

## **STRUAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON**  
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**TREASURER**  
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**SECRETARY**  
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**Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council, held in Struan Primary School on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Miss C MacLennan (Chair) Mr A Morrison Mr B Morris Mr K Davies  
Mr M N Beaton Mr G MacKinnon

### **Item 1: Welcome**

Miss C MacLennan took the Chair and welcomed all to the Meeting.

### **Item 2: Apologies for Absence**

Mr A Lockhart & Mrs H MacLeod

### **Item 3: Minutes of Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Minutes from the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> 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 instructions have now been received by himself, Mrs A Munro & Mrs H MacLeod from Mr N Till on how to input information onto the Web Page. Mr Morrison advised that they were difficult to understand but trying to get to grips with this and advised he is to speak to Mrs Munro & Mrs MacLeod to see how they are getting on with inputting information. In addition, an e-mail was received from Mrs A Munro regarding the renewal of the domain name. Mr Morrison to look into this and obtain the cost and, if not excessive, agreed that CC would pay this time as Trust paid the last time.

**Action: AM**

#### ***b) Cemetery Car Park & Play Park***

Mr A Morrison advised that he has recently spoken to Mr M Crowe at TEC Services and the Lease Agreements for both the Car Park & Play Park have been agreed in principle with the amendments we proposed. In addition, Local Members have no opposition to the Proposals. Now only require the Documentation to be completed. Mr Crowe has requested date from which Lease should run. It was agreed that we should go for 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. Mr Morrison advised he would confirm to Mr Crowe accordingly.

**Action: AM**

### ***c) Great War Commemoration***

Mr M N Beaton advised that he has given serious thought to how we should mark this occasion and has come up with a number of possible ideas. After some discussion, it was agreed that the idea of adding a Flag Pole and additional seat to the War Memorial would be appropriate – the plaque to be sited at the base of the Flag Pole; the additional seat to be set on the opposite side of the War Memorial from the existing seat, both having phrasing in commemoration appended. Mr M N Beaton to look into cost of Flag Pole and Mr A Morrison to look into cost of seat from same supplier from whom the existing seat was purchased. A decision then to be made if an application to be submitted to the Struan Trust for funding.

**Action: MNB & AM**

### ***d) Water Supply***

Mr A Morrison confirmed he had written Scottish Water regards the apparent additional testing of the water that had been ongoing in the village, along with the concerns raised re the taste of the water. Mr Morrison received a phone message to call back Joanne at Scottish Water in Inverness and, on contacting Joanne, was advised that the testing was a standard procedure undertaken in all their locations on a regular basis. They are continually checking the water at source along with private and business customers' addresses to ensure all is in order. She further advised that all tests were positive and there were no issues with the water.

### ***e) Struan School End of Year Prize Giving***

Mr A Morrison advised that subsequent to the CC giving the School a donation of £100.00 towards costs for the End of Year Prize Giving, a letter was received from Mrs S Matheson, Head Teacher, acknowledging receipt of the cheque and expressing their grateful thanks for our kind donation.

## **Item 5: Telephone Exchange**

Mr A Morrison & Mr B Morris confirmed to the meeting that our recent Application to the Struan Community Trust regarding the refurbishment of the Telephone Exchange has been successful, on the basis that a couple of points are clarified – (a) in that is it only the ceiling that is to be plaster boarded? and (b) that the paint for the interior will be of a suitable type for a concrete block wall. Mr G MacKinnon confirmed that the ceiling is the only area to be plaster boarded as the ceiling is in disrepair. In addition, the paint will be of the correct type for the wall construction. Mr B Morris will now confirm all in order to Mrs A Munro of SCT so that funds can be released.

## **Item 6: Struan Primary Schools**

Miss C MacLennan & Mr A Morrison advised that subsequent to our last meeting they had both attended the Public Meeting in Dunvegan regarding the closure of the four local Primary Schools. It was also noted that a number of present and prospective parents of Struan School were also in attendance. Both agreed that not a lot new was garnered from the meeting apart from the fact that, from the podium, it was stated in response to a question from the floor that the schools would not be closed until such time as the new School was built in Dunvegan and ready for occupation. It was apparent from the meeting that the majority in attendance were opposed to the closure of the Schools.

Furthermore, Miss C MacLennan & Mr A Morrison compiled a formal submission to be sent to Highland Council as part of the Consultation process. A cop of this document was circulated to CC members, Struan Parent Council, Struan School Head Teacher and Teaching Staff, with a request to all that, if they were aware of any other party with an interest, they were free to pass on to them.

