

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25th February 2014
AT STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL, GORTHLECK 7.30pm**

Present:

Ian Bateman (IB)	Iain Brown (IBR)	Whitebridge,
Liam MacNally (LM) & Catriona Fraser (CF)		Gorthleck
Morag Cameron (MC) & Sally McGuire (SM)		Glenlia, Foyers
Martin Donnelly (MDO)		Foyers
Katie Ellam (KE)		

Councillor Margaret Davidson (MDA) Councillor Drew Henry (DH)

Apologies: None

Agenda

1. Police Report

Constable Hannah will email monthly report to CC. No thefts or poaching, some antisocial behaviour in Glenlia, Facebook Scam involving "Loch Ness Lodges".

Occasional speed checks continue when in the area. Police not aware of Corriegarh road closures – Catriona Fraser to contact RJ McLeod to ask them to directly communicate with the emergency services. SFCC will write to express concern over general policing levels.

2. Presentation – Green Highland – Hydro Scheme on FC land at Knockie

Catriona Fraser took the Chair for this item as Iain Brown was part of the presentation team as an FC employee. Alex Reading outlined the proposed scheme: 500kw installation, Construction planned to meet a Grid connection date of Nov 2015, Community benefit £5000 per MW + 5% equity equivalency. Community has an option to invest up to a further 15% of the equity (minimum £30 000). SFCC to consider risk etc. and requested the Information Memorandum regarding this offer.

3. Adoption of minutes of 11th February

Accuracy of draft minute regarding Correspondence between SFCT Chair and SFCC Chair was discussed and revisions recorded. Draft minute regarding adoption of proposed SFCT articles was reviewed and revision recorded. Revised minutes were adopted. Proposed: Morag Cameron, Seconded: Martin Donnelly

4.

(a) Police Report – see above

(b) Fire report n/a

(c) Treasurer's Report

Project A/C Balance £2,086.94 (Previous balance £2086.94)

Ordinary A/C Balance £2,267.26 (Previous balance £1561.53)

- income £705.73 (Highland Council Annual Payment)

(d) Liaison Group Reports

Community Transport: Road Improvements between Whitebridge and Fort Augustus. _RJ McLeod will not be providing a bus service to Fort Augustus – but are prepared to assist in facilitating transport during the roadwork's – and provide help with transport only if the community demand or there was definite need. Rumours that taxis are being provided for individual families are unfounded. The work by Loch Tarff is scheduled for May and concerns were raised about disruption to schools, tourists, business and emergency services.

Corriegarth Roads Liaison group to convene a meeting to negotiate opening times.

Corriegarth Road improvements: An update will appear in the BB. There are reports of damaged verges & questions of liability etc. – Drew Hendry requested that correspondence to TECS be copied to him. Best times to get through Corriegarth "lights" are 10-10.20am and 1-1.30pm. Concern over the new village gateway kerbs – currently a hazard – assurances that these will be alleviated once the full signage, bollards etc. are in place.

5. Matters arising

Boleskine Bridge – has been re-tarred – with minimum disruption

Trinloist Road - Chair to chase FCS

Dell road – No response – Drew Hendry to chase

Corriegarth Road Improvements - Number of new laybys to be reduced (cost issues). If Corriegarth Wind Farm Extension is approved more improvements may result.

Aberader Wind Farm - if it achieves consent, more road improvements may result.

BT/Openreach/Broadband - ongoing

Allt Na Goire – boulder – awaiting response

Play Park (Gorthleck) – Iain Brown to record his checks on this facility.

Foyers Toilets – Last minute application for SSE funding ratified. Proposed: Martin Donnelly, Seconded: Catriona Fraser.

Woodlands/Firewood – Iain Brown will update in due course.

Audibility - _Liam MacNally to report

Foyers Slipway – awaiting response from Ian Hislop

Community Council Pilot Scheme – meeting with William Gilfinnan, Inverness 18th March, Iain Brown, Ian Bateman to attend

Foyers Land Purchase Proceeding with registration of right to buy. Petition in circulation, Land Agent (Bidwells) giving some leeway over sale deadline, concern over clawback clause if market value increases because of development – probably unlikely if used for a public recreational space as intended.

Emergency generators Iain Brown to investigate this possible provision

Foyers Potholes A letter to be written to TECS & copied to Councillors Margaret Davidson and Drew Hendry. Concern expressed over these potholes & safety for the round Loch Ness cycling event.

6. Road issues - See above

7. Planning Matters

(Councillor Drew Hendry withdrew from any discussion planning matters)

a) Torness (cabling & substation). A letter outlining various points & objections (including Neil McKenzie's water supply) has gone to SSE and THC. SSE offering written guarantees on

various issues, but of the mind that the water supply will not be affected. SFCC awaiting these guarantees before deciding further action.

