



Strathdearn Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin, On 12th November 2024

Councillors Present:	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Chair Diane Buckle (DB) Councillor Duncan McPherson (DMcP)	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary (online)) Margaret Menzies (MM)
Also Attended by:	18 members of the public in person plus 1 attending through MS Teams	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions</u> The Chair welcomed everyone Apologies received from:- James Duncan, Councillor Ken Gowans(KG), Councillor Duncan McDonald (DMD)	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None	
3.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of 8 July 2024</u> No changes noted.	
	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> Minutes approved by MM and seconded by BM.	
4	<u>Presentation – Balfour Beatty</u> Duncan Gardner – Liaison Officer with Balfour Beatty, spoke to the meeting about the upcoming Dualling works on the A9 Tomatin to Moy section. In summary:- • A further consultation event will be held at the Strathdearn on Tuesday 19th November where more detail on the planned works will be available • Questions received from the floor included which section would be the first to start? are there any changes to the original plans? when will the construction drawings be available? Will there be delays which could affect businesses in the area? • DG re-iterated that the event next week would provide more detail on these and other items • Delays would be kept to a minimum with traffic lights only operating when required • School Visits are also planned A contact number for DG will be sent to BM for any further questions etc into the future. BM thanked Mr Gardner for his attendance.	
5.	<u>Matters arising that are not considered elsewhere on the agenda</u> War Memorial - the fencing has been completed and the old panels removed. A member of the public reported that the light shining on the memorial was not working. This will be reported to the Highland Council – Action - BM	BM

	School Transport - There has been no further response from THC to BM's latest email regarding the use of excess capacity on the existing school buses. Raigbeg Bridge – There has been no response to BM's urgent email regarding the condition of Raigbeg Bridge. Councillor DmcP to take this up with The Highland Council. Station Road – there has been no further response from Network Rail regarding attendance at a CC meeting to discuss the upgrade of this road. Actions:- Continue to follow up these matters with the relevant authorities. Mobile Phone Signal – problems with the O2 and certain other providers signal have been ongoing despite many residents reporting this to their providers. The Chair of the Community Council has now reported the issue to OFCOM the telecommunications regulator but is still awaiting a response. The problems have also been reported to the Inverness Courier to gain publicity for this problem as elderly folk rely on the signal for some emergency devices to work. DMcP suggested that a FOI request be made to the providers to establish the outages in the area over recent times. This will provide evidence of the problem and may lead to compensation claims being possible. Action: BM to keep the community updated on any action or response received	DMcP BM BM
6	<u>Road Safety</u> Verges – the road verges through the village have been tidied up Old Mill Road – the Gritting/ Snow Clearing vehicles do not continue the full length of Old Mill Road causing problems for residents at the far end during winter weather. It has been established that the maps the council workers are given are out of date with the road now extending further.	
7.	<u>Financial Report</u> The bank account stood at £992.88 on 30 October 2024	
8.	<u>Law and Order</u> No update or newsletter received from Community Beats.	
9	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> - Snow Clearing 24/25 - £7500 – supported. - Xmas Tree Lights - £180 – supported - Pedlars Book – Steve Cormack - £250 – supported - Karate Classes - £1782 – after some discussion this application was deferred for further information to be sought before a decision to support is made by the Community Council. The Applications will now be forwarded to the SCCT for their consideration	SF
10	<u>Planning Matters</u> No update	

11.	<u>Windfarms</u> A report from the recently formed Strathdearn Windfarm Interim Group (SWIAG) was presented by Susan Falconer. • The Terms of Reference for the Group's activities and objectives has been finalised. The TOR was outlined and approved by the Community Council • The group has meet twice and will do so again in December • The Group is being chaired by Susan Falconer, with Duncan Bryden as SCD representative, Frank Roden as SCCT representative. Three members of the public are also members – James Macpherson, George Mcleod. And Kenny Graham. • Data gathered from the Community Consultation over the summer is being analysed and will used to inform and support any response to Windfarm Section 36 Applications • A spreadsheet listing the windfarm applications in detail is being completed to provide an overall view of proposals • Applications and proposals are being monitored and material planning considerations will be used to formulate any response to the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government once applications are submitted by the windfarm companies • SSEN has started the Consultation process regarding upcoming section 37 Applications to the ECU for an extension to Garbole substation and connections to the Grid for Highland Windfarm • The Group will be seeking support and funding to employ a consultant to assist with the analysis and reporting aspect of this work, in order to provide a professional response to these developments in Strathdearn Action: Continue to undertake activities as agreed in the TOR and report back to the SCC	SF
12.	<u>Update from SCD</u> No update had been received this month. General updates from SCD are shared widely and regularly in the community.	
13	<u>Correspondence</u> • SCC had been advised via Duncan Bryden that funding to help provide resilience measures communities maybe available from THC. There followed some discussion on resiliency measures which may be appropriate – whether they be for folks stuck at home (comfort packages) or use of the Strathdearn Hub's facilities. • A Fuel Poverty Awareness session had been attended by JD – a report from that to follow. • An email from Dalmagarry Quarry Manager indicated willingness to attend a Council meeting but requested further detail on resident concerns - JD to report back on this • An email had been received from local resident Jillian Ferguson, offering suggestions for use of Community Benefit which may be on offer from Balfour Beatty. Ms Ferguson also offered support and advice on negotiating such benefits for the community. A comprehensive list of ideas was put forward which will be considered. In particular ownership of the land where the recycling bins stand is uncertain – DMcP suggested contacting Hall Neven Legal manager at The Highland Council to investigate further.	JD JD BM

	• In relation to the above BM asked the meeting for any ideas they wished to put forward suggestions included a Football Pitch, Road Planings being made available at a discount, chipped wood or cuttings being made available, improvements on Station Road • A request had been received from Aberarder Windfarm to discuss community benefit Strathdearn – a meeting is to be arranged and then further discussion will commence with S and SCCT Documents of public interest will be shared on the community website.	
14.	<u>Any Other Competent Business</u> • Progress on the previous request to erect fencing around the children's play park was raised –BM replied it was currently in progress • DMcP asked if there was a planned Christmas Fayre at the Distillery as in previous years. The Community Christmas Market is on 23 November at The Strathdearn DMcP to share this information • A request for better food options after the fireworks display was made	BM
14.	Date of future meeting- 10th December 2024 The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm	