

## THE BRIDGE AT LOWER FOYERS



The Community Council would like to thank everyone who signed the Petition for a new bridge in Lower Foyers. John Laing, Chairman of the Roads & Transport Committee, came along to receive the Petition on 7th May, and thank you also to everyone who made the effort to come along for this event despite the unpleasant weather.

Paul Higham took some photographs for us, and these are currently with the Inverness Courier, so we are hoping for some more publicity. It is important to keep up the pressure, and not to get forgotten. Our thanks are also due to our Councillor, Margaret Davidson, who is doing sterling work on our behalf to keep this issue high on the agenda.

There are huge demands on the Highland Council resources, but we have had to rely on a 'temporary' bridge now for 23 years, so let's hope our efforts are rewarded.

### Inside this issue:

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust	2
Red squirrels	4
Boleskine wetland project	5
Wade Bridge update	6
Stratherrick school	7
Council Minutes	8
Safety of good in rented accomodation	12
Christian Comment	14
Bus Time tables	15
Adverts	16-20

### **Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust – Biannual Report.**

During the last six months the Trust has held its meeting at approximately 6 weekly intervals. One director has retired and we have recruited one new director and new committee member with non voting status due to not yet meeting the 8 year residency qualification required by the Community Council at the time the Trust was set up.

Our membership is as follows:

Chairperson: H. Grainger, Inverfarigaig. Secretary: A. Sutherland, Aultnagoire.

Treasurer: F. Ellam, Easter Boleskine. (non Voting)

#### **Directors:**

W. Fraser: Gorthleck. M. Houston: Knockie. M. Bateman: Glenbrien

A. Holt: Inverfarigaig. H. MacLeod Errogie. S. Ferguson: Knockie (non Voting)

The Trust currently has £25,790 in the bank which will rise to approximately £134,000 when the Scottish Community Foundation releases and brings up to date the Glendoe monies which it has been holding. Within agreed guidelines, we have now persuaded them to grant us complete autonomy to award grants of up to £10,000 and this is a welcome development.

Apart from the annual payments from the Glendoe project, there are no additional community benefit monies to be awarded in the immediate future, but there is significant potential for further payments from proposed green energy schemes within our area.

During the last six months we have made the following awards:

South Loch Ness Access Group, Path Improvements: £2,000

Community Council, firework display: £450

South Loch Ness Heritage Group Publication: £2,500

We are currently considering an application for funding for a community web site and there is a prospect of group taking forward establishment of a community mini bus service. A representative of Strathnairn Community Trust has been invited to our next meeting to specifically talk about their experiences.

The Trust has been considering the potential for longer term investment of the Community funds and had talks with Albyn Housing Association about joint development of their Gorthleck site for key worker housing and also very preliminary discussions with the Forestry Commission about the potential for investment in their proposed hydro electric scheme on the Farigaig.

We still await a meeting with Scottish and Southern Energy and Fort Augustus Community Trust on how best to invest the £135,000 which has been allocated to our area for "Energy Efficiency" and for which we have already canvassed households who are interested in having an energy audit carried out on their properties.

A. Sutherland  
Secretary.



## NEW YOGA CLASSES

### IFYENGAR YOGA comes to Stratherrick

Donna Law, qualified Inverness Iyengar Yoga teacher, will be holding six sessions (1 per week for 6 weeks) at the Stratherrick Hall. Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 7.00pm - 8.30pm starting Tues 25<sup>th</sup> August and finishing Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Hopefully these timings will allow you plenty of time to get home from work and have the kids in bed before heading out for your class. Classes are aimed at all levels from beginners to the more experienced. No previous experience is required. Yoga mats and props will be provided or bring your own if you prefer.

All this for just £5 a class. Total cost for six classes £30.

For further information or to book please call Leah on 01456 486642

### **STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

Chairperson and temporary Bookings: Hugh Nicol 486350 / 01463 224781

Treasurer: Johanna Schuster 486628

Secretary: Julie Talbot 486782

Maintenance: Steve Tay 486763

Dave Bradwell and Jill Cooper 486377

Janet Sutherland 486711

### **Wanted recipes/household hints.**

Foyers Primary School are planning to reprint their cookbook (last produced about 15 years ago). We are looking for recipes from any members of the community.

The recipes can be modern or traditional. We are also planning a section on Household tips/recipes (for example one person has recipe for making starch for aprons/ hats when in service). We are looking for anything unusual as well as the normal cookbook content.

Any contributions can be handed in to Aggie at the shop, Julie at the Medical Centre or direct to school. We hope to have contributions in by the beginning of the Autumn term so we can get the cookbook ready for Christmas.



## **Squirrels reward volunteers.**

In a recent ceremony at Eden Court, Boleskine Environmental Network, (BEN), was awarded the Best Volunteer Group prize for its work with red squirrels under the Highland Red Squirrel initiative. The award, (loyalty cards and vouchers kindly donated by Craigdon Mountain Sports), was presented by Roy Dennis the well known ornithologist.

The reason for the prize.....

BEN's wildlife recording group has established a number of 30x1metre transects in the forest. Four times a year the fallen pinecones within the transects are counted. The number of chewed cones (easily identified as squirrel feeding) provides an indication of population density and movement of the squirrels.

The red squirrel population in the Highlands is under threat from the spread of grey squirrels whose range is expanding northwards. Greys carry a virus that is fatal to reds. Throughout the Highlands seven key areas have been identified as protection areas. Stratherrick and Foyers is not one of these ring fenced zones but is an important monitoring area for reds.

A number of surveys are carried out by BEN each year and we are always happy for new people to give a hand. This year we hope to be able to map Aspen stands and veteran trees (any species) within the strath. Old trees are important for biodiversity as they are used by a large range of birds, insects, fungi and mammals including bats.

