

**Minutes of the meeting of Strathard Community Council
held in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, 1st October 2015.**

1. Present:

**F McEwan, R Dingwall, S Stephen, C Smith, M Colquhoun, G Short, Cllr. M Earl.
Guest: J Hair, Forest Enterprise Scotland.**

2. Apologies:

J Quinn, A Goulancourt, A McLellan, Police Scotland.

3. J Hair - Explained the normal everyday FES practise for work and procedures carried out in the Forest. The regulator is FCS - Perth and Argyll Conservancy.

Do we get notified regularly regarding timber movement? Yes, timber haulage for year is notified quarterly. It was suggested that for some types of work, residents, particularly those living in the Forest, would be interested in more detail. Queried whether an e-mailing list such as the one used to inform Milton residents could be more widely used.

FC have permitted development status for many works so don't need Planning permission. For some usually more major works there are statutory consultees, environmental impact assessments. Eg: the Loch Katrine project was subject to an EIA but not looked at in any detail by NP Planning.

Should there be a clearer more formal process ? Suggested NP could be more involved in FC plans. John Hair pointed out that FES do work with Recreation etc. at many levels. Martin Earl thought it would be useful to have clarification of difference between planning rights and permitted rights.

Current FES practices queried eg regarding reinstatement and regeneration, and the issue of regeneration at Loch Arklet was discussed. Noted that now using Lemahamish not Balleich for clearance of East Loch Ard. Programme for next year was outlined with maps.

Questions arose re. clear felling/flooding which FES believes is not an issue. Also mountain biking. FC policy is not to build any mountain bike tracks itself, though an organisation could approach FCS for permission to build.

An opportunity would be offered by FES for community councillors to learn more about Forestry operations by visiting the Loch Ard Forest, as this had been useful before.

4. Minutes:

Proposed S Stephen, seconded M Colquhoun.

5. Matters arising:

Discussion re letter from Olde Christmas Shoppe and reply thereto. Road closure issues from the last meeting further discussed, and Cllr. Earl asked to seek response from Roads on whether cost-benefit analysis of closure could be done, or whether smaller equipment could be borrowed from neighbouring Council.

Re. supporting traders, C Smith highlighted that funds are available to help commercial development, and this could be appropriate in Strathard to encourage trade? Carol Beattie, economic development manager advised as Stirling Council contact. Also noted this could be included in update of Community Action Plan?

Money for electric car charger came from Transport Scotland.

Reading room has now been sold.

6. Correspondence:

Memorial Hall: letter re AGM. Also regarding a request to instal a mobile communications mast. They are seeking opinions. CC suggested they should ask for visual layout before their meeting. It could be unsightly for residents but however has the potential to provide income for the Hall. Also queried if only Vodafone and O2 networks would be supported.

National Park: Election for NP local representative for Ward 2, which includes Strathard. Several candidates. Should we hold hustings? Martin to ask NP if it could organise tour with all candidates round different communities.

SC: request for Schedule of Meetings for 2016. Same schedule agreed as appropriate.

Scottish Hydro: Electrical work on a major upgrade on-going. Need to engage with contractor. Haulage could be an issue.

RSHA: AGM Notification.

Stirling Council: bus timetables plus DRT info.

7. Council issues:

Road closure at Thornhill. Online information inaccurate. Main St and Kippen Station road will not both close at the same time. Main Street will be first, then bridge on Kippen Station Rd. Information will be circulated by emailing.

8. Planning

Withdrawn: Request to remove both Glencleland Bungalow occupancy condition and planning permission condition.

Approval: Inversnaid hotel ramp

FCS Slate quarry tracks

New applications:

Inversnaid hotel handrail.

Agricultural building, Duchray House.

New house at Caithness. To check previous outline application.

Darach Beag garage extension

Land opposite Ardmore, new pole for electricity supply.

No action required on above.

9. Finances:

Grant information available for communication, both electronic communication and meetings. Application to be investigated if possible, including for Action Plan

publicity and consultation. Sponsoring an edition of Strathard News, use for website costs, hire of halls were possibilities.

10. Reports:

Stirling Council: sharing services with Clacks - it has been decided to stop.

National Park : nothing to report

Police: report submitted. The two main incidents were outdoor, visitor / safety-related.

Broadband - little movement on cable at Forest Hills but still possible. Uk government is sponsoring a company to bring fibre optic to rural communities. Switch on in Aberfoyle expected 2016.

Community Trust - Monday Club at Gartmore House for Seniors started.

Garage: Rebranding to Highland Fuels delayed but coming soon – this will be the first test site with new Highland livery.

11. Meetings attended:

PBB : Very poorly attended by public. C Smith will circulate presentation information. He felt that Council officers are more confident with using this system for budget cuts now.

12. AOCB:

Next meeting, Inversnaid Hotel, 5th November at 7.30pm