



**STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING NO. 209
FARR COMMUNITY HALL
MONDAY 22 APRIL 2013
7.30 p.m.**

MINUTE

SCC Members Present

John Murray, Ewen Hardie, Darren Read (Associate Member), Jennifer Stewart, Sally Moore, James MacPherson, William MacQueen, Frances Matheson

Highland Council Members Present

Cllr Carolyn Caddick, Cllr Hamish Wood, Cllr Ken Gowans

Apologies

Paul Davies, Cllr Thomas Prag, Cllr Jim Crawford, Cllr Drew Henry, PC Matthew McCann

1. Approval of Minute 25 March 2013

Proposed: Ewen Hardie

Seconded: John Murray

a. Matters arising

- i.** Point 1. The SCC agreed ways of working still require to be appended. Action: Jennifer Stewart (JS) & Frances Matheson (FM).
- ii.** Point 18 – still needs action to be taken: Action: FM

2. Correspondence received

a. TEC Services –

- i.** B9154 gritting – it is a priority two route and as such receives a seven day a week gritting service. Arrangements have been made to increase the treatment of salt to the Craggie Brae when conditions are bad.
- ii.** Road outside Daviot Quarry – patching repairs have been carried out and the road will be assessed for consideration in future resurfacing programmes.
- iii.** Uneven fire hydrant levels, Inverarnie new footpath – this footpath was excavated by Scottish Water and TECS are pursuing them for the defective ironwork.
- iv.** Loch Ruthven road water discharge problem – after a site visit it would appear that the issue relates to discharge in the vicinity of the cabins. TECS would be grateful for any information on the matter and how to make contact regarding ownership.

3. Financial Report (JMP)

Very little change from previous month. Balance £2,255.21.

4. Declaration of Interest

Frances Matheson declared an interest in planning application 13/0181/PNO

5. Community Policing Report

- a. Positive detections and successful community work - due to a road safety initiative last week there has been a total of 60 road traffic offences detected on and around the A9 covering this area. This was a road traffic initiative to promote road safety and better driving standards. 3 Firearms licence enquiries completed this month.
- b. Outstanding offences requiring community assistance - machinery has been taken from a site in the area between Gorthleck and Dore, residents are advised to take extra care with any items of plant or farm machinery if left insecure overnight.
- c. Current key issues for community - discussions have been had with the council regarding overhanging branches and shrubbery blocking driver's views onto the A9 from junctions. They are to look at this and try to incorporate it into their general maintenance.

6. Graveyard Funds

Work suggested from William MacQueen (WMQ).

- a. Daviot –
 - i. A catch on the main gate needs replaced
 - ii. A new gateway opens into the new cemetery and there is nothing to keep vermin out.
 - iii. The concrete on the wall and surface spoil is being thrown outside and needs picking up.
 - iv. The grass needs cutting outside the graveyard and the area needs tidied up
 - v. A proper wall and fence for the graveyard is required
 - vi. The gate doesn't fit the strainers
 - vii. The main wall in the churchyard and car park has a big bow and it is thought that this will soon get worse
 - viii. There are stones leaning which could do with being sorted
- b. Dunlichity –
 - i. The iron is rotten on the railing / gateway between the churchyard and Glebe
 - ii. There are stones needing cleared up
 - iii. The Watchhouse has falling slates
 - iv. A tree at the bottom corner of the graveyard needs trimmed up
 - v. A seat for visitors to use somewhere in the graveyard would be helpful
- c. Actions –
 - i. Perhaps the SCBF could provide the community with a little money each year to help tidy up graveyards?
Action: WMQ
 - ii. Reach out to St. Pauls, Croachy to find out any requirements. Action: WMQ.
 - iii. It was suggested that perhaps someone in the community could help take this project forward, i.e. falling stones. Action: FM to write to enquire if the project could be supported by the Community Payback programme.

7. Planning update

- a. Weekly planning documents reviewed: 27 March 13; 05 Apr 13; 12 April 13; 18 April 13.
 - i. Planning application: 13/00796/FUL. Concerns were raised as to the level of extraction from the proposed site and the hours extraction is taking place. Action: FM to write to HC re the issue. Action: Cllr Wood to raise these concerns at the next HC planning meeting.
 - ii. The Highland Council members present did not take part in any planning discussions
- b. Next month's planning lead – Sally Moore (SM).