If you would like to help with this or other monitoring please get in touch. We run an annual survey on nesting waders for the RSPB, submit annual records of moths, butterflies, and mammals to the county recorders, and in addition we have information on how you could get involved with recording the birds and plants that you see when out and about.

Jane O'Donovan, secretary BEN - phone 486 355 for more information.

Wildlife Recording Group;

Rosemary Holt 486 631 :

Rosemary will be happy to receive any of your wildlife sightings. We need the date you saw it and if possible the grid reference. These records would then be sent on to the appropriate database

## Boleskine Wetland Project

Our grateful thanks to the 18 volunteers who turned out to shovel, barrow, rake and compact 30 tons of crushed stone and scalpings to form the disabled access path down to the pond side. When the jetty is constructed later this year, school parties and wheelchairs will be able to go from the nearby house at Easter Boleskine right over the water for monitoring and pond dipping. We are indebted to Rosemary & Andy Holt, Willie Fraser, Alex Sutherland, Brian Yates, Fiona & Graeme Ambrose, Ed Wilson, Rob Mullen, Colin MacArthur, Helen & Emily Grainger, Iain Bateman, Sheila Pledger, Pauline Lynch, Frank & Katie Ellam and last, but not least, to Bob Main. There are many photographs in album 4 on the website

[www.boleskinewetland.co.uk](http://www.boleskinewetland.co.uk)

A good sized party from Stratherrick Primary School led by Katy Martin of the Highland Rangers visited the project in May for an educational trip. Katy supplied pond nets, trays & jars with magnifying tops so that the children could get some hands on experience with biodiversity. A significant number of species were identified which is very encouraging at this early stage of the project.

A plantings day is planned for July under the supervision of the Forestry Commission. We feel that it will be particularly suitable for youngsters and parents. Please see the website and notice boards for further information or telephone Katie on 01456 486691



### Wade Bridge Update

We are delighted to report that things are moving in regard to the repair and restoration of the Wade Bridge at Whitebridge. The Wade Bridge of Whitebridge Trust has been registered and schemes drawn up for emergency repairs to the abutments and later restoration of the superstructure. Historic Scotland are keen to see this valuable part of highland heritage preserved and are likely to meet 50% of costs. We are hopeful that other funding bodies will follow their lead.

As a community we need to demonstrate and register our own commitment to the bridge - not least to further convince potential donors of local concern for this national treasure. SO – become a member of the Wade Bridge of Whitebridge Trust. Membership costs nothing (though there is a legal commitment to contribute £1 should the Trust be wound up!) – but the benefits of securing funding and securing the bridge are considerable. A membership form is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin – and further copies can be obtained from the Whitebridge Hotel.

You can read more about the bridge and (hopefully) download a membership form at the South Loch Ness Heritage website: [www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk](http://www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk) under the 'projects' section.

### Glenlia Residents Community Association

Just a short note to let you all know that the residents of the Glenlia area have set up a residents association. We have set up a group so that instead of talking about improving things we can actually do them. The objectives of the group are to safeguard and promote the interests of residents in the area in matters concerning housing and the environment. We are currently working with the council, Albyn and others to try and improve the Glenlia green by having the old fence replaced, picnic tables and hopefully in time, and after much fund raising, having the play park upgraded. We hope to have a notice board erected and a web page set up where up to date information on what we are doing can be displayed for everyone to see. If you have any queries or suggestions please contact Ger Stocks 01456486487 (evenings).

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**  
**Friday 25th September**  
**11.00 to 1.00**  
**at Foyers Bay Country House**  
**ALL WELCOME**  
**Help Create A Huge Stir**



# Stratherrick Primary School

Hello and welcome to Stratherrick Primary School news page for the Boleskine Bulletin.

We have been doing lots of things since the last time we shared our news with you.

## NPower Renewables Day: 15.05.09

On Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May Stratherrick Primary and Foyers Primary pupils all went to the hall in Gorthleck to take part in a learning day about saving the planet by using renewable energy. This was great fun, we all enjoyed it and learned a lot about using renewable energy.

## Pond Dip at Boleskine Pond

On Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May the Primary 4-7 class went to the Pond at Foyers to do a pond dip with Katy Martin.

We found lots of interesting things including:

- Water Boatmen
- Blood Worms
- Beetle Larvae
- Water Fleas
- Water Spiders



This was a Beetle Larvae



## Red Nose Day

For Red Nose Day we dressed up as something *funny for money*.

Everyone in school dressed up - even the school cook, Mrs Matheson and the P2/3 teacher Miss Tait.

We all had a good day and raised lots of money.

## French Afternoon

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, we went to the I.R.A to practise our French. There was a Café with really good French cakes. We also had a go at playing a French game of Lotto, which helped us know our numbers in French. Then we went to a small classroom and did some sports like tennis and hockey in teams. It was a great day.

## Pupils from Aldourie came for a visit

On Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May we were visited by primary 7 girls from Aldourie primary. They were visiting us because they will be going to the Inverness Royal Academy with some of our pupils.

We hope they enjoyed themselves! ☺

Good bye from the Stratherrick Pupil Council.

## **STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Mark Houston (Chairman) Whitebridge 486729, Elizabeth Merther (Secretary) Foyers 486382, Katherine Grant (Treasurer) Gorthleck 486221, Martyn Bateman Whitebridge 486273, Kenny Fraser Gorthleck 486220, Paul Higham Foyers 486633, Lesley MacGregor Whitebridge 486404, Sandy MacPherson Torness 01463 751213, Alex Nicol Foyers 486307, Alex Sutherland, Erroglie 486711

### **MINUTES OF MEETING 27th JANUARY 2009**

Members present: M.H., E.M., M.B., K.F., L.M., S.M., A.N., A.S.

