

STRATHNAIRN

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

General Meeting Number 315

Farr Hall

7.30pm

MONDAY 19th February 2024

Draft Minutes



Present:

SNCC Members: Phil MacIntosh (PM, Chair), Ian MacLean (IM, Treasurer), Donna Haldane (DH, Interim Hon Sec), Lorna McConachie (LM, Minutes)

HC Members: Cllr Chris Ballance (CB), Cllr David Fraser (DF), Cllr Ken Gowans (KG), Cllr Duncan MacPherson (DM)

Associate Member: Allan Martin (AM)

Members of the Public: Mark Bessell (MB), Neil Dawson (ND), Doug Meiklejohn (DM) (mentioned in the minutes), 6 others.

1. Apologies

Ian Hunt (IH)

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 15th January 2024: Proposed (DH), Seconded (IM).

3. Declaration of Interest

PM declared his interest relating to Farr Hall refurbishments. LM advised she was a board member of Farr Hall Committee.

4. Matters arising from minutes of 15th January 2024

Nil

5. Community Policing Report and local issues

The January police report has been received.

6. Financial Report

The current balance is £2093.06. Outgoing payments of £130 for minutes and pending payments are due for the minute secretary and SCATA. Christmas invoices to be submitted.

7. Planning Application and updates

a) New

- i. Formation of turning circle. Land 1600m SE of Caitidh, Torness, Inverness. Agreed.
- ii. Erection of extension. An Cala Reidh, Leanach, Culloden Moor, Inverness. IV2 5EH.

b) Updated

- i. Erection of timber hut. Land 35m NW of 1 Culdoich Cottages, Culloden Moor, Inverness. Agreed.

8. Windfarms

- a) Aberarder Windfarm: SSE Renewables- Aberarder Windfarm Information Day, Wednesday 21st February. Farr Community Hall, 2pm - 7pm. An SSE representative may also be in attendance at the community café on Wednesday 28th February. The work starting to rebuild Flichity bridge commences 8th April.
- b) Corriegarth 2: BayWa r.e representatives Jillian Adams and Alda Forbes will attend the SNCC meeting to discuss traffic management plans and provide an update on progress from 7pm on 18th March.

9. Pumped Storage Schemes

- a) Red John
 - i. The impact of increased traffic, road improvements, and safety was discussed at length. The need for increased frequency of road surveys and assessment is required to reflect the impact of projects more accurately. **Action: Cllr KG to discuss at HC meeting and feedback. Action: PM to forward email address to Cllr KG.**
 - ii. Discussions with community liaison representative are due to take place. **Action: PM to contact Peter Kane (liaison representative) to arrange a community consultation event.** A public event is being held in the Town Hall and a meeting in Farr Hall is to be held to address safety, traffic management and road improvements.
- b) Loch Kemp
 - i. The closing date for replies to the Energy Consents Unit is 23rd February. The community council have stated that they will object to the scheme. It was discussed that groups and individuals should also make known their views via the Highland Council planning portal and provide mitigations. **Action: IH/PM.**
 - ii. Kate Forbes is to chair a meeting in Farr Hall with invited representatives to discuss the impact of the five capital projects (Loch Kemp, Red John, Aberarder, Corriegarth 2 and the Flichity Extraction scheme). **Action: PM to coordinate.**

10. Strathnairn Development Company (ND)

- World Gaelic Week has seen several events organised at Farr Hall by the SDC in connection with various community groups.
- The recent film showings saw 75 people attend across the two sessions. A further film event is scheduled for 23rd March.
- The SDC AGM is on 26th February at 7.30pm Farr Hall.

11. Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund (MB)

- All windfarm funds have now been received.
- There is money in the budget to help with negotiations/legal representations in dealing with the complex issues arising from concurrent capital projects.
- Discussions are underway to allocate grants.

12. Community Halls

- a) Strathnairn Daviot Hall: no update.
- b) Farr Community Hall: awaiting on the replacement door and Wi-Fi installation is almost complete. The plans for Phase 4 (= phase 3.5 + storage) include office provision, an alternative non-gender toilet design, an additional cleaning cupboard, and a reception area. **A copy of the draft plan will be displayed in the Hall and posted on Facebook page, Action: DM.**

13. Strathnairn Website and Newsletter

Yellow Cherry have provided a detailed quote which includes website design, build, support, and maintenance. **SCBF will discuss at their meeting on 28th March and feedback.**

Action: MB. It is estimated the project would take approximately 10 weeks before going live. In the interim testers would be able to access the website and provide feedback.

