



Strathdearn

Minutes of the meeting held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin, On 8th October 2024

Councillors Present:	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Chair James Duncan (JD) Councillor Duncan McPherson (DMcP)	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary Margaret Menzies (MM)
Also Attended by:	15 members of the public in person plus 4 attending through MS Teams	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions</u> The Chair welcomed everyone Apologies received from:- Diane Buckle, Councillor Ken Gowans(KG), Councillor Duncan McDonald (DMD)	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Margaret Menzies re: Application for Senior Citizens Vouchers	
3.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of 8 July 2024</u> No changes noted.	
	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> Minutes approved by JD and seconded by BM.	
5.	<u>Matters arising that are not considered elsewhere on the agenda</u> School Transport - A member of the public advised that a minibus already comes to the village for school transport from certain areas and this has capacity to take more children. <u>Actions:-</u> Contact The Highland Council (THC) again with this information (KG and Depute Chief Executive Malcolm McLeod to be copied into this email) War Memorial Fencing: Work on this project will commence shortly.	BM
	Road Safety Raigbeg Bridge - Members of the public continued to raise concerns about the condition of this bridge. Although already reported it was agreed it should be brought to the attention of the council again as a matter of urgency citing its dangerous and hazardous condition. Action: Contact Senior Officers at THC to highlight these concerns Other potholes - Glen Road - Potholes on the Glen Road have been repaired. Verges - some visibility issues due to broom bushes not being cut back - Regarding the state of Station Road, Network Rail had offered to attend a CC meeting but did not respond to the Chairs invitation to this meeting	BM

5.	<u>Financial Report</u> The bank account stood at £982.88 on 22 July 2024	
6.	<u>Law and Order</u> JD presented his report from the last Community Councils Forum. Key points are:- • As a rural community our needs are different to those in urban areas - i.e affecting farmers and estate owners • There are 'Farm Watch' and 'Rural Watch' schemes operating in a similar way to 'Neighbourhood Watch' • Police now almost up to full strength • Police trying to enforce 20mph speed limits • Planning for dualling of A96 Inverness to Nain has been approved	
7.	<u>Road Safety</u> Station Road; see Matters arising There was some discussion on the subject of moving the bus stop to outside the Strathdearn, but no real opinion one way or another was noted. A member of the public reported that he had been in touch with the Council/Transport Scotland regarding recent near accidents and accidents on the A9 from the Slochd turning towards the dual carriageway start. A suggestion had been made by the road authority that hatching at the road centre was a possible solution.	
8.	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> Senior Citizens Vouchers - noted that vouchers now to be per person (previously per household) 65 or over. Total amount applied for maybe £12,000 depending on uptake. The Application was supported by the Community Council. The Application will now be forwarded to the SCCT for their consideration	SF
9.	<u>Planning Matters</u> To be noted - Kyllachy Windfarm scoping study had been decided on 23/9/24. Now awaiting formal Section 36 Planning application.	
10.	<u>Windfarms</u> • Formation of the proposed Windfarm Interim Advisory Group has been supported at a recent SCD meeting. Financial support to the group will also be available from SCD/WRT resources (meeting rooms etc). two volunteers from the Community have come forward. The group will now be formed and the Terms Of Reference finalised. The group will report back to SCC and an update on progress will be provided in the next Newsletter. The Group will be Chaired by Susan Falconer (SCC) - other members are Frank Roden (SCCT), Duncan Bryden (SCD). Confirmation from James Macpherson and Kenny Graham from the community is awaited. Actions • Arrange first meeting of the SWIAG • Prepare an article for the next Newsletter	SF BM

	• DMcP advised that at a recent Council meeting, two windfarm application has been considered but only one was supported. A map of the whole area had been provided showing windfarm development across the Highland region – a copy of this was provided to the CC. • A WindFarm coffee morning has been arranged by one of the Windfarm development companies as a drop in session across all the proposed Windfarms in Strathdearn. It is on 30th November at 12 noon in the Strathdearn. • JD highlighted the Highland Council Social Value Charter policy which proposes that £12,500 per MW benefit is reverted to the Council. A subsequent report (Biggar) has noted that the impact of this may be negative with some Windfarm developments becoming unviable. • A discussion on the disjoin between Section 36 and 37 planning applications continued with a suggestion that Windfarm companies should provide a map of proposed infrastructure requirements at an earlier stage. • The risks of Battery Storage and DC/AC conversion were also discussed. • The effects of flicker, flashing lights ,residence proximity to Windmills, noise, infrasound were discussed. • It was noted that an email had been received from Mr George Macleod suggesting that all interested parties (windfarm companies, MP's MSP's, Highland Councillors and Community Councillors) where their proposals can be discussed in one forum.	
11.	<u>Update from SCD</u> The Chair read out an update received from SCD Chair Stephen Knott on 8 September 2024 In summary: – • The end of summer events (Flower Show and Summer Party) went well with good participation from across the community • Hogmanay and Burns night tickets are now available and Fireworks Night planned for November • The solar panels on the hall and shop are operating well and e-chargers should be online shortly • Progress is expected on Dalarossie and Hazelbank soon • Work on a finance package to enable progress on the housing project is ongoing • £400 was raised for the Children's Entertainment Committee from the raffle held at The Flower Show	
12	<u>Correspondence</u> A list of all pertinent correspondence received by the CC from July - October is appended to this minute. Documents of public interest will be shared on the community website.	

