



# STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



**GENERAL MEETING NUMBER 252 IN FARR COMMUNITY HALL 7.30 pm**

**MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2017**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

*Before the meeting began the Chair explained that if any member of the public wished to raise a point on a subject that was being discussed, they should raise it during the discussion and wait until the end of the meeting to bring it up.*

**SCC Members Present** - James Murray (Chair) [JM], Peter Christie (Hon. Sec) [PC], Ian Hunt [IH], Dougie Henderson [DH], Isobel McQueer [IM], Bea Wallace [BW],

**HC Members Present** – Cllr Gowans [KG], Cllr MacPherson [DM], Cllr Jarvie [AJ], Cllr Davidson [MD], Cllr Caddich [CC],. –

(Cllr Davidson and D Henderson left the meeting at 21:10).

**Members of Public Present** – 4 members of the public present + PC McGibbon

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mike Fitzgerald , Sally Moore, Scott MacDonald and Cllr Carmichael.

### **2. Approval of Minute 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Minutes proposed by IM, Seconded by DH.

#### **Draft Minute of AGM 19<sup>th</sup> June**

The Chair reported that he had amended/expanded his report. No other corrections were needed.

### **3. Declaration of Interests**

JM reported that he had an interest in a planning application. It was agreed that JM could remain in place but would take no part in any discussion

### **4. Matters arising from Minute**

**Point 4, Item 6b from previous minute**– MD confirmed that Community Councils will need to negotiate their Public Liability Insurance for 2019 with Zurich Insurance. MD's secretary will provide SNCC with a copy of the memo from C MacKenzie. **Action BW.**

**Item 5 from previous minute**– DH reported that the owner of Tomfat Wood is not prepared to relocate the boundary fence but would not object to bollards being placed on the road edge to prevent the dangerous parking. It was noted that there had been a recent incident involving the Police when four cars had been parked in a manner that forced vehicles to place themselves in danger when passing the spot. **Action PC to contact J Taylor**

**Point 7d, Daviot Farm Woodland Creation Proposal** – PC reported that himself and SM had attended the site meeting along with a representative from the Forestry Commission. Various view points were visited, including sites within the proposed planted area. SM & PC considered that the proposed planting would improve the amenity of the area. A report was agreed and has been sent to IH for his records. PC reported that during this visit it was noted that machinery was working on an activity which was difficult to relate to agricultural work. In response to a question regarding the

latest position regarding the planning issues surrounding this farm the CC were advised to contact Nicola Drummond of the Planning Department.

**Point 8, Knocknagael to Tomatin Liaison Group** – The liaison meeting for Tomatin Sub Station will now be a separate meeting. A liaison group for issues arising from the construction of the o/h line is being set up. This will include all the Community Councils that are likely to be affected, this will be discussed under agenda item 8.

**Point 9g,** Concern about the distress to animals from ad hoc fireworks during private functions at the Hall has been brought to the attention of the hall committee.

**Point 11,** The focus group on youth offenders and offending had been advised that SNCC would not be providing a **volunteer group**.

**Point 12ii, Daviot footbridge** this will be discussed under agenda item 10

**Point 12 iii,** KG reported that there are no plans to cluster Farr and Daviot Schools. A head teacher has been appointed for Daviot and Strathdearn School cluster

## **5. Community Policing Report and local issues**

PC McGibbon spoke to the monthly report that had been submitted and circulated by email prior to the meeting. There were no issues arising from this report.

There is an increased frequency of vehicle making U turns at the Daviot junction of the A9. PC McG will bring this matter to the attention of the Road Traffic unit.

A question was asked about the response time taken for incidents. PC McG explained that each call was given a priority but it was not unusual for a call to have its priority changed depending upon the priority given to a later call.

It was reported that incidents of vandalism had occurred to traffic signs and to the redundant and closed Tourist Centre at the head of Bogbain straight.

## **6. Financial Report**

Current funds are £3361.

At present the accounts show a sum of £280 held for the sub group set up for developing a community plan, since this sub group is now closed it was agreed that the CC should return this money to the Benefit Fund.

The CC have begun collecting money for the Ray Collier Memorial Bench, this money will be processed via the CC Bank account.

## **7. Planning Application and updates, including:**

### **(a) Report from IH on applications**

IH spoke to his report listing twelve new planning applications and five updates. All were noted without comment.

A member of the public raised concern about work at Mid Craggie [17/02738/PNO] in that a lot of work that does not appear to be of an agricultural nature is taking place. A Highland Councillor advised that enforcement had become an issue due to the Procurator Fiscal having different priorities.

Galbraiths had placed an advertising sign regarding the proposed planting at Daviot Farms. IH to investigate if Planning is required for this sign and if so has it been given.