14. Road Works and Road Safety

- i. Flichity bridge construction work starts 8th April and is expected to take 7 months to complete. It is anticipated there will be some short-term road closures and a traffic light system to be installed. SSE Renewables (Aberarder Windfarm) are holding an Information Day, Wednesday 21st February. Farr Hall, 2pm - 7pm.
- ii. Concerns were raised over the lack of any progress on many outstanding actions from Highland Council Road teams: speed sign changes, gateways not completed, passing place signs etc. **Action: Cllr KG to enquire about lack of progress on outstanding road improvements within Strathnairn. Action: IH to contact Colin Ross.**

15. Correspondence received (via email unless indicated otherwise.)

- a) SCBF – Summary Minutes of recent meetings.
- b) Citizens Advice Bureau – Recruiting volunteer advisors.
- c) David Mudie- Response from SSEN on PWS at Tordarroch.
- d) Gordon Bell – Offer from Kate Forbes MSP to help with concerns over energy developments.
- e) SSEN – Progress on noise pollution from OHL at Farr.
- f) Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council – Invitation to January meeting.
- g) SRUC- Invitaion to the community to participate in a survey about Scottish Rainforest. https://srcu.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/public_survey
- h) Highland Environment Forum- Survey of Local Nature Conservation Sites.
- i) Police Scotland – January Newsletter.

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

- SSE Renewables- Aberarder Windfarm Information Day, Wednesday 21st February. Farr Hall, 2pm - 7pm.
- BayWa r.e representatives Jillian Adams & Alda Forbes 18th March. Farr Hall 7pm -7.30pm.

17. Questions from members of the Public

- i. Poor sight lines are causing safety issues to road users on the B851. **Action: IM to contact Colin Ross.**
- ii. After recent storms fallen trees, on the B861, were cut down and it was noted that the trees have been left lying adjacent to the verge. Safety concerns about this were raised. **Action: IM to contact Colin Ross and HC roads team**
- iii. Pylons which have been screened by the Blar Buidhe forest have now been exposed after recent harvesting work. A question was raised if this should be taken into consideration when work is planned. **Action: PM to contact a local FLS representative.**
- iv. Noise pollution from OHP lines, forestry machinery and capital projects including traffic noise was raised. It was discussed if this should be taken in consideration when planning consent is being considered. **Action: IH and Cllr DF to clarify situation.**

- v. A major concern was raised over the discrepancy on the number of lorries utilising the Pat Munro quarry at Wester Lairgs – what is stated in the planning document versus actual numbers on the road. The need to question and address when changes occur should be built into the planning process. It appears that currently there are no consequences and accountability is required. **Action: IH to follow up with HC planners.**

18. AOCB

- i. The impact of the 5 capital projects, which will run concurrently throughout the Strath, was discussed at length throughout the meeting. A lengthy discussion on how Community benefits should be negotiated ensued. It was argued that discussions should take place with each individual capital project and be formally agreed. It was noted that discussions should remain positive to both sides. (See also Item 9b above, Pumped Storage Schemes, Loch Kemp).
- ii. The Hub Steering group have produced a presentation from a recent Hub Engagement Lunch and will communicate information in due course.
- iii. It is with much regret that Neil Spence has resigned from his position as Honorary Secretary of the SNCC. His tireless efforts have played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth functioning of our Community Council, and his attention to detail has been commendable. Thank you, Neil, for your unwavering commitment and invaluable service.
- iv. Donna Haldane is acting as the interim Hon Sec for the Community Council.

19. Next Meeting – Monday 18th March 2024.

The Community Council is required to issue the agenda 7 days before the 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. Copies of this agenda and the minutes of Community Council meetings are circulated by email. If you would like to receive a copy your email address can be added to the circulation list by application to secretary@strathnairncc.com.

PM thanked all for their contribution, and the meeting closed at 21.15hrs.