

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 29 April 2014 at Stratherrick Hall

Present:

Iain Brown (IBR),	Whitebridge,
Liam MacNally (LM) & Catriona Fraser (CF),	Gorthleck
Sally McGuire (SM) & Morag Cameron	Glenlia
Martin Donnelly (MDO),	Foyers
Katie Ellam (KE)	Boleskine
Councilor Margaret Davidson (MDA)	

Apologies: Katie Ellam, Ian Bateman, Highland Councilors Hamish Wood, Drew Hendry

Agenda

1. SSE – Inverfarigaig Road closures

Gerry McQuade Lead Project Manager for the SSE project to restring wires from Foyers Power station to knock Na Gael sub-station.

The Inverfarigaig section will start in May lasting 4 months includes link in to the new Torness substation. Scottish Woodlands will manage the tree felling; road closures to facilitate this will be by use of traffic lights with banks men. You will be able to phone their satellite phone to check on closures. Signs will be erected soon to warn of future works.

Doug Earle Mitchell from FCS undertook to look again at two Larch trees in the pass previously declared safe by a consultant Arboroculturist.

Core paths will be maintained by use of diversions and being opened every night after work by 7pm.

SSE undertook to ensure Lorries do not pass schools or travel through Foyers at key times of day for our children's safety, including Dores school.

Only Sunday working would be by Balfour Beatty on sections well away from households.

Road improvements clearance of vegetation around and additional bell mouths at access points, 8 new and 8 improved laybys along the Inverfarigaig to Glenlia road which will be repaired as required. These road improvements are planned for December using stop go boards.

SSE will revert to chair with HGV transport routes following a meeting with TECS the next day.

MDA will discuss road and verge improvements to the Inverness Foyers road with TECS.

SSE indicated the works may result in some firewood availability from the harvested timber which will belong to them but it must be done in an organised way. AP Chair to follow up.

FCS indicated it would be a good will gesture and that firewood as a subject was presently under review. FCS encourages all to attend the Forest Design Plan Consultation event to be held on 12th June in the hall. There will be separate subject workstations such as Firewood to enable FCS to seek community opinions and suggestions.

SAFETY timber harvesting is highly dangerous and please can the public obey all signage and instructions, some machinery require 200m plus safety zones around them.

The site office for the restringing project will be at Greys Concrete yard just beyond the Dores roundabout - before the woolen mill

Communications will be ongoing via email updates which will go on the web site and notice boards, Torness **Sub Station Update** the planning applications for the overhead lines from Dunmaglass & Corriearth are in, the EIAs for these are available, please ask if you wish to see a copy. The underground section is permitted development for network operator, the water supplies and access issues raised by the community will be addressed. Discussions on additional acoustic protection for transformers etc. are still ongoing; MDA said these may form a planning condition. Road improvements may be required to facilitate safe use of them by construction vehicles, THC planning roads team are working on identification of requires road improvements.

2. Members Present / Apologies - Ian Bateman, Katie Ellam, Hamish Wood apology

3. Police Report – Police report was reviewed,

- one incident involving a man (bald) in the Glenlia area - inquiries have not yet yielded results. In the police report there was also a second incident which was the theft of business road signs – This then led to the discussion.

-The CC expressed concern at the staffing levels and agreed to write to Police Scotland to indicate our concerns. Proposed IBR seconded MD, Unanimous.

- Issue of unauthorized road signs was discussed, the CC expressed a desire to support the local businesses as well as the need for due process to be applied. It was agreed the subject of appropriate signage should be taken forward by a coordinated approach by local Tourist businesses and THC. MD and MDA agreed to call meeting with stakeholders to take this forward.

4. Adoption of Minutes – 25 March 2014, Proposed LM, Seconded MD, unanimous

5. Matters Arising

- Etape – MC to invite organiser to next CC meeting for a debriefing exercise

- Secretary confirm if Police reports can be posted on the Web site

- Investment Memorandum has not yet been received from the Hydro developer.

- The chair indicated that the precedent of apologizing for discussing an item without someone (not on the CC) being present to refute statements was an error, it was understood by all the meetings are of the CC members only and there is no requirement to have any other person present during a discussion

- Inverfarigaig roadside boulder has not been moved

- Gorthleck Play Park – initial maintenance work completed further materials required for roof structure repairs – It was agreed to tender a longer term contract for the Grass Cutting of this site. Motion IBR, Seconded MC, unanimous. Also agreed to meet the immediate cutting need by MC securing a couple of verbal quotes and to accept the cheapest for cutting over the next couple of months Proposed IB, Seconded MD, and Unanimous

- Woodlands/Firewood/Broadband MDA indicated there is a major meeting next month and she will feedback to us

- Slipway/Emergency Generators - ongoing

- Hearing Loop for hall and ideally Foyers school, it was agreed to source a quote for this and to apply to the Trust for funding

- Foyers Land purchase – MDA gave an update and will provide the Trust with a proposal in time for their next meeting

- Foyers to Dores roadside potholes – MDA updated the meeting on budget restraints and expressed hope it will get better as THC are looking at increasing the maintenance budget

- Foyers street lights – SM advised the lights will be turned off but infrastructure retained for a set amount of time before removal

- Funding applications to SSE Regional Funds were unsuccessful due to quality and quantity of applications – five times over subscribed

- Community Website – Two expressions of interest have been received – CC and Trust teams to meet up to discuss next steps

- Minute Secretary – it was decided this post was not required

- Notice boards – Foyers board was now open to public use, quotes for additional boards were £400 for similar metal boards and for wooden roofed ones such as at Foyers Shop - build and installed >£800 – following discussion including possible removal of all advertising it was agreed this should be further discussed with the Trust regarding communications with the community.