Also present: Councillor M. Davidson Mr M. Stephens (TEC Services) Police Constable A. Mathieson

Apologies received: P.H., K.G., Councillor H. Carmichael Councillor D. Hendry Councillor H. Wood

#### **Closure of the Footbridge at Lower Foyers**

Cllr. Davidson had arranged for Mr Stephens to attend. He explained that recent inspection revealed a serious deterioration in the structure with a further significant loss of stonework. It was felt there could be risk of collapse of one of the abutments, particularly in very wet conditions. Following discussion it was agreed that there is an absolute need to retain a bridge at this site for a number of reasons: shortest & easiest access to the Medical Centre for elderly & other residents; access to the Inverness bus service for residents including children to and from school buses; safest route across the river for children walking to the Primary School; risk of closure of the bailey bridge in flood conditions. It was noted that this has occurred on several occasions since the original closure of the old bridge and that there is no alternative access for the 30+ households affected. It was also noted that the footbridge route is included on many tourist walking guides and is very well used by walkers. The original bridge is a Grade B listed structure but Mr Stephens was very doubtful if it could be restored from its present condition to provide a safe, long term access. While agreeing that the ideal would be to restore what had been an attractive, historic structure, the meeting recognised that a completely new bridge may be the only viable option. The meeting felt that the bailey bridge was only a temporary solution and had been provided as such. Mr Stephens was given a list of options for bridge repair/replacement which had been produced by the Highland Council in 1987 shortly after closure of the old bridge. He agreed to provide a current engineer's report on the bridge for the CC and that a new list of options, plus costings, would be prepared. Cllr. Davidson felt that a new bridge should be included in the Highland Council Capital Programme along with the South Loch Ness roads. She will organise a date for herself and some CC members to meet with the Director of TEC Services to discuss these matters.

#### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Notice Boards The new notice boards are now installed. M.H. will find a way either for keys to be left attached to the boards or for the catch to operate without the need for a key, so that people have easy access. The magnetic 'pins' for securing notices will be left in the boards. Gorthleck War Memorial M.B. has confirmed ownership of the land and has a letter from the owner approving remedial work. He is currently awaiting a quotation from monumental masons at the undertakers who are able to carry out this work. Handy Person Scheme Cllr. Davidson reported that this will be officially launched for this area in March with the provision of information & contact phone numbers. Anyone in urgent need of assistance before then could contact her. She also informed the CC that there are currently ample funds available for home care services. L.M. told the meeting that she is the initial point of contact at the Medical Centre for providing information on care services. She emphasised that people should not hesitate to approach either herself or one of the Doctors if a need for care is identified. Meeting re Destination Loch Ness M.H. and K.F. had attended and received information about the changes in the organisation. Money may be available for tourist route signs and there will be more information about this shortly. Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge M.B. reported the initial meeting had been well attended and a very helpful presentation given by Mr J. Townshend. The first meeting of a steering committee is scheduled for 3rd March at the Whitebridge Hotel. Notices will be posted to encourage interested volunteers and a report placed in the Boleskine Bulletin.

#### **Tabling of Correspondence**

Highland Council Correspondence, Information on "High Societies" web site, Licensing Notification (new regulations) - Foyers Stores, Notice of New Rural Recycling Collection Service, Newsletter - Development Plans Update Winter 2008

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received

Parent Council, Stratherrick School - Outing to Christmas Pantomime

Highlands & Islands Green Party - proposed meeting for CC members to discuss A96 proposals

Scottish Parliament - David Stewart MSP. Climate Change Bill - Questionnaire; Rhoda Grant MSP. Government proposals for Scottish Forestry Commission estate; Michael Russell MSP. Climate Change & the National Forest Estate Consultation Document

Letter of thanks from Malcolm Sutherland, Loch Ness Marathon

#### **Treasurer's Report**

K.G. was unable to attend, but reported balances as at 31.12.08 as follows: Ordinary Account - £1148.50 Project Account - £3133.36

#### **Planning Applications**

Whitebridge - House S.W. of Wester Drummond: Planning Dept. not able to provide detailed plans but, from information provided, no objections.

Foyers - Demolish church hall and replace with house and garage There had been no objections as such. A letter was sent to Planning Dept., requesting that provision be made to secure safe access for the Primary School children during any building work. The CC also enquired whether provision of a footpath from the end of the present path to the junction with the school road could be made a condition of planning permission. The Planning Dept. has noted our comments and will consider them during the planning process.

#### **Policing Matters**

PC Mathieson reported that a new shift system is now in operation, and that he normally has a second officer with him. The new system should allow them to be more active in the district. Sergeant Blakey is now permanently established at Fort Augustus, improving the staffing situation. Glendoe - There are only a few workers left at the Scheme now.

RSPB - A 'poisoning map' has been produced by the RSPB identifying sites of poisoning of birds of prey. Sadly some of these sites are within our area. Most worrying is that one of these sites had one of the most virulent poisons, with serious safety implications for both animals and people. PC Mathieson reported that a very small amount can be lethal. Investigations are proceeding.

#### **Roads and Signage**

(a) The following matters were discussed with Mr Stephens and he will raise these concerns:

Winter gritting - Spreading rates poor or non-existent; some routes not gritted; snow blades not used; customary piles of salt & grit bins at trouble spots not replenished. CC has received a copy letter from Mr Graham, Acting Head at Stratherrick School about having to close the School due to dangerous roads. Concern expressed that the School might lose another head teacher because of this problem.

Glendoe improvement fund for the B862 - K.F. reported that the land owner has still not been contacted regarding further widening work. Also, where widening has been carried out & preliminary work done no final surfacing has been done, and the previous work is deteriorating. The CC requested details of how much of the fund has been spent, what remains to complete the work and the expected cost of the work outstanding. The CC agreed that delays have been unacceptable and we do not seem to have had value for the £125,000 available.

The collapsing culvert on the B851 and the road around Newlands have still not been dealt with.

Offlets on the Torness brae need clearing. The road surface is being damaged by water. The first cattle grid at Bochruben needs clearing out.

