



Strathdearn Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin,
on
Tuesday 9th January 2024

Councillors Present:	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Chair Diane Buckle (DB) - Treasurer Carlie Borthwick (CB) – Minutes Secretary	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary Amanda Ingram (AI) - Member
Also Attended by:	Highland Councillor Ken Gowans (KG) – attended over Zoom 7 members of the public	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions</u> The Chair welcomed everyone Apologies were presented from:- • Margaret Menzies (MM) - Member • Steven Knott (SK) – SCD Chair	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None were declared	
3.	<u>Presentation by Citizens Advice Bureau regarding Energy Support and Advice</u> Mike Youatt, (GSS Training & Engagement Officer, Inverness Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau) gave a presentation on the advice, help and grants available to members of the community with energy use and bills. He stated that he would forward (by email) some information leaflets to people attending the community council for circulation. Action – leaflets to be put on the Strathdearn website for community members information	BM
4.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meetings of 14 November 2023 and 12 December 2023</u> Corrections noted :- Alan Hardwick (member of the public) noted that whilst he was generally in agreement with the minute item regarding the potential Fred Olsen Local Energy Discount Scheme (LED), he considered that the minute should be clarified to highlight that the LED would only be in respect of the Balnespick Wind Farm. He also noted that he felt that there could be a conflict of interest between the SCD and SCCT over the receipt of any community benefit funds.	
5.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> Nov 23 Minutes approved by AI and seconded by SF subject to addition of comments by AH. Dec 23 Minutes approved by DB and Seconded by RM	
6.	<u>Matters arising that are not considered elsewhere on the agenda</u> School Transport – very little progress. As it has been established that 16 pupils are affected, BM indicated that she had escalated the matter to Fergus Ewing (MSP for area) and to Drew Hendry (MP for the area) but with no response yet. In addition, photographs had been taken of the poor condition of Station Road (part of the proposed children's walking route. KG stated that he would take this matter to the Head of School Transport at The Highland Council. Action – 1 - Photographs are to be forwarded to HC to accompany the request for information 2 – The HC Head of Transport to be contacted and asked for comment 3 - If no information is forthcoming, consideration should be given to involving the media War Memorial - no update as the Highland Council (HC) had been largely closed for holidays over the festive period	BM KG BM

	Loose Manhole Cover - no update as the Highland Council (HC) had been largely closed for holidays over the festive period Sink Hole on Clune Road - no update as the Highland Council (HC) had been largely closed for holidays over the festive period. BM thanked Denise Barley (member of the public) for providing photos of the hole. Local Energy Discount Scheme (LED) - BM indicated that she had met with representatives of Fred Olsen along with the chairs of the SCD and SCCT to discuss this potential initiative. As a result Fred Olsen are to give a presentation to the community at the March 2024 Community Council meeting.	
7.	<u>Financial Report</u> DB reported that after this month's expenditure the SCC have £303.61 in the bank.	
8.	<u>Law and Order</u> Reports of cars using the Strathdearn car park as a skid pan – Fiona Stewart (member of the public) had spoken to the police and is trying to get car numbers in order that action can be taken. However the offenders have been removing their number plates to avoid being discovered. It was suggested that a barrier could be installed should the problem continue	
9.	<u>Road Safety</u> a. Members of the community had reported cars speeding through the village since the introduction of the 20mph limit – the police have been advised and are to visit the village for speed checks. KG noted that the 31st of January was the end of the public consultation period regarding the 20mph speed limits. Action – KG is to provide a link for inclusion on the Strathdearn web page for anyone wishing to make comment. b. A request was made from a member of the public for a sand / salt bin to be placed on the Clune Road at the hairpin bend Action – An email is to be sent to KG for action	KG/BM BM
10.	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> None	
11.	<u>Planning Matters</u> None reported	
11.	<u>Windfarms</u> Following a meeting between the SCC, SCCT, SCD and representatives from Fred Olsen, it has been arranged for Fred Olsen representatives to attend the March meeting of the SCC to give a presentation and answer questions	
12.	<u>Update from SCD</u> There was no meeting of the CD during December 2023, consequently there was no update on projects, etc. However SK wished to clarify information that was release in the media on the subject of Hazlebank Woods. The two points of clarifications were: - • The purchase of the wood is NOT aimed at increasing tourism in the area. It is to provide a public amenity for the community. Some thinning of nonindigenous trees is proposed and replanted with broad leaf. • The Hazelbank Wood has NOT yet been purchased. The SCD managed to secure grant funding to enable negotiation for the purchase of the wood to proceed.	
13	<u>Correspondence</u> None received	

14.	<u>Any other business</u> • The Christmas Lights are still on the Christmas Tree on School road Action –CC Secretary to email Mr Fraser at the HC to request their removal • The newsletter is to be printed during the first week of February 2024. Any articles to be sent to Denise Barley by the end of January 2024 • BM stated that as very little action is taken over the festive period by any of the public bodies, it is proposed that no January meeting take place in the future.	SF
15.	Date of future meeting – 13th February 2024 Meeting closed 9.00 pm	