretary asked if members had looked at the proposed minor amendments to the CC Constitution. It was agreed that this can now be forwarded to Highland Council.

(h) A letter was received from the Glenlia Residents' Association raising two matters: They feel that a new sign is needed for the Foyers School. Cllr. Davidson will request this from the Education Department.

They would like a notice board at Glenlia, and this was discussed. The CC does not have funds to cover this, and grants will need to be applied for. A letter will be sent asking the Association to obtain details and costings so that the necessary applications can be made.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th October 2009 at the Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck.

The meeting was closed at 8.50 p.m.