



Strathdearn Community Council

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

Councillors Present:	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Chair Diane Buckle (DB) - Treasurer Margaret Menzies (MM) - Member	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary by video James Duncan (JD) – Member Carlie Bothwick (CB) – Member by video
Also Attended by:	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 received from:- Mandy Ingram (MI) – Member Ken Gowans (KG) – Highland Councillor	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None	
3.	<u>Presentation from Transport Scotland</u> Toby Millard, (Project Manager) and Stuart Baird, (Team Lead), delivered an informative talk on the proposed A9 Dualling from Tomatin to Moy which is summarised below. A Handout was provided to the Chair and the presentation will be shared on the Strathdearn Community website. • The presentation focused on four aspects of the project – Impact on Local Residents, Procurement Process, Community Benefits and Next Steps • The project is to be delivered through a Design and Build Contract that is currently out to Tender • There are three prospective Tenderers – Balfour Beatty / GRAHAM / Wills Bros Joint Venture • The proposed program for the works is as follows:- ○ Return of Tenders – early summer 2024 ○ Contract negotiation ○ Award of Contract late summer 2024 ○ Finalisation and approvals of design will take an estimated four months following award ○ Commencement on site (site compounds, etc.) – late 2024 ○ The location of the site compound has not yet been decided ○ The Contract period will take approximately 3 years to completion (2027) • Since the abortive work associated with the previous Tender for the Tomatin to Moy section, Transport Scotland have reviewed the Contract format, risk allocation and available budget to be more reflective of the current financial climate - this should ensure that there is contractor interest and award on this occasion. • The successful Contractor will appoint a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) who will make early contact with the SCC. The CLO will maintain contact with the local community throughout the project in order to discuss Traffic Management Plans,	

	Community Benefit and Social Value requirements; organising events and presentation to keep the community informed. • All draft Traffic Management Plans will be discussed fully with the local community, businesses, bus companies, the police and emergency services prior to implementation. • A website has been established to keep all interested parties www.A9Dualling.scot and a contact email address for A9Dualling@transport.gov.scot for anyone with queries. • They are committed to working with the communities to identify their needs Questions received from the public included;- • Strathdearn currently has other heavy traffic activities within the area (Timber haulage, windfarm and network construction, commercial construction, etc.) – has this been taken into account ? Answer – It is a condition of the Contract that the successful Contractor will consult with all stakeholders and produce traffic management plans that include all activities in the area and do not focus only on road construction • The proposed changes and construction activities may affect local businesses (e.g. the distillery, café, shop, etc.) – what safeguards are in place to ensure no detriment ? Answer - The CLO will consult with the community and SCC to understand the commercial activities in the area and ensure that plans cause minimum disruption/ • The National Cycle Route No. 7 runs through the area, what safeguards are in place to secure the requirements of users. Answer – robust traffic management plans will take cyclists needs into considerations.	
3.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of 12 March 2024</u> It was noted that the final line under AOB was an error. Councillor Duncan MacPherson actually introduced a prospective candidate to the Chair and Secretary after the meeting had closed. The comment will be struck from the record.	SF
	<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 No formal response has been received from the Highland Council (HC) by either SCC or Fergus Ewing (FE) – the local MSP. BM noted that Councillor Ken Gowans (KG) had been further in contact with THC as had FE requesting that the issue be addressed as a matter of urgency. <u>Actions:-</u> • Continue to defer until SCC hear back from HC and Fergus Ewing Office • Contact will be made with Jane Manson (the school secretary) and Cathy Matheson (who opened the school in November 2002) once a response has been received from THC. War memorial: An application for funding from SCCT to improve the fencing around the memorial will be deferred to next month to allow quotations for the work to be sought <u>Actions :-</u> BM to apply for funding from SCCT	BM BM

