

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2011  
AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK**

Members present:

Mr A. Sutherland (Chairman)	Mrs E. Merther (Secretary)
Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer)	Mr D. Forbes
Mr K. Fraser	Mr S. Hunt
Mr A. MacPherson	

Also present:

Police Constable A. Mathieson	Councillor D. Hendry
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Apologies received:

Mrs J. Hunt	Mr J. Sharp
Councillor H. Carmichael	Councillor M. Davidson

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2011 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr D. Forbes                      Seconded: Mr S. Hunt

**2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

An email had been sent to Albyn Housing following the last meeting requesting an update on the latest situation with the Gorthleck project. No reply has been received so a further request will be made.

(b) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground

Research on possible sources of funding such as Historic Scotland, and the Heritage Lottery Fund, is ongoing. The quotation of around £20,000 already received from Laing Traditional Masonry covers restoration of the obelisk and also repairs/replacement/refurbishment of the railings around the monument and the burial ground.

(c) Broadband Provision

Cllr. Hendry had some information about areas where a community hub has been set up. This transmits broadband wirelessly for a radius of 6 to 10 miles. One example is in Cumbria. He informed the meeting that such schemes qualify for community funding. He is awaiting further, more detailed information.

(d) Care in Strathnairn

Mrs Grant requested a contact to take this further. The Secretary will forward details.

(e) Bottle Banks - Whitebridge

Information on land ownership is still not available. It was noted that businesses with an interest in this facility might be willing to provide a site.

**3. Correspondence**

Highland Council Correspondence:

Planning Guidance - Sustainable Design Guide  
Trees, Woodlands and Development

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received:

Community Councils Forum - Notice of meeting 04.04.11  
SLN Tourist Group - Letter re notice board at Foyers Shop  
Planning Aid for Scotland - Notice of workshop on 12.03.11 in Dingwall  
ASCC - Notice of Common Ground Meeting on 26.03.11 in Glasgow  
Newsletter - The Community Councillor

NHS Highland - Notice of application to open pharmacy at Great Glen  
Trading Centre, Fort Augustus

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Account balances were reported as follows:

Ordinary A/c - £1418.85 (including £362 in grant money for Fraser Monument)  
£500 had been donated for the Stratherrick Senior Citizens Christmas dinner, and  
£300 for the Foyers dinner. A grant to cover these donations had been made by the  
Community Trust.

Project A/c - £27,786.58

**5. Planning Matters**

Cllr. Hendry took no part in discussions.

New applications:

Sun lounge extension - Killin Lodge, Whitebridge (Full)

Members inspected plans and there were no objections.

**6. Fire Brigade Report**

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

**7. Policing Matters**

Constable Mathieson reported that consultations are ongoing regarding Force  
reorganisation in Scotland.

He also reported that both the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable in  
Highland are due to finish shortly.

**8. Roads and Signage**

**(a) Outstanding Matters**

Surface damage road to Lower Foyers - Temporary patching has been carried out. It  
was noted that markings have been made on the road for more extensive repairs, so  
it is hoped this will be started shortly.

Roadside tree clearance - An assurance had been received on 4th February from  
David Jardine that this work should be undertaken 'in the next few weeks (as weather  
allows)'.  
Errogie speed limit - Formal notices regarding the proposed speed limits in both  
Errogie and Foyers have been received. These should be in place once the  
necessary legal processes have been completed.

Bus shelter Lower Foyers - Cllr. Hendry has obtained a commitment in writing that  
this shelter will be installed by the end of April 2011.

Run-offs on Torness Brae - Cllr. Hendry has been informed that this item has been  
added to the work list. In the meantime Mr MacPherson told the meeting that he has  
cleared some of these himself.

Pot-holes Ardochy Road - No new information has been received. Constable  
Mathieson noted that there is currently tree planting under way along this road, and  
that it might be wise to delay repairs till this is finished. Cllr. Hendry will make  
enquiries.

Newlands timber extraction - mud on road - Members reported that this has been  
cleared.

Timber lorries Trinloist road - Cllr. Hendry is awaiting a response from Alistair MacLeod, who is responsible for this operation. He confirmed that there have to be designated extraction routes and protocols for their use. Members felt that Highland Council need to be stricter about the agreements and enforcement of the protocols when timber extraction takes place. Members have seen extensive damage to roads in areas concerned, and felt that all too often the Highland Council is left to carry out repairs and foot the bill for such damage, when the contractors should be liable for this.

**(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers**

Cllr. Hendry reported that an Options Paper is being prepared regarding provision of a new pedestrian bridge, and should be ready to present to the CC in the next three to four weeks. He confirmed that with the present severe cutbacks a replacement road bridge is likely to be delayed until at least 2019.

**(c) Other Roads Items**

Pot-holes following winter damage - Cllr. Hendry noted that it is important to report problem pot-holes and their specific locations to make sure that immediate repairs are done. Reports can be made direct to the Highland Council or to himself.

It was noted that the drainage problems adjacent to An Clachan in Gorthleck have been dealt with, but the verge outside the house is still in a very bad state. There are also some fallen trees opposite An Clachan which need attention. Cllr. Hendry will report these matters.

Mr Hunt again raised the issue of cars travelling too fast around Riverside in Foyers where children are playing. As before it was advised that if specific vehicles can be identified to the Police they will speak to offending drivers. Constable Mathieson advised that ultimately, if offenders do not respond to warnings, complainers need to be willing to make an official statement and, if necessary, attend Court.

**9. Water and Sewerage**

There were no new matters to report.

**10. Community Project Gorthleck**

There was nothing new to report at present.

**11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit**

The Chairman reported that there is to be a meeting on 12th March, organised by our Ward Manager, regarding community benefit. This will cover ways of organising the handling of community benefit, as well as financial matters. The Chairman will attend. He noted that the disparity in levels of community benefit throughout northern Scotland needs to be addressed.

The Chairman reported that the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust is involved in negotiations on two projects at present, both of which are being handled through the Ward Manager's office in Inverness.

**12. Any Other Competent Business**

(a) The Secretary reported that Hugh Nicol had enquired about the re-siting of the Christmas tree opposite the Hall in Gorthleck. He felt that the tree simply blended into the background at its new site, particularly as the lights were not very conspicuous. It was noted that the reason for the move had been the drainage problem at the Hall,

which has now been sorted out. The Secretary will write to ask if it can go back to its original position outside the Hall.

(b) It was reported that the gate at Druimtempel Church is not closing properly and needs attention. The Secretary will contact Mr Fridge about this.

(c) As reported in the letter from SLN Tourist Group, the notice board in the car park at the shop in Foyers is in need of attention. No-one seems to know for certain who installed it, or who is responsible for it. The area around the board is extremely muddy and frequently flooded, and access to the board itself is difficult owing to the type of locks. Branches from surrounding trees also need to be cut back. It was agreed that most local people rely on the shop notice boards for local notices, and that the board in the car park might be better used as an interpretive facility for tourists, with some permanent displays of tourist information. Cllr. Hendry agreed to make some enquiries about this.

(d) Mr Forbes noted that one of the old pathways between Lower and Upper Foyers is no longer usable, and wondered if we can request SSE to re-instate this when they undertake their major work on the new pipework later this year. It was agreed to raise this when the SSE representative attends our CC meeting, probably next month.

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd March 2011 at the Foyers Primary School.

The meeting was closed at 8.20 p.m.