Mr A Morrison also advised that he had been contacted by Mrs S Matheson, Head Teacher, regarding a visit to the School from an HMIE Inspector. The Inspector met with Staff, Pupils, Present & Prospective Parents and

also wished to meet with any Community Representatives to obtain their views on the proposed closure of the School. Mr A Morrison attended and spoke to the Inspector, advising that the loss of the use of the School to the Community would be a severe blow, as at present it is the only available premises that can be used for meetings and fund raising events by local groups. In addition, advised that it was felt that the Consultation process was flawed, in that Public Meetings had not been held locally. As each School has a different perspective on the closure, it would surely have made sense to discuss impact with each individual community. Also, within the Consultation Document issued, it had stated that a number of potential alternatives to the proposed mergers were identified or considered. This information was supposed to have been included but was not. The Inspector advised that she had been made aware of this fact during visits to the other Schools within the process. Finally, it was stressed that the strong feelings of the CC were that if the School does close that the best outcome for the children in our Community would be for them to be taken into the Carbost School catchment area as opposed to Dunvegan, due to the strong ties between the Schools at present.

Mr A Morrison tabled and read a letter received from the Chair of the Struan Parent Council, Ms Evelyn Wilson, thanking the CC for their continued support and hoping we will continue to support them towards the best outcome for the children in the community. All agreed that we would continue to support the position of the Parent Council and prospective parents - Mr A Morrison to confirm this, in writing, to Mrs Wilson of the Parent Council.

#### **Item 7: Shooting & Fishing Rights**

Mr A Morrison confirmed that he has written Mr D MacVicar at the Local department Office to confirm the possibility of interest from the Community in bidding for the Sporting Rights Lease that is due to come to an end in February 2015. It was agreed that the Community Council will hold a Public Meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.30pm in the School, to see what interest there is within the Community. It was further agreed that the Community Council would not be taking this forward, therefore it would be up to those attending the meeting to form a Group to move matters forward, if desired. Mr M N Beaton agreed to chair the meeting.

#### **Item 8: Remembrance Service**

The Act of Remembrance to be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at the War Memorial as normal. Miss C MacLennan to speak to Rev T MacKinnon to see if he is available to take the service, members of the Community both young and old to be approached to lay the wreaths, Peter Morrison to be contacted for Piping and Donald Beaton for the precenting. Mr M N Beaton wondered if it would be possible for the British Legion Colour Party to attend. Mr A Morrison advised he would speak to Mr Gerry Smith of the British Legion to see if this would be possible and would also confirm with Mr Smith regarding the wreaths. It was agreed that, this year, all the names engraved on the Memorial would be read out before the Two Minutes Silence.

#### **Item 9: Bonfire & Fireworks**

Mr A Morrison advised he would arrange this event and will obtain assistance from members of the Community, along with submitting an Application to the Struan Trust for funds for purchase of the Fireworks and Catering. He will, again, approach the Gala Committee to see if they are willing to undertake the Catering. As Bonfire Night falls on a Wednesday Night, it will either go ahead on 01/11 or 08/11 dependent on who is available on these dates.

#### **Item 10: Correspondence**

Acknowledgement from Highland Council Education Dept of receipt of our Submission regarding the School Consultation Process.

## **Item 11: AOCB**

### **a) Ward Forum**

Miss C MacLennan advised the meeting that she had attended the Ward Forum in Portree that afternoon. There were updates from the Police, Fire & Ambulance Services and the main forum topic being a Housing & Property update from Ms Liz Williams. On the Emergency Service front, the Forum was advised that a new permanent Police Inspector has been appointed to the Portree Office. Inspector Linda Allen takes up her appointment towards the end of October and will hopefully be in place for 3 to 5 years at least. In addition, reported that there have been further Rural Thefts. Police asked that people be vigilant and ensure all buildings are secure. The Fire Services advised they are in the process of setting up a Wild Fire Forum Group and are looking for Community representation to assist them in discussing ways, by education and prevention, to combat these types of fires getting out of control. The Ambulance Area Manager advised he would be willing to attend any Community Council Meetings to give an overview of the service they are providing in any area and answer any questions the Community may have regards the Service being provided. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to ourselves to contact and arrange a meeting. Ms Liz Williams then gave the main presentation to the Forum regarding Housing & Property, the main thrust being that there are not enough houses to supply the demand for people wishing to reside within the communities in Skye & Lochalsh - a common problem across the whole Highland Council Area. In conclusion it was intimated that the Planning Service would be in attendance at the next Ward Forum.

### **b) BT – Exchange Upgrades**

The recent media reports stating that a number of Telephone Exchanges on the Island are to be upgraded for faster Internet Connections via Fibre Optic Cables was discussed. It would appear that our local Exchange is one that is *not* being upgraded so it was, therefore, decided to write both our MP and MSP for their comments and possible assistance to see if anything can be done.

### **c) Treasurer's Report**

Mr B Morris confirmed that the Annual Highland Council Grant has now been received in the sum of £860.08, the Secretary's Honorarium has been paid in the sum of £250.00, leaving a balance in the Bank Account, at present, in the sum of £3,021.39. However, within this amount are funds totalling £1,040.00 for future Bus Trips.

Date of next Meeting will be Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Miss MacLennan thanked everyone for their attendance

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:55pm.