



Strathdearn Community Council

Minutes of the SCC Meeting Held in The Strathdearn, Tomatin, on 9th June 2026

Councillors Present:	Susan Falconer (SF) - Chair Margaret Menzies (MM) - Treasurer Kevin McKnight (KMCK) – Member	Hannah Yarr (HY) – Secretary George McLeod (GM) – Member
Also Attended by:	14 members of the public (including 1 on-line) Duncan MacDonald (DMacD) – Highland Councillor Duncan MacPherson (DMacP) – Highland Councillor	

Item Ref	Details	Action By
1	<u>Apologies</u> None	
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None were declared	
3	<u>Minutes of the SCC meeting of the 12th May 2026</u> Following a page turn, the minutes were agreed as being a fair representation with no corrections required. Minutes were proposed by SF Minutes seconded by MM	
4	<u>Minutes of the SCC Meeting of the 12th May 2026</u> There were no matters arising from the minute of the SCC meeting of the 12 th May 2026 that are not covered elsewhere within the agenda	
5	<u>Financial Report</u> MM reported that on the 21 st May 2026 there was £1,234.84 in the bank. Since establishing the need for SCC to have public sector liability and legal insurance, SF had contacted the previous insurance company (Zurich) and negotiated a reinstatement of the previous policy. The policy had lapsed due to changes in the SCC office bearers.	
6	<u>Law and Order</u> (i) A copy of the police community beats newsletter for May was received and posted on the web page. (ii) SF reported that Strathnairn have had a visit from the police – a “Coffee with a Cop” session for informative discussion with members of the community to talk over concerns and provide security advice. She considered that a similar session would be of benefit in Strathdearn. Following discussion, it was decided that a session should be organised for Autumn 2026.	Done SF
7	<u>Road Safety</u> (1) To date no reply has been received from Balfour Beatty (BB) with regard to concerns over the new Tomatin road junction safety audit of the A9 road works. GM stated that, despite making contact with BB on two separate occasions – both BB and Transport Scotland were silent on	

	the concerns. Consequently, GM suggested that they were not interested in making any changes. (2) The Park and Ride bus shelter and bike storage unit is currently going through the planning process. GM suggested that the consultation period is nearing completion after which the HC can use delegated powers to give planning permission to proceed. Final discussion with Tomatin Estates (as landowner) will be required to enable construction to commence. It was noted that the “on demand” bus service is working well and used regularly by locals. (3) GM also mentioned that he had been in contact with Sustrans regarding the national cycle network along the old A9. However, there is a lack of recognition by them on ensuring the cycle route is maintained; even though it is central to maintaining cycling tourism in the area. GM continues to pursue this issue. (4) Raigbeg Bridge – no response has been received from HC since the submission of the concern relating to the structural condition of the structure. DMcP suggested contacting the new HC Roads area manager to push the matter. Contact info was provided. (5) Station Road – Network Rail (NR) has confirmed that they own the road and that remedial work is currently on their programme for upgrade. GM has been in contact with NR and has suggested that the stockpile of road plaining material (owned by the community) can be used free of charge for the remedial works. (6) BEAR (Scotland) had been in contact with SCC seeking permission to use the land adjacent to the Bottle Bank as a site compound for work associated with the A9 maintenance work. As this area owned by Tomatin Estates and used as overflow car parking for the Strathdearn, GM had replied saying this was impractical. (7) As yet neither HC nor Transport Scotland have not provided any reply regarding the responsibility for fallen trees (on private land) adjacent to and consequential to the A9 road works. (8) Old Mill Road – despite the presence of council houses, HC have stated that they have no responsibility for maintenance of this road. However, they are currently given consideration to adopting this area and adding it to areas that are publicly maintainable. (9) At present timber extraction using the Balvraid road has not resumed. GM believes that HC are in discussion with the timber contractors to undertake road repairs prior to extraction re-commencing. (10) Further concerns were expressed with regard to the Glen Road. Photographs of a collapsed roadside barrier has been provided. SF will send to GM in order that he can pursue HC on repair and maintenance.	GM SF/GM
8	<u>Applications to the Strathdearn Community Charity Trust (SCCT)</u> SF stated that she had been in discussion with Frank Roden (FR), the Chair of the SCCT, regarding the application lodged for after school care at the meeting of the 12th May 2026. SF understood that the SCCT had turned down the application and asked FR to speak on the matter. FR stated that the SCCT had discussed the subject and felt that this application led to a significant departure on the spread of funding across the Strathdearn age groups. In addition, the allocation of £30,000 could compromise the SCCT funds and lead to them having to realise some of their investments. SF stated that to date no feedback had ever been received from the trust on the success or otherwise of applications. FR further indicated that, over the last few years, of up to 8% of all applications were rejected and that 65% of the SCCT budget was allocated to children’s activities. Whilst the information on this occasion was disappointing, she considered that such information should be made available to the SCC in order to “close the loop” and understand the outcome of every application. GM asked if this information was generally available on the minutes of the SCCT meetings. SF suggested that an agenda item should be included at each SCC meeting for the SCCT to report on the applications forwarded by the SCC. FR stated that the SSCT would be taking a closer look at all future applications to ensure that they were legitimate, were not retrospective	SF/FR

