

**STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2017**  
**AT STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK AT 19:30**

**1. Present**

Kim Burton (KB)	Catriona Fraser (CF)	Martin Donnelly (MDo)
Gordon McAndie (GMc)	Liam Longbottom (LL)	Phil Crowe (PC)
Margaret Davidson (MDa)		
Malcolm Sutherland (Caledonian Concepts – Guest speaker)		

**Apologies**

PC Billy MacDonald, Dr Jean Davis, Ian Bateman, Jennie Devlin

**2. Etape Loch Ness Brief & Feedback**

- Event is taking place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017
- Increase to 5200 entrants
- Increase in those taking part from outside the area - 6% from outside Scotland in 2016 to 17% outside Scotland this year
- More people from outside the highlands and islands
- Road closures remain unchanged from previous years despite increase in numbers
- Vital local access will be maintained by means of an official Etape escort
- Road closures will be posted on the local noticeboards, SFCC website and in Boleskine News. Road closure leaflets will also be delivered to local homes and businesses 3 weeks before the event.
- Advanced warning signs positioned 10 days in advance
- Promote local businesses
- Fundraising – Main charity is MacMillan
- Increase from £500 to £750 donation to community councils affected
- Volunteers needed for marshalling etc. – website advert, local group contacts to Malcolm
- Extra toilets this year due to feedback from last year

**3. Adoption of last minutes**

Minutes of the last meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were adopted.

Proposed by MDo, seconded by LL

**4. Matters arising**

- Liam taking over as the role of Treasurer. Agreement that Liam MacNally and Sarah McGuire are to be removed as signatories and replaced with Kim Burton, Jennie Devlin and Catriona Fraser. Martin Donnelly to remain as a signatory.  
*MDo and LL to arrange a suitable hand over*
- Deer fence at Boleskine Graveyard  
*GMc to get prices for new fences*

**5. Reports**

- Fire – Nothing to update. 1 new recruit is now on the fire brigade. Still waiting for the remaining 3 to get trained. RJ MacLeods have donated the fire brigade with some water facilities. Still waiting for toilet facilities.
- Trust – New Trust community benefit negotiator is Peter Faye, replaces Graeme Ambrose. PCo is still off sick.
- BCC – Nothing to report
- Police Report – One report of a theft with perpetrators identified and being dealt with.

## 6. Renewables

- Knockie (Allt Luaidhe) – Community benefit agreement now paid. £2554.85 from Green Highland is now in the Trust bank account.
- Stronlairg – 2<sup>nd</sup> liaison meeting held. Issues around the access track for walkers – SSE Renewables to come up with an alternative. Lorries coming back through the Strath – Suggested a camera be positioned at the site entrance to capture which way lorries exit the site. Liaison group minutes to be posted on the SFCC website.
- Aberarder – No update from the appeal yet.

## 7. Roads

- Improvements to Dores to Foyers road have commenced – new laybys being installed and tidied up. Likelihood of additional money to do more repairs next year.
- Concerns over use of excess gravel on the roads near to Fort Augustus.
- Suggestions for further road improvements to Ali Nairn at the Highland Council.
- Concerns raised re: state of road between foyers and Chapel Bridge  
*KB to resend email to John Taylor and copy Margaret Davidson.*

## 8. Planning

- EE mast update – Proposed mast next to the church has been moved to further away from the church.  
The mast 705m SE of Meallagie Whitebridge has now been approved. The main purpose of this mast is to ensure coverage for emergency services, however other telecom services may also be installed on the mast.

