



Strathdearn Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin, On 9 July 2024

Councillors Present:	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Chair Diane Buckle (DB) – Treasurer (by video) Councillor Duncan MacDonald (DMD)	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary Margaret Menzies (MM)
Also Attended by:	8 members of the public in person plus 7 attending through MS Teams	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions</u> The Chair welcomed everyone Apologies received from:- James Duncan, Mandy Ingram, Councillor Ken Gowans(KG), Councillor Duncan McPherson (DMP)	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None	
3	<u>Presentation by Galileo – Lynemore Wind Farm</u> Neil Thomson (Project Manager) and Cris Thacker, outlined the plans and proposed application for a windfarm at Lynemore. The presentation slides will be made available on the Community Website. Key points and responses to questions raised • Access has been discussed with Transport Scotland and will be off the A9 at the Lynebeg windfarm track • New turbines are less noisy than the older ones currently in place around Strathdearn:- such as Farr • The Community Wealth fund is split between Strathdearn and Strathnairn • REDS (residents Electricity Discount Scheme) is available – the operation of which is currently being discussed with Mark Brennan of Local Energy Scotland – it would become available from the start of operation of the windfarm • some of the benefit could be capitalised to enable the community to buy into shared ownership • the value of the windfarm at the point of operation is uncertain = NT to reply with possible figures but no guarantee due to energy price fluctuation • The Highland Council has now approved a Social Fund based on income from windfarm benefits to spread the benefits across the region – this may make or break project viability • The Environmental Impact Analysis will include a carbon calculator across all the civils work • Lynemore will feed into Garbole Sub station – this will be subject to a separate application • These applications cannot be put forward at the same time because they are dependent on the National Grid and SSE infrastructure decisions • There will a final consultation event in Strathdearn in November	

	- Galileo have been in consultation with the other windfarm developers in the area in order to try to work together - Because of the height of turbines, there would be a 'sea of red lights' ? – there is now radar technology which can only switch light son when air traffic is nearby - Visibility from the A9 will be the greatest challenge to the developers – scoping has evolved due to input from Nature Scot and Highland Council submissions Actions: a copy of the presentation to be shared on the Community website	BM
4.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of 18 June 2024</u> No changes noted.	
	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> Minutes approved by BM and seconded by MM.	
5.	<u>Matters arising that are not considered elsewhere on the agenda</u> School Transport BM had walked with KG, Council officials and members of the community along the route considered to be safe. The adopted part of the road was recognised to be in poor shape and will be looked at again as a matter of priority. Actions:- Continue to be in touch with HC over this matter. War Memorial Fencing: The quote from Davy MacLean including VAT now totals £1436.40. An application to the SCCT will be made for this amount. Action Confirm arrangements for disposal of waste timber and concrete	BM BM
	Raigbeg Bridge - SCC continue to await response from HC. Other potholes – Glen Road – An email had been sent to John Taylor of the Roads dept who advised that the school transport provider has also highlighted concerns. This will now be made a priority. Action: Continue to Follow up with HC Windfarms - website and questionnaire The Questionnaire regarding the community's attitude towards the proposals for a number of windfarms in the area has now elicited 22 responses and several direct emails. The results so far show roughly 30% for and 60% against with many also requiring more information. The questionnaire web page will be redesigned to include the new Kyllachy windfarm. A further separate WindFarm web page to be made available on the Community website to provide background information and useful links for those interested in getting more information. Action Expand Questionnaire website page to include Kyllachy Design and implement new Windfarm webpage	BM JD SF /SC
5.	<u>Financial Report</u> The bank account currently stands at £502.52	