(b) A.N. reported that the 20mph speed limit by Foyers School is being ignored. Cllr. Davidson said that speed checks are to be carried out at Aldourie and she will request this at Foyers also.



(c) L.M. reported that the road to Dell Estate is almost impassable due to huge potholes and is in urgent need of repair. The Estate owner believes that the Council owns the road as far as Serena's wood.

#### **Water and Sewerage**

Cllr. Davidson has been informed that several large leaks have been repaired, and that there is now no problem with water supply.

#### **Renewable Energy and Community Benefit**

The CC has been invited to the formal launch of the River E Hydro Scheme on 1st June 2009. All members will attend if possible.

#### **Any Other Competent Business**

(a) Mr Donald Forbes attended to inform the CC about ideas which he and his wife have for both tourist and community facilities in Lower Foyers. It was agreed that both these things are badly needed to regenerate the village which has been in steady decline for years. He said that plans are at a very early stage and he simply wished to inform the CC about this as there will need to be enthusiasm within the community if some of the plans are to succeed. He will prepare an article for the Boleskine Bulletin to encourage some feedback from the community.

(b) It was noted that the Fraser monument beside Foyers Cemetery is in need of some restoration.

(c) A.N. reported that the panels on the bus shelter at Lower Foyers had been damaged by vandals again.

(d) M.H. had received a request for additional funding for the Boleskine Bulletin for publication of the CC Minutes. There is a very small shortfall in the CC donation, but the CC have very little to spare in their funding. However, the Community Trust makes an equal contribution and A.S. indicated that the Trust would almost certainly be willing to increase its contribution if necessary. The Minutes could be further edited for the Bulletin but community members are asking for more information rather than less.

(e) L.M. reported that money received from the Loch Ness Marathon had this year been shared between Foyers School & the fund for Christmas lunches for Stratherrick senior citizens. The intention is for next year's money to be shared between the Stratherrick School & the Foyers senior citizens fund. Mr Sam Reid expressed thanks on behalf of the senior citizens at Stratherrick for the hard work of all the volunteers involved.

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING 24th FEBRUARY 2009**

Members present: M.H., E.M., K.G., M.B., K.F., P.H., L.M., S.M., A.S.

Also present: Councillor M. Davidson

Apologies received: A.N., Councillor H. Carmichael Councillor D. Hendry Councillor H. Wood Police Constable A. Mathieson

#### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge M.B. reported that there is a meeting scheduled for the evening of 3rd March when Mr John Townshend will be presenting information received from Historic Scotland.

Possible future development - Lower Foyers: E.M. reported that she had been present at a meeting arranged by Mr & Mrs Forbes with Mia Scott, Project Director of the Highland Buildings Preservation Trust, and Drew MacFarlane-Slack, Highland Regional Manager of the Scottish Rural Property & Business Association, who had given information and advice on possible development. They have suggested an options appraisal should be carried out & Mr & Mrs Forbes will keep the CC informed of progress.

#### **Tabling of Correspondence**

##### **Highland Council Correspondence**

Draft - Open Space in New Residential Development: Supplementary Guidance  
Community Councils and Scottish Government Planning Consultations and Publication  
Highland Council Local Transport Strategy Forum

##### **Other Correspondence & Circulars Received**

Scottish Natural Heritage - Notification of Site of Special Scientific Interest

Letters from residents of Foyers regarding closure of footbridge

##### **Letters Sent**

Correspondence - bus service to Lower Foyers

##### **Treasurer's Report**

K.G. presented a balance sheet covering the time since the new Council took office. She said that some confusion had arisen over management of the Ordinary and Project A/Cs meaning that additional funds will be required to cover expenses until the next grant is due. The Project A/C balance is now £3663. The Ordinary A/C balance stands at £125. Known amounts still to be paid from this A/C total £285. There will also be additional running costs, as yet unknown. Following discussion it was agreed that the CC will apply to the Community Trust for funds to cover the cost of some donations to community events. This will provide funds to tide the CC through till the next grant. M.H. and E.M. will deal with this.

##### **Planning Applications**

Sign Boards - 3 locations Foyers & Gorthleck: There were no objections to the formal application for these signs advertising a B & B facility. Signs are believed to be already in place.

##### **Fire Brigade Report**

It was suggested that the CC should write to the head of the Fire Service in Inverness for information on how new EU regulations may impact on the volunteer force. E.M. will do this.

##### **Policing Matters**

A situation involving dangerous parking had been mentioned to a Council member. The CC felt that this would be best reported to the Police by the member of the public concerned, who would be able to give accurate details. It was pointed out that this could be done anonymously.

##### **Roads & Signage**

(a) TEC Services meeting 20.2.09 - M.H., E.M. and K.F. attended a meeting with Neil Gillies (N.G.), Director of TEC and Mike Stephens of TEC in Inverness, along with Cllr. Davidson. Members of the Dores and Strathnairn CCs were also present. The following matters were on the Agenda:

South Loch Ness roads - There was discussion about the poor state of the roads over many years. N.G. agreed that these needed to be included in the Capital Programme currently under development. Cllr. Davidson indicated that she will monitor the situation to make sure that this happens. Winter gritting - Discussion took place about the unsatisfactory winter gritting of roads in the area. It was felt that this has been getting worse over the last two winters. N.G. said that this would be looked into to try to identify the problems. As far as TEC Services are concerned he said that there had been no change in the priorities or standards of gritting expected.

Glendoe improvement fund for the B862 - Mr Stephens had no further details on the finances as yet, but promised to provide these soon. K.F. reiterated the CC's view that the project had been poorly handled and that the community did not appear to have had value for money.

