



Strathdearn Community Council

Minutes from meeting held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin, Tuesday 10th February 2026

Councillors Present:	Susan Falconer (SF) Hannah Yarr (HY) Margaret Menzies (MM) George Mcleod (GM) Kevin McKnight (KMCK)	Chairperson (attended online) Secretary Treasurer Member (Chair of meeting) Member
Also Attended by:	Councillor Duncan McDonald (DMcD) 3 representatives of Balfour Beatty (BB) 3 representatives of Transport Scotland (TS) 2 representatives of Stagecoach (SC) 20 members of the public	Councillor - Highland Council

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1	<u>Apologies</u> Councillor Duncan Macpherson (DMacp) Councillor Ken Gowans (KG)	
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> There were no declarations of interest	
3	<u>Presentation by Balfour Beatty (BB)</u> Updates were provide from previous meeting: • Dalmagarry Burn incident- SEPA investigation ongoing and once finished it will be published • Café and shop signage- Will be installed at the new junction in February • ‘Welcome to Tomatin’ sign- Will be installed in the same location as the above, potentially the week after as it needs to be moved from its currently location • Lighting – A written response was provided by BB ahead of the meeting, this has been posted to the Community Facebook page ○ GM asked BB to confirm that once the new junction opens, a further survey would take place to ensure current assumptions/findings are correct. BB confirmed this would be the case, by an independent auditor in day and night conditions ○ A member of the public raised ongoing concern regarding the lack of lighting ○ GM raised a question as to why the independent auditor had not engaged the community to date, and BB confirmed this isn’t standard practice, as the audit is done against the safety of a traffic management plan. The design of the junction would have been subject to wider consultation as per BB contract, including the bus companies	

	Concern has been raised northbound services. They have been able to look at their network and are now able to service Tomatin with 3 services north, and 3 services south Monday to Saturday. The community is encouraged to use the service to ensure it can continue long term. Feedback was raised about working people needing different bus times, and SC asked for the impact to be quantified. SC committed to ask about commuter friendly times, for example Inverness and Aviemore by 9am. Community Council to consider (potentially via a survey) what demand would be if bus times did change to support the conversation/review in line with the Local Place Plan Southend of the village should be a request service (hail and ride). SC committed to look at this in case there were any issues Concern was raised over how long a “test” period would be on these services, whilst low passenger numbers improved whilst people gain confidence in the reliability of the service. SC said they were unable to answer at this stage but asked for more input on whether the service is current unreliable. It is recommended the public download the stagecoach app for real time updates It is important to note that Ember is a request only service. The Community Council will create a poster on Facebook page and on the notice boards.	SC GM SC
5	Minutes of the Meeting of the 9th December 2025 No changes were indicated. The minutes were proposed by MM and seconded by HY.	
6	Matters arising from minutes (but not covered elsewhere within the agenda) • Point 6 - Timber abstraction from Glen Kirk forestry – No further update, awaiting an updated Transport Management Plan. GM will follow up and invite to the next Community Council meeting	GM
7	Financial Report MM stated that the SCC had £1,448.78 in their bank account. Newsletter subs and adverts need to be aligned. MM to share information with Denise and discuss the latest update on internet banking.	MM
8	Law and Order No update	
9	Road Safety. • A member of the public raised concerns over a metal sign opposite Mill View as it looks like it could fall over. GM asked DMcD to raise this with the council • Raigbeg Bridge safety – Action outstanding with Ken Gowans, will follow up ahead of the next meeting. • Fallen trees adjacent to A9 – Action outstanding with Ken Gowans, will follow up ahead of the next meeting. • Moy path alongside old A9 – SCD are looking into this, and a document for tender has been prepared • Snow clearing- SF and Diane has taken the appointed contractor through the contract again to ensure everything is clear on responsibilities	DMcD
10	Applications to the Trust P7's prepared a statement as a thank you, and overall update on how the money was used for the recent event, using trust application funds.	

	Tomatin entertainments committee- Retrospective application to top up on funds on events from last year. Total amount was £1,846 and was approved.	
11	<u>Planning Matters</u> No new planning issues	
12	<u>Local Place Plans (LPP) and Community Action Plan (CAP)</u> Helen Bailey (HB) updated the meeting on progress since the last meeting. Notably:- - Survey currently live and the information collected will be used to inform proposals. Once these have been pulled together, the community can input into these before they are submitted to the council. - Highland Council have amended their LPP deadline. If we can submit before the end of September, it will be taken into consideration from the outset. 5 more drop in's throughout February	
11	<u>Windfarms – Progress from SWIAG</u> - Glenkirk and Glenmarkie survey was out, in total 50 responses were collected. - William (our consultant) is pulling together the results and this will be published back to the community to allow us to then respond to the energy consent unit - No response from the energy consent unit on any other matter - GM has written to all developers to understand what they have available regarding energy discount schemes (LEDS). RES windfarm (Clune) confirmed this could happen, another responded this wasn't possible and only money would be given. Awaiting other responses. - RES have a system set up to administrate their LEDS scheme - this can also be used by third parties/other developers to provide such benefit to the community, should we go down this route - Recently, the civil aviation have objected to a proposal to increase the height on one of the windfarms, however some of the applications are coming in higher than this proposal	
12	<u>Update from SCD</u> Updates were provided by GM, summarised as follows: - Housing is progressing. The letting agent will have selected by the end of March those that have qualified (target date) - Hazel bank woods purchase now completed, including the land between Distillery Wood and the Allt na Crath burn - Care in the community – both providers contacted are unable to commit to proposals at the moment, due to issues with NHS Highland agreement - Afterschool care- Costs have been provided by High Life Highland. Model similar to Milton of Leys where parents would pay £13.10 3pm-6pm or £5 per hour. Total cost of the service could reach £45k, however if you had 12 children attending 5 days a week for 3 hours, the service would break even. - AGM- SCD stated they wouldn't be taking on any further projects. However, but this was explained that it did not mean if an important issue arises or community need this would be considered. The SCD budget would need to be negotiated to ensure longevity.	
13	<u>Correspondence</u> The secretary and chair noted that a number of pieces of correspondence had been received across the 2 month time period. Facebook has been updated accordingly to keep the community engaged. However, the follow items warranted discussion:- Budget challenge session with Highland Council- £40m funding gap SF raised, alongside others, that we felt we didn't get basic services currently. It was a good session, and was helpful to	

	provide insight that it isn't always the big projects people focus on, it's the day to day foundational services that are important to communities. - Findhorn, Lossie and Nairn river trust workshop- They are interested in forming a relationship with the Community council and SCD on the river catchment they cover. Looking for joint initiatives and potentially joint funding. Waiting for them to confirm back on their understanding and will share more information as it comes through - Bottle bank overflowing- SF and Ken Gowans worked to have this clear, and have also contacted the textile company too - Flood management plan- We were engaged, however no major risks in Strathdearn so we didn't need to take part in the wider consultation - Damage to grit bin and bollard at the end of Old Mill Road has been reported. During the meeting it was confirmed this had been completed.	
14	<u>Any other business</u> - Defibs- KMCK has recently taken over the defib project. One has since been installed in Moy. Two have arrived at the Hub and waiting to be installed. 'Making defibs safe' has been shared with KMCK and Diane. - Question raised by the public was how many defibs we have in the area. Potential opportunities to understand from the public where defibs are required and a map to show where these are once installed. Consideration about the defib app on locations could be used. - KMCK is now our SCD representative from the SCC.	
15	Date of future meetings – 10th March 2026 Meeting closed 8.50pm	