

STRUAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council, held in Struan Primary School on Monday 10th November 2014 at 7.00pm.

Present: Miss C MacLennan (Chair) Mr A Morrison Mr B Morris Mr K Davies
Mr M N Beaton Mr G MacKinnon Mrs H MacLeod & Ms S Illingworth

Item 1: Welcome

Miss C MacLennan took the Chair and welcomed all to the Meeting, particularly Ms Illingworth.

Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Mr A Lockhart

Item 3: Minutes of Meeting of 8th September 2014

Minutes from the meeting of 11th June 2014 were put forward to the meeting for approval. Adoption of minutes was proposed by Mr M N Beaton and seconded by Mr K Davies and duly signed.

Item 4: Matters Arising

a) Web Page

Mr A Morrison advised that he had renewed the Domain Name for a further 2 years and the fee has been paid. It is proving difficult for information to be input onto the site as the instructions provided by Mr Till are of a technical nature, Mr A Morrison to try and speak to Mr Till to arrange a time when he can come show him how to input. **Action: AM**

b) Cemetery Car Park & Play Park

Mr A Morrison advised that he is awaiting the revised Agreements from Mr M Crowe, these should be to hand in early course. **Action: AM**

c) Great War Commemoration

Mr A Morrison confirmed that an Application had been submitted to the SCT for the sum of £500.00, to assist with the costs of the Flag Pole, Seat & Plaque, as only one set of estimates are required for Applications up to £500.00, as after discussion with Mr B Morris, Treasurer, it was felt that the CC would be able to pay the balance from our own funds. It was also agreed that we should contact the Local Planning Office to see if we require to have Planning Permission for the Flag Pole, Mr A Morrison to contact Planning Dept. **Action: AM**

d) Telephone Exchange

Mr G MacKinnon works were ongoing and it is anticipated that works will be concluded by the end of the year, Mr MacKinnon will arrange for the Contractor to submit the Invoice to Mr Morris on conclusion of the works for settlement.

e) Struan Primary School

It has been advised that the decision on the School has now been put back till January 2015, at which time the matter will go before a meeting of the full Highland Council, as there have been delays in the Consultation Report having been issued to all parties.

f) Shooting & Fishing Rights

Miss C MacLennan advised that the Public Meeting arranged has not been well attended, with a limited number of people in attendance, it was intimated at the meeting that some felt it had not been widely enough advertised, therefore agreed that Mr A Morrison would canvass opinion locally to see if there was significant interest in this matter, in addition, Mr A MacAskill, Ebst would do the same, prior to making a final decision, however, appears that there is not the appetite locally to progress matters. **Action: AM**

g) Remembrance Service

As in previous years the Act of Remembrance was very well attained, John Caldwell of the Free Church took the service, which was held in the Free Church due to the inclement weather, Mr D Beaton carried out the presenting, also in attendance was a Colour Party from British Legion. On conclusion of the Act of Remembrance at the Memorial, a Poppy Tea was provided in the School by Staff and Pupils. It was agreed to send letters of thanks to the British Legion and the School.

h) Bonfire & Fireworks

All went well & again well attended, Mr A Morrison wished to minute thanks to the Gala Committee for once again taking on the responsibility of providing refreshments for all, also to Mr J MacKinnon and Mr G Semler for assisting in building the Bonfire & letting off the Fireworks, thanks also to SCT for funding.

Item 5: Planning Application – Old Manse

Ms S Illingworth attended the meeting to advise of her concerns in relation to a Planning Application that has been submitted for the site adjacent to her property, The Old Manse, the Application being in relation to the erection of two Dwelling Houses. Ms Illingworth went on to give an overview of the history behind the site over the period since she bought the Old Manse, also went on to detail the work that she has carried out to the building and the boundary wall, both having Listed Building Status, over the past number of years.

Ms Illingworth advised that she is extremely concerned at the fact that part of the Planning Application calls for the wall to be dismantled and re-built on a different line than at present in addition a number of trees to be felled, these are old trees and form both a wind break and are aesthetically pleasing. The dismantling of the wall is extremely concerning, although the Planning Application stipulates that it should be re-build in exactly the same manner, the concern is that it will not be re-build to the existing standard, therefore compromising the integrity of the wall. Furthermore, the main reason for the realignment of the wall and the felling of the trees is to create an access to the site, the concern here is that the amount of construction traffic would have a detrimental effect on the wall making it unstable and likely in time to collapse, particularly as the access road runs along adjacent to the wall.

After long discussion, it was agreed that the CC would make a formal Submission to the Planning Department requesting that they and the developer investigate the possibility of an alternative access to the site, also, requesting that they take into consideration the Listed Status of the Boundary Wall and the possible effects on this structure due to the way the site access has been laid out in the Developers Plans. It was further noted that

the Old Manse is one of the oldest and most significant buildings in the village and the proposed felling of trees and realigning of the wall would detract from the character of the building and its stature within the village landscape.

Item 6: Glen Ullinish Wind Farm

Mr A Morrison presented a package of Documents received from Kilmac's Agents in respect of the Planning Application that has now been submitted to Highland Council, it is understood that the Application is likely to go before the Council at their Planning Meeting in March 2015. It was agreed that Mr B Morris, Mr M N Beaton & Mr A Morrison would take away copies of the Documents provided to look over to see if there is anything that could be of a concern to the Community, to report back at the next meeting.

Item 7: BT Exchange – Up Grades

Mr A Morrison confirmed that letters had been sent to both our MP & MSP, both had acknowledged receipt, MP Charles Kennedy advised that this was a Scottish Government issue and we would be best served by contacting our MSP, however, he did advise that he has written BT and will be in contact further once he has received their response. MSP Dave Thompson's Office Co-ordinator, Diane Duffy forwarded a copy of an e-mail response she received from BT, this e-mail confirmed that the up grades were being undertaken by the Scottish Governments NGA (Next Generation Access) Digital Broadband programmes HIE (Highlands and Islands Enterprise) and RoS (Rest of Scotland), these programmes are targeted to deliver NGA Digital Broadband to 85% of Scotland by 2015, increasing to 95% by 2017. The e-mail also notes that the details for the Isle of Skye have not yet been released. It was agreed to write both the MP and MSP thanking them for their efforts to date and look forward to receipt of their further advices in due course.

Item 8: Care in the Community

An e-mail was received from Mr A Lockhart regarding a conversation he had with a neighbour in relation to the perils and pitfalls when someone falls seriously ill and finding out what assistance is available through the Public Sector, could some form of leaflet be made available at Doctor's Surgeries or the like. Mrs H MacLeod advised that the CAB presently provide this type of information, they are a one stop shop for this type of advice, in addition they can arrange home visits if required.

Item 9: Correspondence

SLCVO Information Up Date
Highland Small Communities Housing Trust Membership Application
Highland MARAC Annual Report 20136

Item 10: AOCB

a) Advertising CC Meetings

It was agreed that all CC Meetings should be advertised on the Noticeboard at The Green

b) Post Office

As it is sometime since the last up date from Mrs F MacKinnon as to what is happening with the Post Office going forward, should we now contact her for an up date, agreed to await the next meeting as Mrs F MacKinnon in the past has diligently kept us informed of matters.

c) Bus Trip – Inverness

Mr B Morris advised that the next Bus Trip to Inverness has been set for 13th December 2015.

Date of next Meeting will be Monday 12th January 2015.

Miss MacLennan thanked everyone for their attendance

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:50pm.