



Strathdearn Community Council

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the new Strathdearn Community Council Held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin, 14th November 2023

Councillors Present	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Diane Buckle (DB) Carlie Bothwick (CB) Margaret Menzies (MM)	Susan Falconer (SF) James Duncan (JD) Amanda Ingram (AI)
Also In Attendance	Clr Duncan MacPherson (DMacP) – Highland Council (HC) Mark Mackay (MMacK) – Ward Manager 19 members of the public	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions</u> Clr Duncan MacPherson took the chair for the nomination of Office Bearers and welcomed the public to the meeting.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None noted	
3.	<u>Nomination of Office Bearers</u> - CB nominated Rusty MacAskill as Chair, and this was seconded by AI. - RM nominated Susan Falconer as Secretary, and this was seconded by CB. - CB nominated Diane Buckle as Treasurer, and this was seconded by RM. There being no other nominations the nominees were duly appointed BM took the chair and thanked everyone for their attendance	
4.	<u>Close of meeting</u> The meeting closed at 7. 45pm	



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Councillors Present	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Chair Diane Buckle (DB) - Treasurer Carlie Bothwick (CB) – Minutes Secretary Margaret Menzies (MM) - Member	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary James Duncan (JD) – Member Amanda Ingram (AI) - Member
Also In Attendance	Clr Duncan MacPherson (DMacP) – Highland Council (HC) Mark Mackay (MMack) – Ward Manager 19 members of the public	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions</u> The Chair welcomed everyone CB gave his apologies from:- • Clr Ken Gowans (KG) – Highland Council • Steven Knott (SK) – Chair of SCD	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None noted	
3.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of 13th October 2023</u> - Corrections needed: Date of Christmas lunch to change to 2023 instead of 2022. - Drainage manhole cover in main road near to the top of Shop Brae is deteriorating – this was not minuted. - Planning matters stated that there were no applications of any interest, but Duncan Bryden stated that this wasn't strictly his opinion as all applications could be relevant to the community.	
4.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> Minutes approved by CB and Seconded by JD with noted corrections	



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5.	<u>Matters arising that are not considered elsewhere on the agenda</u> A. Loss of provision for school transport - BM has applied for a Freedom of Information (Fol) application on behalf of the Strathdearn Community Council (SCC), to find out how many other rural schools have lost their school transport provision and where those areas are. They have 20 days to respond, and BM suggested getting in touch with some of the other community councils to find out how they have responded to this. Member of the public suggested asking the Highland Council (HC) to walk the route in poor weather to see how dangerous the route was. Duncan MacPherson stated that all members of all wards are not being made aware of issues like Safe routes to school and convenor was asked to review the decision with councillors and community councillors present and ask what has changed. BM has stated that the rolling of Station Road has not been completed and this is important to make routes safer. JD stated that he would investigate this. <u>Action 1 – Follow up with HC and other Community Councils</u> <u>Action 2 – Investigate whether Station Road had been surfacing had been completed</u> B. After school care - BM stated that she contacted Arlene Beattie and was put in touch with Stewart Prentice acting head teacher at Strathdearn primary – Children have discussed what they would like – these are to be forwarded to Fiona Shearer and Steven Knott (SCD). <u>Action - Previous chair (Carol James) to share information with BM.</u> C. Stagecoach – JD stated that there was no update, but he has noted the 8.20am had been cancelled and the next bus wasn't until 12.15pm. D. Memorial fence – the SCC would be responsible for repairing the fence, but nobody has responded with quotes. The SCC will source quotes and apply to SCCT. Fencing has been erected by the community so the HC will not repair the fence. The path was also noted as needing repaired. <u>Action - Duncan MacPherson will contact John Maclean at HC (Bereavement Services) to find out who is responsible for upkeep of the memorial.</u> E. A member of the public raised concern that the issue with the manhole cover on the main road close by the old shop has still not been resolved. <u>Action – CC will follow this up with the HC</u>	BM JD BM DMcP BM
6.	<u>Financial Report</u> DB reported there was £955.96 in the account.	



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7.	<u>Law and Order</u> BM received newsletter and it is noted there is no officer currently attached to Strathdearn but the SCC would be notified when this changed. <u>Action</u> - Copies of newsletter will be printed and placed in the hub and shop notice board and shared online.	
8.	<u>Road Safety</u> a) Moy – JD stated that overhanging trees are the responsibility of the HC Dalmagarry to Mealmore and these need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. CB stated that she attended Moy with Carol James several months ago, and it was agreed this would be passed onto the new community council to action. This is a present health and safety danger, and this should be actioned by the HC. Moy subcommittee have stated that speed limits in Moy are too high and would like this investigated. <u>Action</u> – To be investigated b) Raigbeg Bridge – in need of repair, an engineer needs to assess the condition of the bridge as there are current health and safety concern. <u>Action</u> – To be investigated c) Snow clearing – Jason MacDonald has requested a list of vulnerable and elderly residents to create a plan for snow clearing. He has asked for a new grit bin at Station Road area. <u>Action</u> – A List to be compiled - additional help may be required.	BM BM AI
9.	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> I. Applicant - Community Council - Christmas tree lights, Sum applied for £180. Application is supported by SCC and members of the public. II. Applicant - WRT – Costs incurred for printing newsletter £3,187.44. Discussion took place about the costs for hiring the hub when it is for the benefit of the community. SCC suggested we defer this application until December and discuss with SCD.	
10.	<u>Planning Matters</u> a) Tomatin Distillery visitor centre – there will be a presentation at the next SCC meeting to discuss their plans with the community. b) Mill View – 3 property terrace and 1 detached block is now live on planning website. DMacP asked that it be minuted that he did not take part in any of the discussions regarding planning issues.	



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11.	<u>Windfarms</u> Member of public (Alan Hardwick) had written the SCC noting that he had been contacted regarding a Local Electricity Discount (LED) Scheme through Fred Olsen. He wished to discuss how the community can benefit from the windfarms and this is possible. Will update as necessary.	
12.	<u>Update from SCD</u> BM read out update from SK – Chair of SCD.	
13.	Any other business – • Clune Road sink hole – still not repaired and is dangerous. This will be referred onto the HC.	
14.	Date of future meetings – 12th December 2023 Meeting closed 9.25pm	