

**STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**GENERAL MEETING NO. 207**

**FARR COMMUNITY HALL**

**MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2013**

**8.00 p.m.**

**DRAFT MINUTE**

**SCC Members Present**

Jennifer Stewart, James MacPherson, William MacQueen, Sally Moore, John Murray, Frances Matheson

**Highland Council Members Present**

David Haas, Cllr Ken Gowans,

**Present**

Darren Read, PC Matthew McCann

**Apologies**

Ewen Hardie, Paul Davies, Cllr Carolyn Caddick, Cllr Margaret Davidson, Cllr Helen Carmichael, Cllr Thomas Prag, Cllr Hamish Wood, Cllr Drew Hendry.

**Meeting Notes**

Chairperson, Jennifer Stewart (JS), provided all SCC members with a paper copy of the response letters received regarding the complaints made against Cllr Crawford and Charles Stephen. All SCC members were asked to read and return at the end of the meeting so that matters pertaining to individuals are kept confidential.

Action: JS to reprint for the next meeting as the ink levels on the copies made the letters difficult to read.

1. **Approval of Minute of 29 October 2012**

Proposed: John Murray

Seconded: James MacPherson

* 1. **Matters arising** 
     1. None

1. **Approval of Minute of 07 January 2013 (Special Meeting)**

Proposed: James MacPherson

Seconded: John Murray

* 1. **Matters arising**
     1. Page2, Q3, additional wording, see minutes. SM suggested that the SCC agree a process regarding speaking with the media at a future meeting.
     2. Re-order Q4

1. **Approval of Minute of 28 January 2013**

Proposed: Jennifer Stewart

Seconded: William MacQueen

* 1. **Matters arising** 
     1. 10 c – add ‘written comments’.
     2. 11 – add additional sentence, see Minute.
     3. 2a, question 5 – it was highlighted that JMP was notified on the 19 November re the change in meeting date who then confirmed to JS on the 21 November that WMQ had been informed. WMQ mentioned that he lost money as he had to change arrangements last minute. It was felt this was adequate notification to cancel the meeting.

1. **Financial Report (JMP)**

Bank balance as at 21 January 2013 was £2315.46.

Actual money pertaining to the SCC is £833.71 as:

* Unpresented cheques of £250.00 and £177.25 for JMP expenses (newsletter stamps and labels, and gift for Dave Rennie)
* £706 is Community Plan monies
* £348.50 Joan Myall bequest

We have received £173.00 from newsletter advertising. JMP reported that 2 cheques received last year (£238 and £63) were never presented to the bank resulting in a loss of revenue of £301.00.

Action: JMP to speak with Donald Longdon or Peter Christie from Strathnairn Community Woodlands group re Joan Myall bequest funds.

To save the SCC money each year, Stuart Paterson has kindly offered to act as an independent auditor to approve the accounts.

It was proposed that the secretary’s honorarium be increased to £500. It was agreed that this would be added as an agenda item for the next meeting. Added to the discussion may be the option to look into paying an external person to take minutes so that all CCllrs can take part in the meeting.

1. **Declaration of Interest**

None declared

1. **Community Policing Report**

Items to report:

* 18 Road traffic offences
* 20 pest control traps have gone missing on Farr Estate
* One sheep was killed and another badly injured on a farm at Daviot by a stray dog(s).
* Reports of damage to property and nuisance behaviour at Tomintoul house.

If anyone has any information on any of the issues above please contact your local police station on 01463 715555. PC McCann informed those present that this would be the last report as Northern Constabulary; all future reports will be from the Scottish Police Service.

Policing issues raised:

* There are visibility concerns, issues with overgrown trees and inappropriate position of signs, for drivers turning right onto the A9 from the Daviot East junction. Action: PC McCann to report the issue.
* Reports of lorries operating within Strathnairn without registration plates on the rear of the vehicle(s). Action: PC McCann to report.