- FCS Rolls of old netting – Local interested party to be put in contact with Giles Brockman to agree protocols.

6. Reports

– **Fire Brigade**, numbers are down to 8 so are looking for new recruits, especially for day time cover. CC agreed to write to THC over misrepresentation and missing statistics. MDA to follow up as well. Additional column needed to record fire safety visits, call outs to support other stations. These inaccurate figures then lead to inaccurate costs per call out.

Toilet facility has still not been supplied, despite a meeting with Scot Hay, senior officer.

- **Treasurers**

Project Acc. £2,086.94 outstanding payment Play Park rent of £200

Ordinary Acc. £1,936.31 – £1,200 ring fenced for transport report, Income expected of £672 from the previously established process of reimbursement of BB supplement costs by the Trust.

There was then a discussion on the alternatives to the BB – newsletter within BB with minutes posted or emailed to those who request copies, it was agreed to ask for community suggestions via a BB article.

- Trust – Presently looking to recruit a Book Keeper and Finance Director,
- Update letter received highlighting work being undertaken by teams to develop processes and policies including a robust grant scheme
- Applications for Hearing Loop and BB supplement reimbursement will be submitted.

- **Judo Tickets** – SSE offered 2 sets of tickets via the Trust and CC, the Trust ran a successful competition and 2 sets of winners were drawn from a hat Geri Stocks & Lesley McAdam The trust has agreed to cover the accommodation costs if SSE is unsuccessful in resolving an issue with this. **BCC** – Going well, various meetings including NHS and Signpost, a charity that helps with applications to different funding sources. Monthly Soup drop in will start utilizing the Chapel Steading Hall, The steering group have decided to set themselves up as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). They will be applying to the Trust for startup funding to enable Insurance to be secured to cover soup drop in days.

The meeting with NHS on home care was very successful and there is a follow up meeting arranged with the local managers to discuss how to meet local need.

Foyers – MC gave an update on progress, MC and MDA will arrange a couple of meetings over the summer and may bring in specialist contractor in funding applications. Contact with the Trust was suggested to source funding for the contractor and additional match funding

Access – Create a CC Sub Group

SM gave an update, intention is to be a separate group to focus on the CC area, and a meeting will be called to bring together interested persons.

Once this is done and the initial revision of existing infrastructure is complete a CC sub group will be created later in the year.

7. Roads

- **Corriegarth – Road Closures** – Community are encouraged to attend the drop in day so RJ MacLeod can collate travel information to better inform a revised plan of action.
 - **Dunmaglass** – will have an update at the next meeting
 - **TECS** – Training on Road issues Reporting – this went well, issues fall into three basic category's, 24hrs - a large hole on the tyre routes likely to cause immediate damage to a vehicle, 28 day – surface breaking up or hole off main tyre route, Future - as and when funds available. Please note edges and verges are not road surface so are not road faults. Any issue please let us know, use THC web site or “www.fixmystreet.com” Provide photos if possible
- New Issues – Concern over increased vehicle speed at Aberchalder junction** due to road improvements and blind spots so we need additional slow signs for junction, - clearance of vegetation from passing place signs, Invasive species on ground brought in by Scottish Water need to be chemically re-sprayed. - Foyers cemetery needs a tidy up - Boleskine Graveyard head stones still to be tidied up – MDA to follow up on Lower Foyers bus shelter roof needs to be replaced- MC to seek confirmation of when the Glenlia bus shelter is to be built

8. Foyers Public Toilets

These were opened for Easter thanks to funding being secured from RJ MacLeod £500 and Ward Discretionary Fund. It was also noted that none of the Tourist groups for South Loch ness were able to offer any help with this vital provision for their customers.

25 year Lease needs to be registered at a cost of £200, this offset by free first year's insurance provided by THC. MA took on the role of coordinator; a temporary cleaner has been identified until the post is advertised in the BB

Organisor – Tourist business Morag/Martin – they contact RJ over photo opportunity
Redevelopment project – Challenge Fund Expression of Interest, submission Propose IBR, Second
CF, Unanimous.

MDA will look into funding options and will arrange a meeting for a working sub group.

9. Planning Matters - None

10. Correspondence

Information regarding the reduction in THC departments from 7 down to 5

Police communication regarding road side signage, see above

Neil MacKenzie – Torness substation letter

Colin MacKenzie – Confirmation of toilet insurance

SSE – Judo Tickets

Eon – Moriston wind farm planning application and EIA is eminent

Trust update – see above item

THC - Corriegarth closures – see above

Update form Trust Chair – good stuff – positive open and accountable.

Alex Sutherland – Review of questions regarding community benefit, MDA asked why this subject was being discussed again? The chair intimated the CC wished to move forward with the Trust, as Mr. Sutherland was no longer either a Trust representative nor a CC member these issues were now a matter for the Trust and CC. Also his requests for clarification of protocols were strange as he had been the CC negotiator.

11. AOCB

- The May meeting will be preceded by the CC AGM

- Motion the Chairman's BB statement be seen by all before submission to the BB, Proposed IBR, Seconded LM, Unanimous

- Caolanour junction – Dunmaglass Whines needing cut back to ensure maximum visibility

Next meeting - 27th May, Foyers School, 7:30pm

AGM followed by Ordinary meeting