



Strathdearn Community Council

**Minutes of the meeting held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin,
on 12th December 2023**

Councillors Present:	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Chair Diane Buckle (DB) - Treasurer Carlie Borthwick (CB) – Minutes Secretary Margaret Menzies (MM) - Member	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary Amanda Ingram (AI) - Member
Also Attended by:	13 members of the public	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions & Apologies</u> The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from: - • Steven Knott – SCD Chair • James Duncan (JD) – Member	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Diane Buckle declared she is employed by WRT.	
3.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of 14th November 2023</u> Corrections noted: - • Manhole cover – previous minutes have referred to the manhole cover being on shop brae, but the cover is on the main village road. • Item regarding proposed Local Energy Initiative should read: Mr Alan Hardwick referred to correspondence forwarded to the Council regarding a discussion with Fred Olsen (re promotion of LED scheme) and requested the Community Council to take this forward.	
4.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> Corrections to November minutes be made before approval.	
5	<u>Presentation by Tomatin Distillery regarding proposed Visitor Centre</u> Objective & brief – • to encourage visitors to spend more time in the area, • to create a “green space” known as a village green, • offer blending experiences, • explore potential plans for evening openings for locals. Timescale for completion – May 2025. Distillery will consider safer routes for visitors using public transport. A copy of the presentation will be available on the community website. Potential employment increase of 50% for visitor centre. Tomatin Distillery have no plans for additional housing currently.	

6	<u>Matters arising that are not considered elsewhere on the agenda.</u> Freedom of Information (FOI) request – Strathdearn is the only area Highland wide that has lost the provision of school transport. 16 children in Strathdearn are affected. additional request submitted to ask which other areas are using school transport. <u>Action required.</u> • additional FOI request submitted to ask which other areas are using school transport. Station Road - Rolling has been completed at station road although large potholes have appeared over time. <u>Action required.</u> • Contact SCD to ask if they will consider fixing the road with planings at Station Square. War Memorial – BM & THC emailed Bereavement Services, and they are looking into repairs for burial site. Awaiting response. Loose Manhole Cover at top of Shop Brae - John Taylor (Highland Council) has contacted Scottish Water regarding manhole cover regarding noise pollution. Ongoing. Trees at Bus Stop - have been removed by Jason MacDonald and Andrew MacDonnell. Site now cleared. Sink hole at Clune - Awaiting response from email to John Taylor. <u>Action required.</u> • Photograph to be emailed to John Taylor <u>Local Energy Discount (LED) Scheme</u> – At previous meeting Mr A Hardwick had referred to correspondence he had forwarded to the CC regarding a discussion with Fred Olsen, a company promoting an LED scheme and had asked the CC to take this initiative forward. <u>Action required.</u> • A meeting is to be held with BM (SCC), Frank Roden (SCCT), Steve Knott (SCD) and Fred Olsen on the 18th of December	BM BM BM BM BM
6.	<u>Financial Report</u> DB reported there was £477.61 as of 28th November Christmas lights - £180 still not deducted from bank - £6 due to go in – and 2 invoices from WRT for room rental. SCD have now indicated that they will continue to cover the costs of the room hire for CC meetings.	
7.	<u>Law and Order</u> BM received newsletter noting that there is no officer currently attached to Strathdearn, but we would be notified when this changed. <u>Action required.</u> Copies of newsletter will be printed and placed in the hub and shop notice board and shared online.	BM
8.	<u>Road Safety</u> • A list of snow gritting/clearing has been provided.to Jason and Andrew by AI. • Speeding – commercial vehicles continue to speed through village - monitoring to continue. • Grit bin placed at North Road Bus Stop – grit will be delivered at the bottom of Shop Brae	AI

	- List of Community Council contact information will be posted in the shop and on notice boards. 13-16 Old Mill Road is in a dangerous condition – with nobody willing to take responsibility as advised by Frank Roden – BM to follow up	BM
9.	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> Revisiting application for the newsletter costs. Revised copy of quote – original request £3187, 44. WRT have looked at costs – now able to copy for 15p per sheet – new costings £2544.24. Denise will continue to produce newsletter. Community Council will support this application. Approved	
10.	<u>Planning Matters</u> Tomatin Visitor Centre – Presentation during tonight’s meeting – with distillery Marketing director Derek Scott.	
11.	<u>Windfarms</u> BM meeting with Fred Olsen representative on 18th December with Frank Roden and Steven Knott. BM will provide feedback at next meeting.	BM
12.	<u>Update from SCD</u> BM read out update from Steve Knott. SCD update will be using written updates going forward. No discussion at CC meetings. SCD representative will be invited to attend certain meetings if there are large issues such as paths projects. BM will take matters/concerns to SCD. The SCD AGM is likely to be in January. SCD may consider opening meetings. Alan Hardwick wanted to know about costings and finances of SCD. Had requested information 3 times and asked that there be more transparency with the Community. BM to take this issue to SCD.	BM
13	<u>Correspondence</u> - Email from David Kelly – for sale sign at Michael McKays house – should there be a gathering at the hub to thank Micheal for all his work in the village? BM to reply to this saying that Michael is not retired or leaving the village. - Citizens Advice Bureau offering to attend and offer energy support and advice. BM will invite to attend next meeting. - Public webinar tomorrow 13th Dec at 2pm on the SSEN transmission from Beaulieu-BlackHillock-New Deer-Peterhead 400kV OHL project. - Hydro Scheme near Whitebridge – application for Loch Kemp Storage Hydro has been submitted	BM BM
14.	<u>Any other business</u> - Advisory email from Chris Cairns to the Council regarding petition o Paths – outcome received – will be publicised in the next Newsletter. - Mast Issues – mobile signal issues should be resolved by 15th December – a new mast is being installed at Meallmore - CB asked about continuation of Community Council Forum – BM expecting an email in January. - Flower seed has been given to Alan Hardwick who asked where the Community wished it planted	
15.	Date of future meeting – 9 January 2024 Meeting closed 21.00 pm.	