Closure of footbridge at Lower Foyers - The need for a replacement bridge for both vehicles & pedestrians was discussed. The detrimental impact of the loss of this bridge on local residents was emphasised. N.G. informed us that a priorities assessment is being carried out for bridges across the Highlands. E.M. will prepare a letter detailing the case for a new bridge to be included in the current Capital Programme. This will be sent to N.G. and to Mr David MacKenzie, Chief Structural Engineer, who is carrying out the priorities assessment. Copies of all the letters sent to the CC by local residents on this matter will be included. The failure to deal with loose plates on the bailey bridge was also discussed.

Timber extraction - Damage to roads by heavy lorries carrying timber was discussed. It was felt that remedial road work following extraction is not being enforced adequately, and examples were given. There was felt to be a definite problem with lack of communication between contractors and the relevant authorities about extraction operations and this will be looked into.

- (b) There were reports of several pot holes needing attention & the state of the Dell road was raised. This is now almost unusable and is causing damage to cars. Cllr. Davidson suggested that calls should be logged to the Council Service Point number who deal with dangerous hazards.
- (c) Bus service to Lower Foyers – E.M. reported that she had contacted D & E Coaches and Highland Council Transport Dept. Following their visit to Foyers, the bus route was immediately extended to cross the river to an official stop beside Riverside. A bus stop sign has now been installed.

#### **Water & Sewerage**

Further to Cllr. Davidson's report last month, she informed the meeting that it has now been confirmed there are no problems with provision of water supplies, following the repair of several large leaks.

#### **Renewable Energy & Community Benefit**

A.S. reported that there is a meeting on 3rd March with Scottish & Southern Energy and Fort Augustus representatives to discuss responses to the energy audits questionnaire. Options on the best way forward will be discussed. He also reported that the amount due to the Community Trust will be paid annually and retrospective. Approved grant applications copied to the Scottish Community Foundation every year.

#### **Any Other Competent Business**

- (a) K.G. reported the poor state of the Trinloist road following timber extraction. There have also been cut trees left 'hanging' in the wood which are likely to fall, as well as spindly, roadside trees which are vulnerable to high winds. M.H. reported a similar situation on the Knockie road. A letter will be sent to Forest Enterprise.
- (b) A.S. reported that he had requested details of proposed 'green energy' schemes which Forest Enterprise might have in the pipeline for this area, with a view to the possibility of a community stake in such schemes.
- (c) A.S. suggested that tourist signs directing cyclists along this side of the Loch might be beneficial. Concern was expressed about the safety on sections of road. Cllr. Davidson reported that a cycle way between Dores & Inverness is planned by 2010 which will make the route much safer.
- (d) Cllr. Davidson notified the CC about meetings on the Highland Leader Programme for funding for local projects.
- (e) M.B. raised the issue of the steep drop alongside the road below the school turning in Foyers. E.M. reported that a letter had been written about this previously but no response received. Cllr. Davidson will make enquiries.
- (f) L.M. again raised the issue of lack of visibility for drivers leaving the Medical Centre. The possibility of setting up a mirror was suggested.
- (g) E.M. had been approached regarding the fencing around the Cemetery in Lower Foyers and the problem of marauding deer. A resident had suggested that if materials were provided, volunteers would probably erect a fence. A.S. indicated that the Trust would almost certainly fund such a project. The CC felt that a group of volunteers need to get together with someone in charge with the necessary skills in fencing. They should then obtain costings for materials and make application to the Trust. This information will be passed on to the resident concerned.
- The continuing poor state of the Cemetery road was also raised. Again a letter had been written about this and action promised but nothing has happened. Cllr. Davidson said that she would ask Mr Fridge to come to Foyers to meet with E.M. at the Cemetery to see the state of the road.

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING 24th MARCH 2009**

Members present: M.H., E.M., K.G., M.B., K.F., P.H., S.M., A.N., A.S.

Also present: Councillor D. Hendry Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Brigade)

Apologies received: L.M., Councillor M. Davidson Police Constable A. Mathieson

#### **Matters Arising from Previous Minute**

Key Worker Housing No further information has been received from HSCHT and there does not seem to be any progress on this matter. Enquiries will be made as to the current situation. A.S. suggested that if there is no prospect of any action from HSCHT in the foreseeable future, it may be necessary for the Trust to look at the private housing market in general.

Notice Boards – M.H. reported that all notice boards now have keys attached by chain for ease of access.

Community Web Site – M.H. has submitted an application for funding to the Trust and the outcome is awaited.

Gorthleck War Memorial – M.B. has received the estimate for the work (£1,300). An application has been submitted to the War Memorials Trust.

Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge – M.B. reported that there is a further meeting planned for 14th April. It will be necessary to form a Trust to take responsibility for ownership of the bridge and he hopes that volunteers will come forward at the meeting.

Fencing for Foyers Cemetery – L.M. has been informed that a small group of volunteers is hoping to place deer height protection around the Cemetery to stop the long term problem of damage to flowers and plants. They are hoping to apply for a grant to cover the cost of materials.

Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers – E.M. made enquiries and it seems this is an important historical site. The Monument is Grade B listed. The burial plot contains 3 graves, one of which is that of Simon Fraser, last Laird of Foyers and father to the Jane Fraser named on the Monument. It was suggested that some of the Clan organisations might be willing to help with costs of restoration. Enquiries are continuing.

#### **Tabling of Correspondence**

**Highland Council Correspondence** - Highland Leader Programme 2007 - 2013 (circulated)

**Other Correspondence & Circulars Received** - Scottish Water - Notice of Glenlia water mains improvement

#### **Letters Sent**

Grant Application to Community Trust for CC funds

Letter to Neil MacKenzie, TEC Services regarding bridge at Lower Foyers

Letter to Chief Fire Officer regarding proposed EU Working Hours changes

Letter to Steve Smith, Forestry Office Fort Augustus regarding roads and other forestry matters

#### **Treasurer's Report**

K.G. reported that Mr John Campbell had deposited £124.03 from the Senior Citizens' Fund with the CC for safe keeping as in the past.

