



STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



**GENERAL MEETING NUMBER 245 IN FARR COMMUNITY HALL 7.30 pm
MONDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2016**

DRAFT MINUTES

SCC Members Present - James Murray (Chair) [JM], Peter Christie (Hon. Sec) [PC], Bea Wallace (Treasurer) [BW], Ian Hunt [IH], Dougie Henderson [DH], Scott MacDonald [SMD], Sally Moor [SMO], Sylvina Tilbury (Minutes) [ST]

HC Members Present - Cllr Jim Crawford [JC], Cllr Thomas Prag [TP]

Members of Public Present - 7 members of the public present

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mike Fitzgerald, Isobel McQueer, Cllr Caddick, Cllr Davis, Cllr Gowans and Cllr Davidson.

2. a) Approval of Minute 17th October 2016

No additions or deletions, except in item 14 it should be made clear that the tourist information centre is closing permanently. Proposed by DH, seconded by IH.

3. Declaration of Interests

None

4. Matters arising from Minute

Item 3: SMD had been nominated in his absence to make contact with SSE. Held over for next meeting.

Use of hall facilities: held over for next meeting as IM not present.

Planning application (PIP): IH has been in touch with a couple of the neighbours who have no concerns.

JM also reported that he has received further information from Mr Smith about the shooting of his cow. Forensics could not find the bullet and Mr Smith is not optimistic that this will be taken much further.

Item 7: Mid Craggie Farm, Daviot (16/03750/FUL). IH reported that a planning application has been resubmitted for the agricultural shed, the access having now been resolved and now coming off the top of the brae. There are still some concerns about the intended use, but nothing can be done at the moment. There is an associated application for a farmhouse (see below under item 7). Neighbours have some nuisance complaints but there are no grounds for objection to the planning application. JC pointed out that we could request a condition to ensure agricultural use only. IH also to check that the archaeological condition recommended

on the previous application will still apply. There are concerns that work has already begun on the site.

A member of the public then raised a question about another planning application that has been recommended for refusal by the HC planners - 16/02592/PIP (Dalveallan). It is felt that the plot is too small and neighbours have objected for 16 years – does the CC have any advice for the direct neighbours? TP explained the appeal process in general terms and that anyone who has objected to the planning application may make a submission to the appeal, but it is also still possible for the CC or anyone else to make comments to the planners. None of the Highland councillors made any specific comments on this or any other case.

IH stated that we could write to HC at this stage if residents wish us to do so. ST pointed out that SNH have asked for further information and it is likely that the planner is recommending refusal in the absence of this information.

Action: IH will write to HC raising the residents' concerns.

Item 8d: the bus shelter has now been dealt with. The bund has been put in place, the bus shelter has been moved back and drainage work has been done. IH asked that the CC writes to the officer concerned to thank him.

Action: PC

Item 9b (report on the development officer). To be taken later in the meeting.

Item 11 (community telephone boxes). PC registered the objection to removal of the Dunmaglass box. No acknowledgement received as yet.

Item 12e (Education governance review - 28th November, Drumossie Hotel): JM/IH have informed both schools.

Item 12f (Winter resilience) JM rang SMD about this. No one has volunteered, but an article is going in the newsletter to ask people to keep an eye on elderly and vulnerable neighbours.

5. Community Policing Report and local issues

PC James Boundy not present. No written report was received.

6. Financial Report

a) Current funds

BW reported that there is £3009.74 at our disposal. We are still waiting for the CC grant – the last communication with Robbie Bain about this was on 4th November. BW suggested that community councillors should begin putting in expense claims for travel to external meetings etc. A member of the public commented that there is a lack of follow through on ideas which leads to money not being spent, citing the proposed wall map as an example. This is on the agenda but was discussed at this point. PC has had the map printed but it cannot now be laminated as the paper is unsuitable. Furthermore the hall committee has refused permission to mount the map on the wall.

Action: JM to contact the hall committee about mounting the map on the wall

7. Planning Applications and updates, including:

a) Report from IH on applications

IH spoke to the report circulated at the meeting. The first application (16/04956/FUL) was checked online at the meeting and there were no comments. The second (16/04727/FUL) is the amended application for the agricultural shed, as discussed earlier. Two previous applications have now been agreed.

Action: IH will write to the planners to ensure previous requirements are reiterated on the new application at Mid Craggie Farm.

PC reported that he has had communications from SSE regarding the route for the Beauly to Blackhillock OHL upgrade. The proposed corridor appears to have been moved to the south away from Culloden battlefield. The documents are available on SSE's website (<http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/beauly-blackhillock-reinforcement/>) . Members of the public expressed concern over the possible final location of the line. Residents can make individual objections (IH stressed this is important, and people should also ask SSE to keep them up to date). SMO asked if we could request that SSE attends a public meeting to discuss, although it was felt this might be a little early. TP also stressed that it is important that people attend any public consultation events.

Action: PC to write to SSE for more details and inviting them to a future CC meeting.

****NB If residents do write to SSE, please copy in Strathnairn CC so that we can collate views and make representations on the community's behalf.****

8. Roads and access update.

a) Dunmaglass Liaison Group

The last meeting has been held and the group has now closed. SSE has been reminded that the condition of the roads still requires to be sorted out.

b) Community Speed signs

DH has been advised by HC that the cost will be £3500 for each sign. The contact at HC is Alistair Macleod. PC has also spoken to Colin Ross about speed monitoring, and this is planned in any case between the A9 and Fort Augustus. The CC agreed to await the results of the speed monitoring before taking a decision about the speed signs. JC suggested there may be a sign elsewhere in the ward which could be moved here on a trial basis. A member of the public asked whether the existing sign can be converted to a smiley face. IH also mentioned that other speed limiting options could be considered, such as a chicane as at Croachy.