1. **Planning update**
   1. Weekly planning documents reviewed: 01 Feb 2013; 08 Feb 2013; 15 Feb 2013; 22 Feb 2013. All relevant planning applications were discussed and no comments were made. The Highland Council members present did not take part in any planning discussions.
   2. It was agreed that JS would act as planning lead up to the next meeting. SCC members would like to receive the weekly planning lists again, action: JS.
   3. Planning regulations – SM gave a brief update on the new planning regulations in Scotland. Action: SM to update in full at a future SCC meeting.
2. **Roads Strategy Update**
   1. Concerns were raised with regards to the lack of gritting and snow clearing on the B9154 leading to Meallmore nursing home, particularly at the weekends (a bus service operates on a Saturday). Recently there was an accident on the road due to a car sliding on ice. Action: FM to write to John Taylor at TEC Services.
   2. B851 – JMP updated all present that the contractors working on the B851 road improvements have announced that they will try and minimise road closures. They expect to have only one major section of the B851 being worked on at any time, and expect the maximum stoppage time to be around 20-minutes where they are working. The next Dunmaglass liaison meeting is 04 April 2013, Farr hall.
   3. Concerns were raised again re the road condition outside Daviot rock Quarry i.e. pot holes. FM: to follow up with TEC services.
3. **Wind Farm Updates**
   1. Daviot – The appeal was thrown out by the Reporter who upheld almost all the Highland Council’s reasons for objecting the wind farm. It was noted that the Reporter also picked up on a few points that objectors had made, highlighting why it was useful for the community to also make objections. JS gave special thanks to Tony Kell for his work supporting the community with this project.
   2. Kyllachy – Expected date for submitting the planning application will be in Spring 2013. Community Liaison group meetings are not planned as yet.
   3. Moy – as agreed previously, SM worked with the community and submitted a letter on behalf of the SCC raising concerns on the proposed increase in turbine size at Moy wind farm. General concerns were over increased noise levels, greater potential for flicker, concerns over measurement work carried out previously. If any members of the community would like a copy of the letter submitted please contact Sally Moore directly.
4. **Community Plan**

No update given at this meeting. A concern was raised from one group member that a meeting of the group needs to take place so they can move forward. The SCC will look for an update at the next meeting.

1. **AOCB**
   1. Footpath damage at Inverarnie – two fire-hydrants in a footpath at Inverarnie are at different levels causing a tripping hazard for residents using the path. Action: FM to write to TEC Services.
   2. Bus shelter in Farr – it was agreed that there is still a need for the bus shelter in Farr and the community would like it to be replaced rather than be removed. Action: JS to liaise with Neil Young at the Highland Council Community Transport division.
   3. Dog fouling around Inverarnie and Farr – concerns were raised from a number of residents in relation to dogs fouling in children’s playing fields, parks, woodland walks and grass verges around the Inverarnie and Farr areas. Action: FM to speak with Cllr Caddick to see what support the HC can give our community to help with this concern.
   4. Residents using the road above Loch Ruthven are concerned with the levels of water coming onto the road as a potential freezing hazard. Action: FM to write and inform John Taylor at TEC Services.
   5. Footbridge over the River Nairn at Craggie House – residents would like to restore and make safe the access to the footbridge. Action: SM to speak with Stuart Easthaugh.
   6. Health Inequalities conference – to be held on 30 April 2013, Eden Court, Inverness. Posters are on the community notice boards.
   7. Scheme of Establishment questionnaire – to add on the agenda at the next meeting.
   8. Retrospective funding for the noticeboards – to add on the agenda at the next meeting.
   9. ‘Where you are’ boards - to add on the agenda at the next meeting.
   10. National Network for Change and Community – the Strathnairn community was identified as a community that is very good at sharing information especially through the use of the internet. As special thanks was given to Darren Read for his work on the community website.
   11. Speaking to the press – concerns were raised in relation to comments made by JS in the Inverness Courier when speaking about Community Councillors who were members of SCBF. It was felt this was unfair to others. This was disputed. JS informed all present that the press had miss-quoted her. This raised the issue again about how careful SCC members need to be when speaking to the press and it was felt it was unwise to speak to them unless the SCC had an agreed statement.
   12. Future wind farm negotiations – JS informed all present that at the Special Meeting held on the 11 February the SCC members present agreed a process to deal with future wind farm negotiations and will update all at SCC meeting in March.
   13. Community Payback Scheme – FM shared information in relation to The Community Payback Scheme, which is a community-based sentence imposed by the Court as an alternative to a short-term prison sentence. Offenders provide free labour to work on projects that benefit the community. Posters relating to the scheme are on the community notice boards.
   14. Inverness Royal Academy – The existing Inverness Royal Academy School building is to be replaced with a new larger capacity building. Two members of our community council are invited along to a community engagement presentation at 7pm on Tuesday 12 March. Action: Ewen Hardie and Darren Read.
   15. Ride the North – FM has been approached by the event organiser looking for community support to use Farr hall on Friday 30 August 2013. It was agreed that the community would support this event again. Action: FM to take forward.
2. **Questions from members of the public**

All questions raised were noted in relevant sections in the minutes.

1. **Date of the next meeting –** Monday 25 March, 7.30pm, Farr Community Hall.

**Meeting closed at 22:17**