8. Roads Strategy Update

There are current road closures at south Croachy and the bend at Inverarnie. It is advised that access will be given to local traffic, school buses and emergency vehicles.

Points noted:

- Workmen have been verbally abused by road users.
- New laybys are not long enough
- Laybys need to be better finished.

All road closure dates are on the Strathnairn website: <http://www.strathnairn.org.uk/>

9. Wind Farm Updates

- a. Dunmaglass – no further updates
- b. Kyllachy – expected to submit application for planning early June. A representative from RWE will be coming along to the next SCC meeting to present slides on the proposed w/f. It was noted that there are objections and a petition from residents in Strathnairn. It is noted that Darren Read (DR) is leading from a planning aspect, and community benefit will be led by Ewen Hardie (EH) and Paul Davies (PD). Action: EH to update SCC on community benefit discussions to date.
- c. Moy – SCC have till 07 May to respond to the planning application to increase capacity. Action: SM to contact Ken McCorquedale to clarify next steps. SM to submit a response from SCC.

10. Community Plan

Very good progress has been made by the group and two further meetings are scheduled in May. The aim is to have a draft survey to bring along to the next SCC meeting for review/approval.

11. Newsletter

The newsletter will no longer be printed for free. The next steps will be for the editorial team to look into new ways to have the newsletter printed, and perhaps asking SCBF for funding for printing costs.

Action: SCC to write a letter to SCBF on this matter, JS.

The new format of newsletter is receiving great feedback.

12. AOCB

- a. Daviot School falling roll - a representative from SCC has been invited to come along to the next Parent Council meeting for Daviot School. Action: SM to attend.
- b. Ward Forum – the topic was Community Assets and was a stimulating day. There will be a follow up forum if anyone is interested in attending. Action: Cllr Wood to send a copy of the presentation from the forum to SCC.
- c. District Partnership – the members meet every quarter, therefore issues where our community requires support can be brought up when they arise. A current issue to be brought forward to the partnership was that there are no day-care facilities in our community for people of all ages with less mobility. Action: JS to send details to Cllr Gowans.
- d. Dog fouling bin – it has been reported that the bin at Inverarnie is full. Action: EH to contact Ian Wilson or Alan Bentley.
- e. Community website – it was agreed that the SCC would pay £40.50 for a 3-year contract on the website domain name. Action: DR.

SM mentioned that the community also pay for hosting the 'heritage' website, and wondered if this could be incorporated into the Strathnairn webpage. Action: SM and DR.

- f. New gateway signs – an email was received from Charles Stephen asking for the SCC's opinion on the name and spelling for the settlement of Inverarnie. It was agreed by SCC members present that for the gateway signs the settlement should be referred to as Inverarnie. Action: FM.
- g. Community ownership – a free networking event will take place at Birnam Arts Centre on 30th May. It is aimed at individuals and groups from rural communities who have an interest in community asset acquisition and management. More information can be found at <http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/node/7321>
- h. Draft minutes – it was agreed draft minutes are public documents and should be as current as possible.
- i. IMFLDP - updates on the plan can be found on the Highland Council website, which all members of the public have access to.

13. Questions from members of the public

- a. Roads – the entrance to Daviot Farm has large pot holes which it is thought that patching would not fix. Action: FM to write to TECS.
- b. Craggie footpath over the River Nairn – a question was raised as to the future provision to cut undergrowth on the footpath. Action: FM to write to a representative of the Community Payback programme to enquire if this is a project the scheme could support.
It was also agreed that a letter of thanks from SCC would be sent to the Ramblers group for the works carried out on the footpath. Action: SM.
- c. Graveyards – it was noted that Aberdeen North of Scotland Family History Society carried out research documenting headstones on all graveyards. Action: WMQ.
- d. It was suggested that the SCC should write to Sheila Lamont, Head Teacher, Farr Primary School, with a letter of thanks from our community when Sheila retires. Action: DR to speak with the Parent Council to clarify retirement date.
- e. Moy w/f – will the SCC be submitting a formal objection to the current planning application? Action: SM.

14. Date of the next meeting – Monday 27 May 2013, 7.30pm, Farr Community Hall.

Meeting closed by JS at 21.20.