Action: DH to find out whether the current sign can be converted to a smiley face and we will await the results of the speed monitoring.

c) Timber extraction matters.

PC attended a meeting set up by Cllr Davidson for the three community councils. Robin Pope is the HC representative on the timber transport group. He was quite helpful and is exploring the possibility of a permanent 20 mph speed limit past Farr School and a limit through Sockichs Bends. They are also exploring how to enforce the HC requirements on private timber extractors and are reviewing putting weight restrictions and other restrictions on the roads, but this needs to be handled with care to avoid undue restrictions on other vehicles. A member of the public suggested that any restrictions could have an "access only" exception to avoid impacting other commercial vehicles.

9. Community Planning Group.

a) Report from CPG

SMD reported on the last meeting which was held on 7th November. The main subject under discussion was the formation of the community development trust and who in the community could take it forwards. The group came to the conclusion that a publicity campaign is needed to try and attract more people to get involved. SMO suggested that the CPG meetings be publicised in advance to help attract participants.

JM has talked to Strathdearn and Stratherrick who have stressed the difficulties of getting volunteers for numerous different groups. It may therefore be better for SCBF to morph into the new structure rather than setting up another group.

JC suggested that a professional may be required to get the new structure set up. PC

understands that SCBF is employing a consultant to explore these options and suggested it would be sensible to transform that role into setting up the new structure. JC also mentioned Duncan Bryden who has done this work in Strathdearn. TP commented that more people will get involved when plans are more concrete. Members of the public expressed concern that SCBF appears to be taking decisions such as employing a consultant to look at setting up a development trust without publicising the information in meeting minutes.

The CPG plans to hold a meeting regarding the development trust at the beginning of March next year.

b) Report from MF re development Officer.

This was largely covered above by SMD in MF's absence.

c) Report on Rural Inverness Communities Convention

PC attended this convention. He reported that he spoke to a sergeant at the community policing stall and was assured that the community police officer would attend CC meetings in future. He also gleaned some useful contacts for the community emergency plan, which have been passed onto the CPG.

A lady from Boleskine spoke to PC about meeting the needs of people who need home carers within the community. JM has followed this up with Care in Strathnairn who advised that Highland Home Carers are able to provide training for paid work and help make arrangements. Eildon Carers also provide paid carers for two people in the strath. No one in Strathnairn has taken up the opportunity for training for a paid role.

10. Your Cash Your Choice

PC reported that there have been no expressions of interest from Strathnairn. The impression is that the community feels this should be left for communities without windfarm money.

11. Community Notice Boards.

a) Name Plates

PC has obtained a price of £60 from Speedprint to print and laminate a sign with our name and logo for each of the six noticeboards. All agreed. IH noted that the Daviot Hall noticeboard is not technically ours.

b) Keppock and Nairnside boards notice placement.

There is nobody available to put the notices up on these boards. A member of the public offered to do this if provided with a key. PC has produced three general notices with information for members of the public (names and contacts for community councillors, dates of meetings, etc.).

c) CC Map

Dealt with above.

12. Correspondence received.

a) Letter from a member of public about issues for the Roads talk.

The contents of this letter were raised at the roads talk.

Action: PC to reply

b) Highland Council Equality Outcomes Consultation – Deadline for response: 07/12/16

JM asked whether the CC should reply as a whole or whether we should reply as individuals. TP suggested it would be better for us to reply as individuals. The survey deadline is 7th December:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/751/equality_diversity_and_citizenship/313/equal_opportunities/2

c) SMO has received some correspondence about the SSE OHL consultation. She will send this through to PC.

d) JM reported on correspondence between himself and a member of the public who wishes to know the cost of the solicitor's letter that was sent by SCBF to a resident of the strath. The member of the public has been asking the SCBF for this information since May and has been repeatedly assured that it will be provided, but nothing has been forthcoming. Another member of the public reiterated that he has received the same assurances from SCBF but is not confident that they will answer his questions. JM has been in touch with SCBF and has been assured this information will be made available on the SCBF website before the AGM on 14th December.

13. List of Events, Meetings and dates for attendance and interest.

a) Date to be advised: Farigaig C Liaison Group meeting - Dores Hall

Although the work has been completed, an issue about road safety has been raised (outwith our CC area) so there will be an attempt to have another liaison meeting.

b) Education Governance Review 28 November – Drumossie Hotel; 10:00 to 12:30.

This is a Scottish government consultation seeking views on how education (from early years through to secondary schools) is run. Engagement events are being held across the country.

c) Aberarder Wind Farm Site Visit Wed. 30 Nov at Aberarder House at 09:30

Advance booking is required with HC, but it should be noted that contributions are restricted to matters concerning the specific viewpoint. SMO noted that it is important for the community to be represented. IH suggested that members of the public who have objected will have been notified. JM will try to attend.

d) AGM SC Benefit Fund – AGM Wed 14 Dec. 7:30 Farr Hall

JM will be attending as the CC representative. This AGM is open to all residents.

e) Twitter hour for Community Councils.

This took place at the beginning of the month to raise awareness of community councils. No one present had participated.

14. Questions from members of the Public.

There were no further questions.

15. AOCB

PC returned to the subject of the map. The CC suggested that the map should be framed in acetate rather than glass. There was also a short discussion about having a whiteboard and/or projector and screen available to the CC. The hall committee has refused permission for the map to be placed on the wall, as discussed above.

Action: PC to arrange for the map to be framed.

16. Date of the next CC Meeting [246] – Monday 16th January 2017

Agenda Items by 6th January please.

NOTE: there is no Meeting on 19th December due to the holiday period. Meeting 246 will take place on Monday 16th January 2017.