Photocopier receipts of £18.87 had also been deposited. The Ordinary A/C balance therefore stands at £268.39, of which £144.36 belongs to the CC. The Project A/C balance is £3663.34. E.M. reported that an application has been made to the Community Trust for additional funding.

#### **Planning Applications**

There were no new planning applications.

Letters have been received from Highland Council notifying the CC of grants of planning permission for the following applications, already discussed: Convert steading to house at site 25m. North of Lyne Cottage, Gorthleck; Erect house at land 80m. North East of Lyne Cottage, Gorthleck; Erect house at land 125m. North East of Lyne Cottage, Gorthleck; Sign boards at land 105m. East of An Clachan, Gorthleck

#### **Fire Brigade Report**

Mr Kirkland reported that the feeling within the Fire Brigade was that the proposed European Working Time Directive was more likely to impact on full time fire-fighters than on local retained forces. E.M. had written to the Chief Fire Officer to enquire about the situation. His reply indicates that negotiations are ongoing and it is hoped to arrange exemptions for local forces. Cllr. Davidson has provided some additional information that other services, in addition to the fire service, could potentially be affected. Exemptions will be essential for all these services. Mr Kirkland also reported that budgets for home visits had been cut and that they will no longer be able to provide new electrical equipment in the same way. They will still be able to undertake some home safety visits when requested.

#### **Roads & Signage**

(a) Response from TEC Services following meeting of 20.2.09: E.M. reported that no response had been received, and that earlier that day she had emailed Neil Gillies, the Director. This has resulted in a brief report from Les Houliker, Technical Manager, informing the CC it is estimated that £100,000 of the £120,000 of the Glendoe road improvement money has been spent but no detail was provided. On winter maintenance he indicated that a review will be carried out before next winter. K.F. expressed the view, held by all members, that the response the CC has received is totally unsatisfactory. A detailed breakdown of the Glendoe monies was promised within a week of our meeting and there has been no feedback on any of the other matters raised. It was felt that a further meeting with Neil Gillies may be necessary. Cllr. Hendry informed the CC that he was meeting with Les Houliker the following day, and would raise our concerns. He will report back on the response he receives.

(b) Other matters arising from previous minutes:

Some tarmac has been laid in some lay-bys and white-lining done but there is still more to do. Work has been done on the Newlands road but this is believed to have been done by the forestry contractors concerned rather than the Council. It is not known whether this work originated from the Council or is a result of the E.M.'s letter to the Forestry Commission. No further information has been received regarding the bridge at Lower Foyers. E.M. has written to Neil Gillies, including copies of letters from local residents. It is proposed to start a petition regarding replacement of the bridge, and it has been suggested that the residents should seek some suitable publicity about the situation.

(c) Other items:

Mr Kirkland reported difficulty in getting snow cleared from the access road to Gorthleck Fire Station. He was informed that the road was un-adopted & the contractor had no responsibility. Members were surprised that this is not a high priority for clearance. Enquiries will be made. Various drainage issues were raised & will need to be reported or enquiries made: Drainage ditch opposite the Medical Centre blocked by dirt and debris during the recent snow – pushed in by large vehicles; Large pool of water gathers at the end of the footpath just before the old Church hall. Water flooding across the highway (and turning to ice in winter conditions) where new driveway access roads are constructed. Enquiries will need to be made whether this is a planning or a roads matter. Concern was expressed about the dangers posed by large rocks being placed at road edges. The CC has been informed in the past that road verges form part of the road (where roads are adopted) for 1.5m. from the road edge. Cllr. Hendry said that he would look into this matter. A fallen tree on the road between Upper Foyers and Fairburn has not been adequately cleared, and is still projecting over the road. This will be reported.

#### **Community Project**

Revised quotes have been received, and a member of HIE will be pushing this matter forward.

#### **Renewable Energy & Community Benefit**

The meeting with SSE is being rescheduled.

#### **Any Other Competent Business**

(a) Mr Hendry reported that our new Ward Manager takes up her post on 1st April and the plan is for her to get to the Foyers action plan ASAP.

(b) A Glenlia resident noted the poor lighting behind Glenlia. This is an unadopted road. There are moves under way to form a Glenlia Residents' Association, and it was suggested this is something an Association might look into. M.H. indicated that the CC would try to help if they could.

(c) Mr Kirkland has heard from Malcolm Sutherland regarding arrangements for this year's Loch Ness Marathon. It is intended to move the start line further up the road at Whitebridge. It was noted that we shall have to make sure that standards regarding arrangements for toilets, marshalling etc. are maintained at the new site.

(d) Mr Eric MacRae attended to inform the CC that he is applying for a trader's licence to work from home. (Cllr. Hendry left the meeting during these discussions.) The plan is to operate a largely internet based business in which he will source 2nd hand vehicles for customers. He indicated that there would be occasions when there might be 1 or 2 vehicles at his house, but he would not be storing vehicles there and there would be no commercial traffic. He wondered if the CC might provide a letter supporting the operation of a locally based business venture. M.H. suggested that Mr MacRae should provide the CC with a business plan and that CC members will then visit the site to assess the situation.

(e) A.N. reported that there is a derelict boat lying on the shore between the Fish Farm & the Foyers Pier. It has been there for some time and ownership of the land needs to be established. It was suggested that we should write to the Hydro in the first instance to enquire about this.

## **South Loch Ness Heritage Group**

The next meeting of the SLNHG will be on Thursday July 2nd, in the Dores Hall. This should be a really interesting evening, because, instead of a formal speaker, we have invite two of our "senior" citizens to give us an idea of life in the Parish in their younger days, around WW2. (Alistair Mackintosh from Erchite, and Hugh Fraser from Borlum.) The evening will take the form of a sort of panel night, with plenty of opportunity for audience participation. We hope and expect that other older members of the community will come along and share their experiences. The world has changed a lot since the 1940's!