6.	<u>Law and Order</u> A new Police representative for Strathdearn has been appointed and has been in touch with the Community Council. Unfortunately, the Community Beats Team no longer attend Community Council meetings. This stopped about a year ago and instead a Newsletter is issued to all Community Councils. Action: Lack of mention of Strathdearn in the Newsletter to be raised at the next Community Council Forum	JD
7.	<u>Road Safety</u> Station Road No response yet from Network Rail concerning the state of Station Road as a Safe Route to School. MM had reported that a recent incident on her corner (Gate house Lodge to Tomatin House), when a cat was run over highlights the need for a slower speed limit on that stretch of road. DBryden advised that the new junction to the A9 may affect traffic speed in that area. Action: BM to speak to KG. A member of the public reported that an elderly gentleman was seen having trouble getting onto a bus with his mobility scooter at the A9 bus stop. This had been reported to The Highland Council. DMD asked for this to be copied to himself.	BM BM
8.	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> School Trips – Annualization of costs applied for - Approved Moy Fair – support for Local Crafters – Approved Sound Bath – further schedule of events – Approved Grass Verges cutting – Approved War Memorial Fencing – updated applications - Approved Applications will now be forwarded to the SCCT for their consideration	SF
9.	<u>Planning Matters</u> A net mast for the Clune wind farm anemometer has been applied for. This is a temporary structure. To be noted. - at end of back road to Slochd, on the right through gate, an outline planning application for holiday accommodation had been applied for.	
10.	<u>Windfarms</u> SF updated on the results of the windfarm questionnaire this month. A flurry of responses had been received after the last CC meeting. Responses now stand at 22 and several direct emails with some detailed feedback included. 22 % agreement and 78 % disagreement. A new questionnaire for Kyllachy is required and a new Windfarm web page is being developed to inform the community of new developments and the windfarm planning processes. Formation of the proposed Windfarm Advisory Group has been supported at a recent SCD meeting. Volunteers from the Community to sit on this group will be sought through self-nomination process. Important to get a balance of views on this group. A Terms of Reference is required. Highland Councillors have offered assistance with the setup of this group and its remit. News of this initiative will be shared in the upcoming Community Newsletter. A member of the public suggested that an independent person could be appointed to do the market research and prepare a suitable response to government and the Council. It is important that such a person would be seen as independent.	

	Action: Prepare an article for the next Newsletter	BM
11.	<u>Update from SCD</u> The Chair read out an update received from SCD Chair Stephen Knott. In summary: – • the work to upgrade the EV chargers is well under way • the purchase of Hazelbank Woods is progressing well and hope to complete early Autumn. • Affordable Housing project - currently securing the building warrant and establishing the likely project cost - the plan is to commence work in early 2025. • Dalarossie - communications continue with The Church of Scotland- a formal vote at an EGM will be required to finalise any purchase. • the shop and cafe are now open and being operated by the community • grass cut at the viaduct to provide outdoor grassy space for the kids, Highlife Highland to provide two weeks of activities for local children over the holidays • preparations for the end of Summer community party, Guy Fawkes night and Hogmanay are in hand. In addition: • DMD advised that Bosch bike battery chargers could be available free of charge if that would be of interest to SCD	
12	<u>Correspondence</u> 1) A9 Dualling Update received – the contract for the Tomatin to Moy section has been awarded to Balfour Beatty. Community benefit will be available from this work and SCD have put together a list of possible projects including: - Housing Site Clearance - Pavement work – main route through village - Fencing round toddlers playpark - Youth Team Social Club - Supporting Community Meetings - Verge clearing SCD will be asking for view of the Community on these projects – Transport Scotland have particular criteria that must be met. The selection of projects will be the responsibility of the Community Council based on input received. 2) Report of deformed barrier at Bridgend – Reported to The Highland Council 3) An email reporting that Squirrel Signs had been removed at south end of village. Action to replace them and concrete in place is in hand. 4) Email received re: Wrap Round After School Care not being available in the village. This was discussed by those present and the action taken in the past was explained and the difficulties encountered were detailed. The Highland Council are still looking for a contract to cover the remaining 1.5 hours at the end of the day – difficult to find a solution. SCD had also looked at this many times but a viable scheme could not be implemented with the numbers of children involved. 5) A consultation on Local Living in Highland has been shared on the community website 6) An update on Local Place Plans has also been received and will be shared.	BM

13.	<u>Any Other Competent Business</u> There will be no Community Council meeting in August.	
14.	Date of future meeting- 10th September 2024 The Meeting closed at 10.00 pm	