



Councillors Present:	James Duncan (JD) Chair Diane Buckle (DB) - Treasurer	Susan Falconer (SF) – Secretary Margaret Menzies (MM) - Member
Also Attended by:	8 members of the public Duncan MacDonald (DMacD) – Highland Councillor	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1.	<u>Introductions</u> The Chair welcomed everyone Apologies were presented from:- Ken Gowans (KG) – Highland Councillor	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None	
3.	<u>Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of</u> Corrections noted :- - Spelling of Ken Gowans under Apologies - Spelling of therefore under Declarations of Interest	
4.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> Minutes approved by MM and seconded by DB	
5.	<u>Matters arising that are not considered elsewhere on the agenda</u> (a) MM noted that the litter bin in the layby between the Tomatin Distillery and the A9 junction had been removed by Highland Council and not replaced – causing a litter problem. <u>Action</u> – Details to be provided to DMacD who would follow up with HC (b) MM noted that plastic sheeting had blown on to a tree beside the aforesaid lay-by and was unsightly. <u>Action</u> - Establish ownership of land and tree and notify (c) SF stated that it had previously been suggested that a Minutes Secretary be employed due to the shortage of SCC members. However, after discussions it was decided to make interim arrangements for minute taking until the SCC AGM. Hopefully at that time SCC membership will increase and there will be no need to employ anyone. No action required	JD MM

6.	<u>Financial Report</u> DB reported that the bank balance was £1066 -39	
7.	<u>Law and Order</u> JD had been in contact with the police and was advised that, due to a shortage of personnel, priority for policing was being given to the urban areas. There was therefore no permanent rural area police presence dedicated to Strathdearn. JD noted that there had been incidents of theft of heating oil and bicycle components within the area, however he was unsure that they had been reported to the police. JD suggested that the community were advised that there is a need to be vigilant.	
8.	<u>Road Safety</u> A member of the public asked if any progress had been made regarding the potholes in Old Mill Road Tomatin. Members of the community had unsuccessfully approached two local businesses who had operated in the area requesting them to undertake the repairs at their own expense. JD considered that was incorrect and that he understood that Old Mill Road had been publicly adopted by the HC and consequently it was their responsibility to undertake repairs. <u>Action</u> – details of the problem is to be provided to DMacD – he would contact the appropriate person within the Roads Department and report back.	JD
9.	<u>Applications to the Trust</u> One application was received from Lorraine MacDonald for £1000 to enable her to attend Camp America in Yosemite where she would be working with people with special needs. Lorraine agreed to give a presentation to the SCC upon her return. <u>Action</u> – The SCC considered that this was a good cause that met with the charitable requirements and agreed that a recommendation to the SSCT for the award.	SF
10.	<u>Planning Matters</u> Duncan Bryden advised the meeting that there were two sets of planning applications that should be brought to the attention of the Strathdearn Community, namely:- (a) Three (3) Peatland restoration projects were planned. The work was aimed at employing preventative works to stop the erosion of peatland thereby providing a level of flood protection and contributing carbon capture facilities assisting the Scottish Government in tackling the requirements of their zero carbon policy. (b) A planning application has been made by Pat Munro Ltd to increase the stone abstraction from Dalmagarry Quarry to 400,000 Tonnes/year. The purpose of the increased output is to meet with the construction demands of the new A9 roadworks. There would be no change to the restrictions currently in place regarding working hours. <u>No action required for either of these planning applications</u>	
11.	<u>Windfarms</u> SF provided an update on progress from SWIAG as follows:- • A SWIAG meeting had been held;	

	• A letter had been sent to each household in the Strathdearn area advising them that a survey was being held into the collective community thoughts on the proposed six windfarm developments; • The Windfarm survey was launched on the 18th March 25 with a closing date of the 10th April 25; • SWIAG has re-engaged a Consultant (William Gilfillan) to analyse the survey results and draft an initial submission to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) on the community comments on each of the individual proposed development(s) and the concerns of the collective impact should they all proceed; • To date there have been over 150 responses to the survey – overall a significant result given the size of the community; • SWIAG members will be present at the Strathdearn Spring Fayre to discuss actions or provide further information to any member of the community; • SF stressed that the survey will provide an evidenced based opinion of the overall community view(s) on the proposed development. However she encouraged any individual with specific concerns or praise for the proposals to make representation to the ECU directly themselves. Duncan Bryden urged everyone to engage with the survey and stated that at present only the Section 36 planning applications were coming forward – these are for the windfarms construction only. A further set of Section 37 planning applications will be lodged for each windfarm to enable the construction of the associated infrastructure (pylons, cables, switching stations, etc.). <u>Actions:-</u> (a) SWIAG will continue work with the consultant closing the survey, analysing the results and developing responses to each planning application; (b) The SCC are to invite the local MSP and MP to attend a meeting of SWIAG and the community to discuss the results of the survey and seek their support in addressing the community requirements as defined from the survey results; (c) SF will report back to the next SCC meeting on the survey results and ECU representation; (d) SWIAG will continue to provide updates on progress on the Community website – including providing information on the planning consultation dates.	SF JD/ SF SF SF
12.	<u>Update from SCD</u> Duncan Bryden updated the meeting on:- • The new Chairman of the SCD being Graeme Ferguson; • The low cost housing development has commenced construction; • The purchase of the Hazel bank wood has been further delayed over a technicality, but it is progressing	
13	<u>Correspondence</u> (a) The Community Council Newsletter has been received and will be posted on the Community Website; (b) Helen Bailey (HB) had contacted the SCC regarding the need for Local Place Development Plans (LPDP). These had been previously discussed at the SCC meetings but had been shelved due to pressures from other commitments. Until recently HB had been working with HC on	SF

	the development of LPDP and offered to attend a SCC meeting to discuss the requirements. JD noted that the SCC had a Community development Plan which had been established in 2021 with a 5 year horizon, this may assist in the production of a Local Place Development Plan. During discussions it was noted that the Local Place Development Plans when ratified by HC would become statutory documents and be incorporated into the greater Highland Wide Development Plan (HWDP). DMacD stressed the importance of the LPDP as a statutory document as it places conditions on the Planning process as it supports the community views on local development – it is therefore essential that the SCC engage in developing the Strathdearn Local Place Plan. A member of the public enquired about funding available to support community councils in the development of LPP's. DMacD offered to establish if any funding was available from the Council or other sources. Action:- SCC to invite HB to attend a meeting and provide information on developing a LPDP It was noted that the HWDP consultation has been extended until 2nd May 25	JD
14.	<u>Any other business</u> 1 - Following the discussion on the LPDP, members of the public asked why planning permission changes could be permitted without community consultation. Specifically there were challenges as to why the developer of the Mill View housing was permitted to remove the specific planning condition to build a public house, etc. It was generally considered by the public that there was a legal requirement to provide the community with an amenity. The removal of the condition appears to have been undertaken without public consultation and permission has now been granted. Members of the public present at the meeting felt that while there was no longer had a legal responsibility to construct the pub / café, the developer should honour the commitment to the community. <u>Actions:-</u> (a) The HC Planning Dept should be questioned as to why the condition removal was not considered a material change and consequently had been removed without public consultation. 2 – Work on the timber harvest from Glen Kirk Wood had recommenced. The abstraction of the timber using road haulage using the Balvraid Road would commence at the beginning of May 2025. Road users were advised to take care over the coming months when using that road 3 – The next Community Newsletter is to be issued on the 6th May 2025. Anyone with an article should submit it to Denise Barley by the 28th April 2025	JD/DMcD
15.	Date of next meeting – 13th May 2025 Meeting closed 9.00 pm	