



Strathdearn Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin, on 13th February 2024

Councillors Present:	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Chair Diane Buckle (DB) - Treasurer Margaret Menzies (MM) - Member	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary James Duncan (JD) – Member
Also Attended by:	Highland Councillor Ken Gowans (KG) Highland Councillor Duncan MacPherson (DM) 12 members of the public in person plus 3 attending through MS Teams	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions</u> The Chair welcomed everyone Apologies were presented from:- • Carlie Borthwick (CB) – Member • Amanda Ingram (AI) - Member	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None	
3.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of 9th January 2024</u> Corrections noted :- Alan Hardwick (member of the public) again noted that he felt that the minute did not reflect his statement. It was lacking in that:- • AH had indicated that an LEDS (Local Energy Discount Scheme) is possible as a way of using Community Benefit from the proposed Balnespick Wind Farm • AH requested that a member of the community be invited to attend any future meetings with Fred Olsen on the subject. Alan Hardwick presented the Secretary with a copy of the statement he made at the meeting as now noted above.	
	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> Minutes approved by DB and seconded by MM.	
4.	<u>Matters arising that are not considered elsewhere on the agenda</u> School Transport – BM advised that she had received a response from David Summers (Director from the HC) with a summary report which stated that when a review of school transport was undertaken in 2023, it was considered that the route to Strathdearn school from the north end of the community had been improved by widening the pavement under the railway viaduct and adjacent to the road from the distillery entrance to the unclassified road. Consequently it was deemed to be safe and was believed to be within an acceptable distance for school pupils to walk; albeit with the presence of a responsible adult where necessary. The decision had been appealed in the attendance of KG. The appeal was denied. BM further stated that she had	

	received a reply from the offices of Fergus Ewing (FE) advising them to take the appeal again to Council. Members of the public:- 1. Asked if, by deeming the route safe, are HC accountable for ensuring that the route is maintained in a safe condition at all times; including undertaking road gritting of all pavements, walkways and the unadopted road, similarly will road maintenance and pot hole repairs on Station Road be undertaken by HC; as the road has no street lighting and is dangerous for pedestrians. In the event of an accident or injury as a result of poor walking surfaces will HC be held responsible. Neither KG or DM could answer this question. 2. Recalled that, prior to the Strathdearn Primary School being opened, an undertaking was given by the HC at a meeting (parent teacher or other) to ensure that school transport would be maintained for all pupils coming from the north end of the community. 3. BM noted that part of the “safe” route was along a road verge where there was no path and no speed restriction (i.e. it is classed as being a public road with 60mph classification) and as such speed restrictions should be placed on this area which is the north end of the village. <u>Actions:-</u> • The HC decision will continue to be challenged by the Community Council • Having deemed the route to be “safe”, HC are to be challenged on their role in maintaining the route in a safe condition throughout the year (including gritting the pathway in winter) and their level of responsibility in the event of an accident or injury to a child. • HC are to be asked about the acceptability of having children walk along a “safe” route where there is no footpath and the road has no speed limit (North End) • Contact will be made with Jane Manson (the school secretary) to determine if there are minutes relating to the undertaking given, (approx. June 2002) prior to opening of the school, on the ongoing commitment to school transport. Contact could also be made to Cathy Matheson (who opened the school in November 2002) with a similar request for information. War memorial , Dalarossie Church cemetery wall repairs and Clune Road sink hole An update from HC is still outstanding. Manhole cover at Shop Brae – has been repaired Also highlighted – the potholes at the start of the 2&1 on A9 at Moy and on the Ruthven Road are in need of repair , and the poor state of Balvraid Bridge needs to be followed up. Action: Follow up with HC	KG/DM KG/DM BM BM
5.	<u>Financial Report</u> The bank account currently stands at £156.61 <u>Actions :-</u> • An application is to be made to the HC for a “top-up” funding.	DB

6.	<u>Law and Order</u> A Community Beats report for January has been received. Nothing new to report as there is still no dedicated officer allocated to Strathearn.	
7.	<u>Road Safety</u> • There have been no further reports of skidding in the Strathearn car park. • BM reported that she had written to the post office regarding their van speeding through the village. The reply stated that they were not in a position to take action unless they were provided with a date, time and the registration number of the van. • KG provided an update on the public consultation (that ended on the 31st January 2024) on the 20 mph speed restrictions. He indicated that some of the public supported the reduction in speed, some considered that it was causing undue problems and some wished the initiative to be extended. Further discussions will now take place with local area committees and back to the E&I committee to implement any recommendations. Feedback is still welcome from Community Councils – a request for this will in the form of a questionnaire, be posted on Strathearn Facebook page. <u>Action:-</u> Questionnaire be published on the Strathearn Facebook Page • The sand / grit bin on the Clune Road has now been filled – this will be required on an ongoing basis • A member of the public reported serious potholes on the Glen Road at Easter Auchintoul and degradation to the road surface by water running across the road a bit further on from that point (to be highlighted to the HC along with similar matters)	BM
9.	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> Application No.1 – by Strathearn Primary School for £2,530 to part fund the P7 Annual residential trip to Muir of Ord Field Centre. The remainder would be funded by parents. Following discussion the application was approved. Application No. 2 – by Alan Hardwick (AH) for £1700 to fund a Tomatin wild flower project. AH had identified 10 possible locations for sowing wild flowers. The application was to fund the purchase of fencing materials to protect the areas. The actual work to be undertaken by volunteers and the involvement of the Strathearn Primary School. Following discussion the application was approved.	
10.	<u>Planning Matters</u> None	
11.	<u>Windfarms</u> Representatives from Fred Olsen are to attend the March meeting of the SCC to discuss the possible LED scheme	
12.	<u>Update from SCD</u> There was no formal update from SCD, however BM advised the meeting that, following the SCD AGM, there was a brief meeting held. During the meeting BM asked the directors for their opinion on whether SCC could put in an application to SCCT for additional work on Station Road – filling potholes, etc. BM was advised that the SCCT and SCD would be sympathetic to the work but that	

	a formal application to SCCT along with a quotation should be sought from Andrew McDonnell and Jason MacDonald (local contractors). A member of the public (Duncan Bryden) noted that a lot of the damage was caused by water flowing from the garden of the Old Station House. It would be beneficial to install a culvert under the road to deal with the water and protect the road. Action:- Quotations are to be invited for undertaking the work and a formal application for funding submitted to SCCT.	BM
13	<u>Correspondence</u> - Email received from Douglas Dunn an honours student at Edinburgh University who is undertaking research on understanding the public view on the protection of Scottish Rain Forests. He had provided a questionnaire and requested that members of the community be asked to complete it and submit it to him Action:- The questionnaire is to be shared on the Strathdearn Community web site and residents asked to complete the form - Pam Hardwick had submitted a paper informing of an organisation which helps maintain old rural churches of architectural significance. BM has responded to Pam to thank her for this information. Action:- No action be taken until the SCD make a decision on the purchase of the Dalarossie Church or not. - An email has been received with information on a Community Open Day to be held in Farr on 21st February concerning the Aberarder Windfarm proposals. Action: The notice to be made available on the Strathdearn Community website	BM
14.	<u>Any other business</u> A member of the public reported an open lamppost electrical connection cover on Old Mill Road. (to be included in other items highlighted to the HC) A public exhibition is to be held in Inverness on 14th February 2024 (between 1pm to 7pm) on the future of the A9 road corridor. Information on the exhibition had only just been received. Action:- Information on the Exhibition is to be shared on the Strathdearn website.	BM BM
15.	Date of future meeting – 12th March 2024 Meeting closed 8.30 pm	