*We get regular pieces for inclusion in the Bulletin from the Trading Standards and given the number of rented properties in the area I felt this may be of interest.*

*Editor*

## **Safety of goods in rented accommodation – Advice and Information for Tenants**

Goods supplied as part of a tenancy agreement, or in let accommodation, are required by law to be safe.

When choosing rented, furnished accommodation tenants may wish to check with the letting agency or the landlord that the goods comply with certain safety checks and requirements.

Tenants should specifically ask to see documentation on checks that have been carried out relating to the following goods:

### **Gas appliances**

Gas Safe Register replaced the Council for Registered Gas Installers gas registration scheme (or CORGI) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

The CORGI gas registration scheme in Great Britain and the Isle of Man ended on 31 March 2009. It is no longer recognised by law as the gas safety register.

Both consumers and tenants alike can check, if an engineer claiming to be CORGI registered has now transferred over to the Gas Safe Register.

Every Gas Safe registered engineer has a photo ID card with a unique licence number, and details of the work they are qualified to do. By simply entering the engineer's licence number on the Gas Safe Register website at : [www.gassaferegister.co.uk](http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk) or contacting the Gas Safe Register helpline on **0800 408 5500** tenants can check if the engineer used is actually registered by law to carry out such work.

In rented accommodation, all gas appliances must be checked at least every 12 months and records kept of the test dates, defects, and remedial action taken. Landlords must make this information available to tenants and prospective tenants and keep records for two years.

Tenants and prospective tenants can ensure that checks have been carried out by asking for documentation that each piece of equipment has been recently inspected and tested by a Gas Safe Register fitter. Prospective tenants can also ask landlords or letting agents to demonstrate that all gas appliances are working properly, whilst viewing the let property, before signing a tenancy agreement.

The installation and maintenance of gas appliances should only be carried out by a Gas Safe Registered engineer.

Tenants and prospective tenants can contact the **Health and Safety Executive Info-Line on 0845 345 0055**, if they have difficulties in obtaining this information or require further advice.

### **Electrical appliances**

Electrical goods that are provided with rented accommodation must be safe, whether they are new or used. The law states require all new and second-hand appliances supplied to be fitted with an appropriately fused and approved plug. Prospective tenants when viewing a

property should look out for damaged or worn wiring and check plug appliances to make sure they are not cracked or broken. Tenants should contact their landlord or letting agency if they have concerns about the maintenance of electrical mains or appliances in their rented accommodation.

### **Upholstered furniture**

Regulations were introduced to reduce the number of people killed and injured by toxic fumes given off when some upholstery materials burn. Upholstered furniture supplied in let accommodation is covered by these Regulations. Furniture covered by these Regulations (unless it was made before 1950) for example, can include household upholstered items, such as three-piece suites and armchairs; beds, headboards and mattresses; sofa-beds, futons and other convertibles; nursery and children's furniture (including pushchairs and prams); loose and stretch covers for furniture; scatter cushions, seat pads and pillows; furniture in new caravans; garden furniture which can be used indoors.

In order to ensure items of upholstered furniture are safe, they must have: covers which resist ignition from a match flame test; upholstery which resists ignition from a smouldering cigarette test; filling materials which pass an appropriate ignitability test; permanent labelling to show compliance.

Tenants and Prospective tenants of furnished accommodation, if concerned about the condition of the furniture supplied, should ask for written confirmation if a piece of furniture is not labelled.

### **Other products**

Any other goods not mentioned above, that are 'hired out' with accommodation, should by law, be reasonably safe. For example, lawn mowers, strimmers, etc should have guards in place, and ironing boards, clothes dryers, etc should not have sharp edges that could cause injury in normal use. Chairs and stepladders should be strong enough, as should glass in furniture. Instructions or warning labels should be available to ensure that appliances can be used safely.

Tenants or prospective tenants who require information on safety of goods supplied with rented furnished accommodation can visit or write to Highland Trading Standards Section, 38 Harbour Road, Inverness or telephone on **0845 600 4222**. A general information leaflet '*Consumer Safety in Rented Accommodation for Tenants*' is also available from Highland Council Trading Standards Section at: [www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/highland](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/highland)

### **Gas Safety Register Information**

Gas Safe Register is run by Capita Gas Registration and Ancillary Services Limited, a division of Capita Group Plc. Gas Safe Register is the official gas registration body for Great Britain (GB) and Isle of Man, appointed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for Great Britain and HSWI for Isle of Man..

Gas Safe Register replaced CORGI as the gas registration body in GB on 1 April 2009. The HSE carried out a review of gas safety in 2006 which, after consultation with the gas industry, engineers and the public, led to the decision to change to a new gas registration scheme. The contract to run the new scheme was awarded to Capita Group plc. The sole focus of the register is on improving gas safety.

### **Christian Comment**

The Rock Ness Festival in June has now become an established event in our area. This year it is to be followed by a Highland Festival with a definitely Christian emphasis that will be held in Bught Park, Inverness from 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June with a variety of events for all ages to which admission is free. The organisers are making use of some of the staging from the Dores festival, and the main speaker is to be the international evangelist Luis Palau. On the proceeding two days he will be speaking at a concert of popular Classical Music to be given by the well-known 'Prom Praise' Orchestra from All Souls Church in London and which is being held at the Eden Court Theatre in Inverness. Prior to these City events, there is a Highland Festival Tour from 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June visiting Gairloch, Mallaig, Lochinver, Golspie, Buckie, Fort William, Thurso and Forres.

One of the most significant qualities of this Festival is that it is being sponsored by the majority of the Christian Churches in the Highlands, and is an expression of the unity of the believers in Jesus Christ for which he prayed (as recorded in John's Gospel (Chapter 17)). It could also prove an occasion when the Holy Spirit, who moved with such power in the early days of the Church, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, is experienced here in the Highlands of Scotland.