## 9. Correspondence

- Email correspondence from Tesco promoting their 'Bags of Help' programme. In summary, following a public vote in local Tesco stores, three projects in each of the Tesco regions will receive a grant each month, with first place receiving up to £5k, second place £2k and third place £1k. The scheme funds activities in the outdoors. The types of projects funded is very broad and you can find some examples on the Tesco website. Full eligibility criteria and detailed application guidance is available online: <http://bit.ly/bagsofhelp3>
- Email communication received advising that the television programme filmed in Fort Augustus during 2016 will be aired on ITV/STV during April 2017.
- Notification that the Loch Gu Loch, swim run event will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- Communication received from Sharon Ferguson regarding a meeting with the Parents of pupils attending the Inverness Royal Academy and the Highland Council to discuss the current bus travelling to the IRA via Farr, meaning a much earlier pick up for pupils living in Whitebridge, Gorthleck and Errogie. The meeting will be to discuss possible future timetable changes to replace the existing arrangements. Anyone wishing to find out more about this meeting, should contact a Catriona Fraser or Kim Burton for Sharon Ferguson's contact details.
- A letter has been received from Kate Forbes MSP with the aim of getting local views on the Scottish Government's proposals on Scotland's Place in Europe. Views can be expressed directly to Kate Forbes or via the Community Council.
- Your Ward, Your Cash, Your Choice – A participatory budgeting process that lets the local community decide for themselves how money is spent and which community projects are needed in their area. If you live in the SFCC ward and have an idea about how to make your local area a better place, Your Ward, Your Cash, Your Choice is your chance to put your idea into action. £15k from the ward discretionary fund has been set aside to provide grants from £100 up to £1.5k. Full details can be found on the SFCC website.
- The Highland LEADER Programme has a number of different funding programmes for projects which will benefit communities in the Highlands. Grants of between £10k and £50k are available for projects which will benefit communities in Nairnshire and Rural

Inverness. Applicants may apply for up to 50% of project costs (minimum project costs of £20k). Further details can be found on the SFCC website.

*All of the above details to be added to the SFCC website – KB*

#### **10. Up & coming events**

- Etape Loch Ness – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - road closure map & times can be found on the SFCC website and Etape Loch Ness website.
- Quest Loch Ness – 10<sup>th</sup> June
- Loch Ness Marathon – 24<sup>th</sup> September. Road closure map & times can be found on the Loch Ness Marathon website.
- Loch Gu Loch – 30<sup>th</sup> September. No road closure for this event.
- Deloitte Ride Across Britain – affecting routes in Gorthleck on 16<sup>th</sup> September. No road closures.

#### **11. AOCB**

- Concerns raised re: abandoned car in Gorthleck that has been there for months. HC to remove.
- Broadband update – Upper Foyers green box is now live and fibre is now available within a certain distance from the box. Box at Gorthleck is not yet connected but is due to be connected within the next few weeks. No definite timescale for the installation of the new green box in Lower Foyers as yet. The Community Trust are still looking into alternatives for areas that will remain without adequate broadband.
- The police have noted a recent increase in rural thefts and ask that people be vigilant with securing their vehicles and properties.
- Reports of a card skimming device on the cash machine at Fort Augustus. Again, people asked to be extra vigilant when using local isolated cash machines.
- Defibrillator update – None of the defibrillators have been installed yet due to the appointed installing electrician being extremely busy. Expect them to be installed over the next 2-3 weeks. If we can find a different electrician to do it sooner, then we'll instruct them to do so. Further training to take place within the first quarter of the year.
- Enquiries have been made by people looking to move into the area about Affordable Housing. MDa advised that this had been looked at previously but has not gone ahead in the area as yet. The development proposed at Lower Foyers has an agreement for some affordable houses via Albyn Housing, but the development is still to finalise site entrance details prior to work commencing.
- Enquiry as to an update on the notice to purchase the red phone boxes at Errogie corner and Dunmaglass – No update yet.
- Enquiry as to whether a new school could be built on the community owned land in Lower Foyers that would merge Foyers and Stratherrick primary schools. MDa advised that there will be no money in the HC Capital programme for rural school mergers within the next few years, the bridge at Riverside, Lower Foyers would need to be re-built first and that any discussion with the HC about the 2 schools merging would need to come from both schools and be backed by both Parent Councils.

#### **12. Next meeting**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 19:30, Foyers Primary School

Meeting closed at 21:00