		BM
13.	<u>Any Other Competent Business</u> • JD raised concerns from Moy residents on the operations to process construction waste at Dalmagarry Quarry. An invitation to Pat Munro to come to a CC meeting will be arranged • SF had put forward the idea of providing a skip to the community on a regular basis. This would help the community to dispose of unwanted items more easily. It was hoped that the community would assist those without transport to use the facility. The firm that operated the Aviemore Recycling Waste site (MacRitchie) is to be approached for help on this matter. • Last month an email had been received from a Moy resident on the subject of Winter Fuel payments and how this could be assisted from community funds. Frank Roden (SCCT) highlighted the existence of the Helping Hands Fund to assist in matters of need.. DMcP also advised of the Highland Council Heating Allowance available from the Common Good Fund. The possibility of Energy Company vouchers was discussed. This included a suggestion that the Council Tax system could be used to help more vulnerable people. The impact of this possible benefit needs to be explored with HMRC. • A member of the public asked if buses can be flagged down outwith designated stops – it was confirmed that this was at the discretion of the driver. • A question was raised over the notice on the new E chargers about length of stay and parking tickets being issued – this will be referred to SCD.	JD SF BM
14.	Date of future meeting- 12th November 2024 The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm	

Appendix - Correspondence received July- October 2024

Date Received	From	Topic and summary
17 July 2024	Community Council Support (acting for Jo Perry)	Consultation Event – Ecology Strategy for THC
17 July	CC Support	Confirmation of Grant for Strathdearn CC
19 July	CC Support	WEALTH Building Consultation for THC
23 July	CC Support	Support& Guidance Survey results
23 July	Tracey Urry THC	Reply from THC on school transport
24 July	Kenny Spinks	Nairnshire Local Place Plan
6 August	Cerys Russell	Wrap round care – continuing issue
6 August	CC Support	LPP online learning session on 22 August
7 August	SSEN	Road closures Flichity Bridge
8 August	CC Support	Highland Local Living and Place Consultation
8 August	Carol Masheter SSEN Abearder Wind Farm	Reminder about Community Benefit
10 August	Kenny Graham	WAG volunteer
13 August	Cerys Russell (copied in to her email to Strathdearn Primary)	Wrap round care – continuing issue
13 August	Erin Murchie	Farr wind farm – name change to Nadara
13 August	Community Beats	Newsletter
15 August	Erin Murchie - Nadara	Call for Projects
20 August	CC Support (Jo Perry)	THC - Workshop for Ecology Strategy
21 August	Cc Support (Jo Perry)	Ecology Strategy meeting recording
23 August	Pam Hardwick	Play park fencing
27 August	James Macpherson	Objection to Kylacchy Windfarm including maps etc
27 August	CC Support	UK Covid enquiry in Inverness
29 August	CC Support	Invitation to Community Wealth Building event
2 September	CC Support	Inverness leisure Centre Open day on 7/9
5 September	Balnespick Wind Farm	Coffee Morning on 30 th November
6 September	SSE	Flichity Bridge closures

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Date Received	From	Topic and summary
17 Sept 2024 & thereafter	Loch Kemp Storage Scheme	Planning Application consultation and updates
18 Sept	Community Support	Digital Switchover - flyer
19 Sept	Policy Unit - Highland Council	Community Councils Scheme Review - survey (until 14 November 2024)
24 Sept`	Town House	Remembrance Day Parade invitation
Sept 27 th	Scottish Minister for Climate Action (Alastair Allan)	Fuel Poverty Act - feedback and views (by 8/11/24)
Sept 28 th	Jimmy Duncan	Community Councils Forum Report
1 st Oct	Nadara	Student Support Scheme
2 nd Oct	George MacLeod	Request for meeting on Wind Farm proposals incl replies from James MacPherson and Elane MacLeod
3 rd Oct	Stratera	Loch Kemp Pumped Storage Hydro proposal Update (feedback for a month from 4/10)
3 rd Oct	Jimmy Duncan	Moy residents concerns on Dalmagarry Quarry and hogweed