8. Correspondence

- a) Poster for Inverness Gang Show – to be offered for display in Foyers Shop.
- b) Letter from Boundary Commission – due to lose 8 Highland Councillors.
- c) Outline of Forest Plan for Glendoe Estate. This is likely to involve grant funding. Could be an option to negotiate better access across the Estate.
- d) Letter from THC re Lease on Foyers toilets. Costings letter from THC – awaiting outcome of SSE application for funding.
- e) Correspondence regarding cumulative effect of windfarms around Loch Ness: Margaret Davidson has met Senior Planner requesting this. Planning are in the process of similar study in Caithness, Loch Ness is next in line for review.
- f) Letters of support for Foyers Toilets funding gratefully received from Willie Fraser (SFCT), Simon and Jan Hargreaves (Foyers Stores) Graeme Ambrose Destination Loch Ness.
- g) Email re Service Point closures across the Highlands. (Budget saving: £160 000) Councillor Hendry stated that no Service Point would be closed until a suitable alternative was in place, and that Mobile Service Points would be provided if necessary. SFCC to write a letter of support to Fort Augustus CC (to maintain Fort Augustus Service Point) if requested. Proposed: Martin Donnelly, Seconded: Catriona Fraser.
- h) Eplanning – receipt of planning objection to Torness substation.

9. Sub groups

- a) Boleskine Community Care update published in BB
- b) Access – Sally McGuire to contact Graeme Ambrose
- c) Playing Field – ongoing
- d) Slipway – see above
- e) Forest – Iain Brown to discuss with Margaret Davidson

10. Trust

Morag Cameron advised that any votes at the SFCT AGM would be counted by independent persons. There was some uncertainty over the order of events for the AGM.

Sally McGuire was awaiting response to some matters she had raised with SFCT.

Morag Cameron and Sally McGuire expressed concern that as SFCT Directors they were not getting all the information that they should be receiving and were not fully conversant with the procedure for the forthcoming AGM.

Morag Cameron confirmed that a solicitor who advises the Development Trust Association of Scotland (DTAS) would be present to oversee proceedings at the AGM.

SFCC co-opted Director. It was decided to await the outcome of the SFCT AGM before nominating a Director from the SFCC.

Community Benefit

Chair raised the issue of reviewing the previous SFCC decision to have the Trust appoint a Community Benefit Negotiator, he then started the discussion by indicating that to the best of his knowledge;- Frank Ellam had secured monies owed from SSE in respect of the Glen Doe shut down as the Trust did not seem to want to challenge the SSE contract as offered, Frank being thanked by Ft Aug, Community Company for achieving this result. - Frank Ellam asked

for and secured that the Corriegarth offer from North British Wind Power be indexed linked - A letter was sent by the negotiators confirming acceptance of the Corriegarth Benefit offer contrary to due process i.e. Offers need to be accepted by the CC, due process - Alleged that Mr Alex Sutherland may have signed the Dunmaglass Community Benefit agreements without a mandate by either the CC or Trust because he did not find any record within either's minutes of a decision (Motion, Secunder and Vote) to provide MR Sutherland with the mandate to sign a Community Benefit Agreement with RES. Councillor Margaret Davidson confirmed Alex had done a good job over the original Glen Doe negotiations but was a "Maverick"

Mr Houston asked it be minuted that he "disapproved of the chair not being neutral in the discussion because he raised the points he did, without Alex Sutherland being present to refute them". The chair queried whether it was better to have 1 or 2 negotiators, who they are accountable to and if any such negotiators should be appointed by the SFCC. He believed that the negotiators should be appointed and report to the SFCC in the first instance as done elsewhere. It was agreed "there should be two Community Benefit Negotiators reporting to the CC, and that those negotiators should be independent from any planning process" It was also agreed to await the election of the new Trust board before making any further decisions on this subject.

It was also suggested that the SFCT directors be invited to the next SFCC meeting, and that the SFCC be invited to the next meeting of the SFCT. It was suggested that a letter outlining this suggestion be forwarded to the New SFCT. Proposed: Martin Donnelly, Seconded: Katie Ellam

11. Community website. The contract for this is up for renewal in February. It was suggested that this be put out for tender via the BB.

12 AOCB

- a) Aberader Wind Farm – a scoping report is underway
- b) Errogie pothole – request that SFCC contact TECS to get this fixed
- c) Bus Stops – TECS have been out to look at Glenlia with a view to building something in the next financial year. TECS considered the possible site Gorthleck by the Hall and are checking land ownership.
- d) Expenses – Sally McGuire requested the sum of £78 for expenses of office. Proposed Liam MacNally, Seconded Martin Donnelly
- e) Foyers streetlights. Agreed that SFCC should support that these 2 lights be switched off, but not removed as a change of house ownership might request them reinstated. Proposed Catriona Fraser, Seconded Sally McGuire
- f) RJ McLeod local funding – reminder that they are keen to support local activities – apply at Corriegarth site office.
- g) Suggestion that all SFCC meetings close by 10pm. Proposed Catriona Fraser, seconded Liam MacNally. N.B. 9pm for Foyers meetings due to school contract.

Next meeting Tuesday 25th March Foyers School 7.30pm