**Action IH**

## **8. Knocknagael to Tomatin Liaison Group**

It was agreed that JM, PC + AN Other would attend the liaison meetings. At this stage we should ask for a monthly meeting

**Action PC**

## **9. Report from SCBF/Foundation Scotland**

A questionnaire has been included with the latest issue of the Newsletter. SCBF is hoping for a good response so that the Benefit Fund has the confidence to move forward in the knowledge that it is acting with the support of the community

**Action The Community**

## 10. Footbridge across R Nairn at Daviot

The footpath officer Mr S Eastaugh had acted promptly to make the footbridge safe and had made available an inspection report that recommended a further £40,250 be spent to remedy the defects identified by the inspection.

The Highland Councillors indicated that budgetary constraints meant there was no prospect of any funds to remedy the defects being available from HC.

The Chair commented that since the evidence was that very few people used the bridge consideration should be given to asking for the footpath to be closed. This started a widespread discussion surrounding the issues relating to the footpath and bridge. The issues are:

The safety of the pedestrian crossing of the A9 dual carriageway.

The long term viability of this crossing given the objective of the Trunk Road Authority to separate the A9 from rural traffic. The new sections of the A9 will not have pedestrian access, underpasses are being provided for foot traffic.

The absence of any pedestrian or bicycle access from one side of the village of Daviot to the other if the footpath is closed will divide the village and disadvantage children on the south side who will be unable to access the play facilities and their friends on the north.

Ownership of the bridge is not known other than it was built by the military.

The footpath as a right of way is in doubt.

The cable anchors on the south bank are thought to be secured to a large boulder rather than the bed rock.

The footpath is very slippery when wet, particularly over the boggy ground. The drainage could be improved.

Cllr Jarvie has taken note of the issues and will undertake research to determine if it is possible to answer any of them.

**Action AJ**

## 11. Correspondence received. *(via email unless indicated otherwise.)*

- a) – Climate Challenge Fund now open for applications. Link – [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ccf](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ccf)
- b) – Notification of application for felling licence Craggiemore Woods comments closed 29/07/2017.
- c) – Tesco “Bags of Help Grant”
- d) – The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust’s AGM and Annual Conference , Friday 8th September 2017.
- e) – A webpage has been developed to help communities and partners find out more about the Inverness Community Partnerships that have been developing across Highland.  
[www.invernesspartnership.scot](http://www.invernesspartnership.scot)
- f) – A letter had been received from the Provost of Inverness inviting a representative from the CC to attend the Kirking Ceremony
- g) – Inverness Snowsports Centre Working Group seeking to make a presentation about their proposals for a dry ski slope and other sports before they launch their plans on 21 September

## 12. List of Events, Meetings and dates for attendance and interest.

- a) – Knocknagael to Tomatin o/h power line – inaugural meeting of Liaison Group in Farr Hall 21 August – 18:00 to 19:15
- b) – HIE Strengthening Communities national conference - September 2017. Link – <http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/conference.html>
- c) – **The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust** - AGM and Annual Conference Friday 8th September 2017 at the British Legion Club in Inverness
- d) – Scottish Resilient Communities Conference, Cambuslang: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- e) – The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust’s AGM and Annual Conference , Friday 8th September 2017.

## 13. Questions from members of the Public.

There were no questions from the public.

## 14. AOCB

- (i) Dalroy Bend widening/passing place. The Councillors explained that due to an unexpected, and time limited, increase in funds from the Scottish Office, there were no squads available to complete the work before the time allowed for the budgeted expenditure. BW reported that a

very deep pot hole existed at this location

- (ii) PC explained that, due to irresponsible dog owners allowing their animals to defecate in the play park there was a need for 'no dog' signs. Approval was sought and given to purchase the signs. **Action – PC.**
- (iii) Inverness Snowsports Centre Working Group. Opinion was not really in favour and Cllr Caddich agreed to liaise with the Chair of the Working Group and report back. **Action CC.**
- (iv) It was noted that a fault had occurred with the recently installed defibrillators. It was further noted that the problem had been resolved but there was a need to ensure that the persons responsible for the host sites were aware of the name and contact details of the agents responsible for dealing with similar issues.
- (v) PC reported that fund raising for the Ray Collier Memorial bench had commenced.
- (vi) IH reported that he continued to have a problem with establishing a contact with Aberarder Wind Farm. JM indicated that he may be able to provide an alternative name if this problem persisted.
- (vii) Kirking Ceremony – JM indicated that he would attend.
- (viii) Lay-by at Inverernie cross roads. It was confirmed that the Council Officials were waiting for the community to inform them of the preferred location of a lay-by for lorry parking for access to the Inverernie Stores. PC to arrange for a questionnaire to be circulated in the next Newsletter **Action PC**

In response to a question asked about the minutes from previous meetings at an earlier meeting KG reported that Highland Council had copies of all Community Council minutes.

#### **15. Date of the next CC Meeting [253] – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 –**

The Community Council is required to issue the agenda 7 days before its meeting. To be certain that an item can be included please make sure that it is submitted ten days before our meeting is due to take place.