Martyn Bateman

### **Christian Aid**

Thank you to the organisers of the Coffee Morning in the Stratherrick Hall – and to all the collectors and donors towards this so necessary relief work in many parts of the World.

A Memorial Service for Henry Pinkney was held at Killin Lodge on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, when there tributes from his family and friends as to the quality of his Christian life. Three trees were planted in the woodland he had established in an area that he so much enjoyed and an engraved stone dedicated to his memory. His funeral service had taken place previously at the Parish Church in Burton Joyce, Nottinghamshire, where he had been Church Warden for many years.

### **Church Meetings**

#### **Church of Scotland**

Sunday: Boleskine 10.00a.m., Dores 11.30a.m. Mr Ian King 01463 751 293

*The Church of Scotland United Services for Boleskine and Dores are at 11.00 a.m. on the last Sunday of each Month at alternate venues.*

#### **Episcopal Church**

Sunday: 11.00a.m. Lt Col . James Murray 01808 521205

#### **Free Church**

Sunday: 6.00p.m. Errozie. Mr J. Campbell 01456 486240

#### **Free Church Continuing**

Sunday: 10.30a.m. & 4.15p.m. Dores. Wednesday: 7.30p.m. Mr D. Fraser 01456 486408

#### **Free Presbyterian Church**

6.00p.m. Gorthleck, every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Mrs E. Fraser 01456 486282

#### **Roman Catholic Church**

12.00 noon, alternate Sundays, Whitebridge. Mrs Therese Finley 01456 486747

#### **Inter-denominational Bible Study**

Alternate Thursdays 10.30a.m. – 12.00 noon Rev. Martyn Bateman 01456 486 273



INVERNESS - GORTHLECK SERVICE 303									
	SD	SH	MWF	TTH		MWF	TTH	SD	SH
Inshes Retail Park	—	—	1355D	1355D	Gorthleck	0932	0920	1504	1515
Raigmore Hospital	—	—	1400D	1400D	Stratherrick Pri- mary School	—	—	1520	—
Inverness Bus Station	0810	0830	1410	1410	Upper Foyers	—	0930	- —	—
Dores Post Office	—	0845	1425	1425	Lower Foyers	—	0934	—	—
Farr Shop	0825	—	—	—	Inverfarigaig	—	0941	—	—
The Steadings	0835	—	—	—	Errogie Telephone Kiosk	0937	—	1525	1525
Dumnaglass Road End	0845	—	—	—	Torness	0947	—	1535	1535
Abersky	0850	—	—	—	Abersky	0952D	—	1544	—
Torness	0855	0900	1435	—	Dumnaglass Road End	0957D	—	1549	—
Errogie Telephone Ki- osk	0905	0910	1445	—	The Steadings	—	—	1559	—
Inverfarigaig	—	—	—	1442	Farr Shop	—	—	1610	1610
Lower Foyers	—	—	—	1449	Dores Post Office	0957	0958	—	1545
Upper Foyer	—	—	—	1453	Inverness Bus Sta- tion	1012	1012	1624	1600
Stratherrick Primary School	0910	— --	—	—	Raigmore Hospital	1022D	1022D	—	—
Gorthleck	0920	0920	1451	1504	Inshes Retail Park	1025D	1025D	—	—
MWF - Monday, Wednesday & Friday.									
TTH - Tuesday & Thursday.									
SD - Monday - Friday when schools are open.									
SH - Monday - Friday when schools are closed.									
D - Operates via these points on request. Passengers must telephone 01463 222444 by 1700 on last working day before travel									

INVERNESS -WHITEBRIDGE SERVICE 301			
	Mon to Friday		Sat
Knockie Lodge Road End	0730	1225	1225
Whitebridge Bus Shelter	0735	1230	1230
Gorthleck Old Shop	0745	1240	1240
Errogie Telephone Kiosk	0749	1244	1244
Torness	0758	1253r	1253r
Coulanour Junction	0803	1248	1248
Croachy	0815	1300	1815 1300
Farr Post Office	0825	1310	1825 1310
Inverness Royal Academy	0840	1325	1840 1325
Inverness Bus Station	0850	1335	1850 1335
Inverness Bus Station	1030	1515	1740 1725
Inverness Royal Academy	1040	1535	1750 1740
Farr School	1055	1550	1805 1750
Croachy	1105	1600	1815 1800
Coulanour Junction	1117	1612	1812
Torness	—	1617B	—
Errogie Telephone Kiosk	1121	1616	1816
Gorthleck Old Shop	1125	1620	1820
Whitebridge Bus Shelter	1135	1630	1830
Knockie Lodge Road End	1140	1635	1835

FOYERS - INVERNESS SERVICE 302			
	Monday to Friday		Saturday
Upper Foyers	0755	0755 1310 1623	0900 1320
Lower Foyers	0800	0800 1315 —	0905 1325
Inverfarigaig Ctgs	0807	0807 1322 1630	0912 1332
Dores Inn	0824	0824 1339 1647	0929 1349
Scaniport	0831	0831 1346 1654	0936 1356
Royal Academy	0840	— — — —	—
Holm Park Road End	0844	0835 1350 1658	0940 1400
Inverness Bus Station	0852	0845 1400 1708	0950 1410
Inverness Bus Station	1215	1515 1515 1743	1230 1743
Holm Park Road End	1225	1525 1525 1753	1240 1753
Royal Academy	—	— 1535 —	—
Scaniport	1229	1529 1544 1757	1244 1757
Dores Inn	1236	1536 1551 1804	1251 1804
Inverfarigaig Ctgs	1253	1553 1608 1821	1308 1821
Lower Foyers	1300	1600 1615 1828	1315 1828
Upper Foyers	1305	1605 1620 1833	1320 1833

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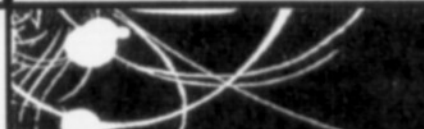
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