



Strathdearn Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin, On 11th February 2025

Councillors Present:	Barbara MacAskill (BM) Chair Diane Buckle (DB) James Duncan Councillor Duncan MacDonald (DMcD	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary Margaret Menzies (MM) Councillor Ken Gowans (KG)
Also Attended by:	10 members of the public in person 2 members of the public online thru MS Teams	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions</u> The Chair welcomed everyone Apologies received from:- Councillor Duncan McPherson	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None	
3.	<u>Balfour Beatty Update</u> Duncan Gardner, Murray Innes and Jamie Murphy presented an update from the Balfour Beatty A9 Dualling Tomatin to Moy Team. Main points noted :- - Progress to date – sites clearance for temporary offices at Dalmagarry - Design for traffic management has been completed - Site access and utility diversions also undertaken - Overnight traffic restrictions start on 24/2/2025 at Ruthven Road 40mph limit implemented on 10/3/2025 until 2028 with convoy system overnight - A temporary roundabout at Invereen will be built to allow site access - Meet the contractor appointments will be available online Some points noted from the public attending:- - Cycle track in poor shape – to be rerouted across A9 at Dalmagarry – could be dangerous - Will delay times need to be factored in to journey times? – model shows 6 mins for cars and 4 mins for trucks - Is roundabout going to be lit? - Tomatin junction easily missed now – could it be lit ? - Speed limit on Moy Rd to be reduced now to 40mph - DG to respond to these queries via BM A copy of the presentation slides will be sent to BM	BM
4.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2024</u> No changes noted. Minutes approved by DB and seconded by BM.	

5.	<u>Matters arising that are not considered elsewhere on the agenda</u> War Memorial – faulty light - no update from The Highland Council School Transport - BM stated that a line will now be drawn under this issue. No further action. Raigbeg Bridge –DMCP was going to check further on this matter with the Bridges and Structures Team. DMcP not present so no update received. O2 Mobile Phone Signal – Had been unavailable but back on again. <u>Snow Clearing</u> An Emergency Team had been called in to perform this task during the recent heavy snowfall. However there had been damage to Old Mill Road and Mill View and the car park where potholes had been lifted. BM to contact the contractors. BM has appealed for new snow clearers and will endeavour to get a new team in place for next year. <u>Actions:-</u> Continue to follow up these matters with the relevant authorities.	DMcP BM
6	<u>Road Safety</u> A member of the public had previously highlighted the problem of leaves on the road through the village choking the drains. An email has been sent regarding this issue. A sweep has been done recently but may need to be repeated. KG advised that the previous minute was incorrect and the consultation on 20mph limits was still ongoing. KG also advised of the Scottish Government consultation on National Speed limits on single carriageway roads. (60mph → 50mph for cars and 40mph→50mph for trucks). The Highland Council have responded suggesting the 60mph not be changed – they can vary on certain stretches of road if required.	
7.	<u>Financial Report</u> The bank account stood at £1140.13 on 19 December 2024	
8.	<u>Law and Order</u> The Community Beats Newsletter has been received (11/2) advising that Police will not attend any Community Council meetings. Any police matters to be emailed.	
9	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> An Application from Mr Alan Hardwick concerning the Tomatin Flower Project was discussed and supported. Amount £200.	
10	<u>Planning Matters</u> Nothing to report.	
11.	<u>Windfarms</u> Carole Masheter from SSE joined the meeting to discuss Community Benefit from Aberdarder Wind Farm. As follows:- - Construction has started so benefit funds are already accruing - Fund is shared with Stratherrick and Strathnairn	

	• A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needs to be in place so that funds can be distributed according to Community Council instruction • At present £2500 per megawatt (p/m) goes to the CC's and £2500 p/m into a managed regional fund which can be applied to =- this was questioned as previous windfarm benefit have been £5000 to the community. KG asked if SSE was considering the recent initiative from Highland Council – Social Value Charter- CM replied it was being considered – but extra amount could compromise projects viability, • CM stated that an Local Electricity discount scheme was not available • The benefits are linked to RPI and are lifetime of the windfarm, not just 25 years BM thanked CM for her attendance and would be in touch for a first meeting on this matter. An online poll would be undertaken to establish community priorities followed by a meeting with SCD and SCCT to take this forward A report from the Strathearn Windfarm Interim Advisory Group (SWIAG) was presented by Susan Falconer. • The group has met again in December and January • A Consultant was appointed in January to assist with preparation of a spreadsheet and maps listing the windfarm applications in detail. His report has been completed and provides an overall view of all the developments including infrastructure proposals. It also presents the community survey results. A number of conclusions and i recommendations are noted within the report. • It is the intention to share the report firstly with the Community Council and then the entire community of Strathearn. • The Group is pleased to report such good progress and wishes the Community Council to approve payment of the Consultant who has completed his work on time and within budget. • The Group is meeting tomorrow Wed 12th February to further discuss the Conclusions and Recommendations and to decide next steps. • There has been one Section 36 Application now submitted which is Balnespick. The submission is currently being vetted by the Energy Consents Unit but will available to the public and ourselves shortly. Fred Olsen, the development company has requested a meeting with the Community Council and/or Windfarm Group to share details and answer any questions. Action: Continue to undertake activities as agreed in the TOR and report back to the SCC	BM SF
12.	<u>SCD Update</u> None received	
13	<u>Correspondence</u> • Documents of public interest will be shared on the community website.	
14.	<u>Any Other Competent Business</u> JD raised the matter of water quality being affected again with chlorine levels being noticeable.	
15.	Date of future meeting- 11th March 2025 The Meeting closed at 9.10 pm	