	Dalarossie Church cemetery wall repairs: SCCT Application submitted for discussion tonight (see below) for half the cost of wall repairs which have now been completed and full amount of £2000. settled with Argyll Masons by the church Trust. £1000 to be paid back to the Church Trust. THC have been informed. Clune Road sink hole: SCC continue to await response from HC. Potholes down Ruthven Road. SCC continue to await response from HC. Raigbeg Bridge - SCC continue to await response from HC. Action: Continue to Follow up with HC	BM
5.	<u>Financial Report</u> The bank account currently stands at £846.97 – Monies had been received from SCD in payment for Christmas lights Newsletter subs and top-up payment also received.	
6.	<u>Law and Order</u> The Community Beats Newsletter for March had been received on the 1st April. This was forwarded to Steve Cormack on the 5th April to be shared on FB and the website. On looking through the newsletter, no real relevance to Strathdearn could be found. BM had therefore emailed Community Beats on the 5th April to ask them when Strathdearn would be allocated a named community beats officer. BM reported that she had been advised that interviews were being held by Police Scotland for vacant liaison officers and that she would be advised further as soon as appointments had been made.	
7.	<u>Road Safety</u> Station Road – Quotation had been received and was the subject of an application to SCCT Lamp post – open wiring - also included in HC email Responses to the 20mph questionnaire have been submitted to the Highland Council via Ken Gowans.	
8.	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> There were 2 applications considered, both applications by SCC: - For £1000 to fund 50% of the repairs to the walls at Dalarossie Church - Approved - For £1464.70 for undertaking re-surfacing and drainage work on Station Road. It was noted that Duncan Bryden (DB) had drafted a specification for the work against which bids had been received. It was also noted that this work was essential for safety reasons – this being a route to school being used by school children - Approved Action: Applications to be forwarded to the Trust	SF SF
9.	<u>Planning Matters</u> Duncan Bryden (DB) kindly presented an overview of planning matters in the area: One new application has appeared on the HC planning portal – this being for the Highland Wind Farm (Dalmigvie Estate). It was noted that approval would be a Scottish Government decision. JD encouraged all residents with a particular interest to make comment to HC in order that local interest is recorded.	

	JD noted from his Community Council Forum meeting (see below at Item 14) that a public consultation is currently being undertaken by HC on local development plans. The work is looking at communities to develop and submit Local Place Plans (LPP) to be incorporated within the update of the Moray and District Local Development Plan. Submission should be made by September 2024. DB noted that several communities had developed LPP(s) and templates for such plans were available but thought that, at this late stage, Strathdearn were probably not in a position to produce an area specific LPP. It was decided that there might be a need to work with SCD on this matter. Action:- BM to pursue with SCD and DB Development at old school house Raigbeg (from minutes of March 12th 2024) Action:- BM will meet with Duncan Bryden to discuss a response to the planning application for housing by the old school	DB / BM DB/BM
10.	<u>Windfarms</u> Lynne Mhor Windfarm developers are to give a presentation to the next SCC meeting on the 14th May 2024	
11.	<u>Update from SCD</u> A short update from SCD was read out to the meeting, noting:- • SCD / WRT preparing to interview personnel for the operation of the shop and café; • Solar panels on Hall and Café now installed and operational; • Legal matters just about concluded in respect of Hazelbank wood acquisition ; • EGM is to be held shortly to discuss the option to purchase Dalarossie Church and the Hazelbank woodlands.	
12	<u>Correspondence</u> • Letter received from a Moy resident regarding the installation of a locked gate preventing public access to track to Moy Church. Action:- Speak to HC Access Officer to check the legitimacy of the locked gate .	BM
13.	<u>Any other business</u> 1. JD gave a verbal report on the discussions at a recent Community Council Forum he attended on behalf of SCC. The following is a brief resume of the items discussed by the police attending the meeting:- i. “Shut out Scammers” initiative aimed at identifying scammers (cold callers) and how to combat them ii. Cycle protection – with the high level of cycle theft in the area marking bikes and locking them in a shed or outhouse is recommended iii. A motorcycle improvement scheme has been initiated by the police to help improve the level of competence of motor cyclists. The scheme will take the form of a classroom session followed by on the road with one of the police motorcycle police men. This is open to any motorcyclists. iv. Similarly a “new driver improvement scheme” is being run to help improve road safety and awareness to motorists. This is primarily targeted at young drivers but may be available to others. v. There are various other schemes targeted at helping the community in their protection and development	

	2. A request had been received from a member of the public regarding the boulders on the footpath outside the old shop (currently belonging to Mr M Mackay) – describing them as a “trip hazard” and asked if they could be removed. Action:- Contact to be made with Mr Mackay to discuss 3. It was noted that a vehicle had been “dumped” at the old station yard some months ago Action:- Visit the site to obtain information on the vehicle and report to HC 4. BM advised that Steve Cormack (SC) had been asked to add a Correspondence File to the Strathdearn community website so that all SCC correspondence could be viewed and commented on. 5. BM stated that there had been no postal delivery on Saturday 6th April 2024. She understood that this was due to a lack of manpower resources available by Royal Mail. This was felt to be unacceptable as the service had not undertaken their responsibilities to their customers. It was known that post was waiting to be delivered to the area. Action:- Contact Royal Mail and voice concerns on behalf of the community 6. BM raised a question about the new HC bus services in the village as a number of comments had been made in the community. MM advised that buses often came together – Stagecoach followed by a Council bus. Action: Request further feedback on this issue from the community	BM BM SC BM BM
14.	Date of future meeting- 14th May 2024 Meeting closed 8.55 pm	