	and met with the charitable conditions. FR stated that it was the SCCT's aspiration that applications from groups within the community should be "self-regulating" in order that all age groups received an equal share of the charitable benefit available. DMcP reinforced that it had been proved that depopulation of rural communities was directly linked to the availability of afterschool care facilities and it was unfortunate that the SCCT had turned down the application. New Applications (a) Strathdearn Primary School Activities – This application, in the sum of £13,500, has historically been submitted on an annual basis to cover activities over the coming academic year. Questions over the 50% increase from last year were answered by members of the audience representing the School Council. DMcP stated that discount should be available using HC owned transport. The application was supported subject to the applicant making use of THC for transport discount and looking for other efficiencies. (b) Verge Cutting – the application, in the sum of £2040 for the coming year, is historically submitted every year. Following discussion the chair was asked to meet with the contactor to negotiate the price. It was noted that some areas do not require to be undertaken because of the A9 road work, the HC verge cutting policy, etc. DMcP suggest that the HC should be consulted as to why some areas of verge cutting are not being undertaking. If required HC should be asked to reimburse verge cutting costs incurred by the SCC. SF stated that the application should go forward for an indicative amount in order that the work can be undertaken in good time. SF indicated that, earlier that day, she had received an application from the Crafts People attending the Moy Fair. This application had not been submitted in time for discussion at this meeting but would be handled by circular. GM questioned whether the application should be included within the recent application by the Moy Fair organisers. The recommended removal of the transport requirement for local residents may provide sufficient funds to meet with the Crafts People requirements. FR indicated that, whilst the SCC had recommended the removal of the transport, the SCCT had processed the application including the sum for transport. GM requested information on the reason(s) for not following the SCC recommendation and a copy of the audit trail underpinning this decision – being a charity, SCCT were legally bound to document such decisions. A meeting is to be held to discuss this anomaly.	SF
9	Planning Matters • Local Place Plan – Helen Bailey (HB) advised the meeting that the draft Local Place Plan was currently out for community consultation. The Consultation period was due to close on the 12th June 2026. Thereafter it would be reviewed in line with any comments received and formally submitted to the HC. • Windfarms – SWIAG update – GM updated the meeting on situation with regard wind farm planning applications and Environmental Impact assessments. The group continue to meet on a regular basis and comment or contribute to discussions on the development – attending conferences, etc. GM also highlighted that 2027 will see the termination of the Farr Windfarm community benefit monies – this income is one of the main income streams for the SCCT. SF stated that there was generally a lack of understanding in the community of what income is being generated by windfarms and where it is being spent. SF therefore suggested that a Community meeting be organised to clarify income streams and expenditure. A meeting should be organised for Autumn 2026. GM highlighted that all planning applications lodged within the HC area attract a financial allocation of "Developer Contributions" aimed at the HC need to improve infrastructure and services to the development and community. Indeed SCD had to pay some £19,000 "Developer Contributions" for the social housing recently constructed. To date to improvements have been delivered to Strathdearn, the education provision or the service provision in the area; in fact	All SF/GM SF/GM

	several local service are funded directly by the community. DMcP suggested that an application be made to the HC for the cost associated with snow clearance, verge cutting, etc.	
10	<u>Update from Strathdearn Community Developments (SCD)</u> KMcK gave a brief resume of the recent SCD activities undertaken; these included:- • the opening of the affordable housing; • progressing the discussion with Highland Home Care for care in the community. Noting that at present there are 12 people in the village that are in need of care provision.; • Successful events held – Fun Run & Spring Market • Continuing to support Helen Bailey in her LPP work	
11	<u>Correspondence</u> In order that the community were aware of all communication received by the SCC, SF had decided to provide information on all correspondence on the Strathdearn website. SF stated that she was available for discussion should anyone wish to discuss any specific item.	
12	<u>AOCB</u> Over the past few weeks there had been a number of social media posts regarding the need for a “bike park” for the younger people within the community. SF had therefore advertised that a discussion slot would be available at the SCC meeting. Unfortunately no one was present to promote such discussion. The item was therefore closed but SCC were prepared to re-open discussion at a later date should there be a demand.	
13	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> SF noted that there will be no meeting in July 2026. The next meeting will be held on 11th August 2026	