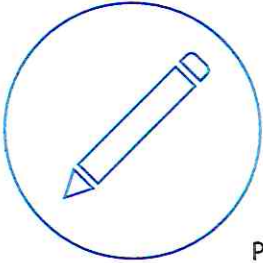


## Struan Community Council

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**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Wednesday 11th August at Tanda's shed with social distancing in place**

Present: Mr I Beaton, Mr A Morrison, Mr D Beaton Mr G MacKinnon, Mr A Lockhart & Mrs H MacLeod

### **1. Welcome**

Mr I Beaton opened & welcomed all to the meeting. Thanks was given to Tanda for the use of his shed as a meeting venue

### **2. Apologies**

Mr K Davies

### **3. Minutes of last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting from Wednesday 9th of June 2021 were put forward to the meeting for approval; adoption was proposed by Mr I Beaton and seconded by Mr A Lockhart.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### ***a) Play Park***

Mr A Morrison advised he had no time. Issue to be discussed as per item 6 on the agenda

#### ***b) Cemetery Car Park***

Mr I Beaton confirmed he has submitted the paper application to the Struan Community Trust

#### ***c) Helipad***

Mr A Morrison advised that he met Mr J Laing, Chair, Dunvegan CC in the passing and had an informal chat in relation to the possibility of siting a Helipad somewhere in the area between Struan & Dunvegan & to see if the idea was of interest to the Dunvegan CC, as insufficient time to discuss fully at the time, Mr Morrison advised that the Struan CC would write Dunvegan CC for their thoughts. One potential site that had been suggested by a member of the Community was the parcel of land just outside Dunvegan where the roads converge to provide a triangle of land. Further discussion was undertaken, on the basis the matter is progressed there are a number of issues that would require to be resolved, identify a suitable portion of land, have agreement from owner for use, contact Civil Aviation Authority for their advices, obtain requirements how the Helipad is to be constructed obtain costings. Mr A Morrison advised that he had discussed with Mr A Gray in Portree who had been involved in the construction of the Helipad in Portree a number of years ago, Mr Gray provided Mr Morrison with a contact in Applecross, as they had recently had a Helipad installed and would be up to speed on what was required. Mr Morrison agreed to formally contact

Dunvegan CC via Mr Laing to obtain their thoughts on the matter

**Action: A Morrison**

**d) Notice Board**

Mr G MacKinnon has secured 2 quotes for the composite posts and notice board to replace the existing wooden one which is no longer fit for purpose. He is awaiting a third quote and will submit the application to the Struan Community Trust for consideration at their next meeting. It was noted the cost of the preferred company was £2163.91, of which £310 was postage. The next deadline for applications to the Struan Community Trust is the end of September.

**Action: G MacKinnon**

**e) Broadband**

*It was noted that yet again, there still appears to be issues with Phone & Broadband in the area. Mr I Beaton advised that the outage that affected numerous households for approximately a week was caused by an issue in Dunvegan. The committee have all experienced issues with either phone and / or broadband and there are a great many affected within the wider community. It was agreed the CC should continue to raise the issue of the poor provision with Kate Forbes.*

**Action: H Macleod**

**f) Muirhall – Ullinish Wind Farm**

Mr A Morrison advised he would email Ross Jamieson at Muirhall to see if they can provide data from the Meteorological Mast that has been installed at the site to the community

**Action: A Morrison**

**g) Skips**

*It was noted that the last skip which was larger again than the previous ones at 25square cubic meters was full on the Monday morning when it was uplifted. There was no rubbish outside the skin and it was felt the larger skin was actually easier to dispose of rubbish in as it was a lower sided skip. Mr Morrison advised he had submitted an application to the Trust for a further two, 25sq cubic metres skips at a price of £682 + vat each. He will email the Struan Community Trust members to see if they can give approval to the application rather than waiting for their next meeting. If the application was approved, this would enable the CC to have a skin in September and again in November, following the same pattern as previous skips. Delivery on a Friday and collection on a Monday.*

**Action: A Morrison**

**h) War Memorial**

Mr I Beaton advised he had contacted McBrydes who advised that the plastic was £12 each and aluminium was £15. It was agreed to replace the existing ones with Aluminium. Mr I Beaton will contact Mr A Beaton to see if he still has the details from the original purchase in order to obtain a quote or quotes if the total costs exceed £1000

**Action: I Beaton**

**i) Struan Primary School**

Mr A Morrison advised he had been unable to locate an email address or phone number for the Highland Education Manager. MrS Macleod advised that a concerned parent had requested an update. Mr A Morrison advised he would make contact with someone within the Education Dept at Highland Council to see if they have any plans on what basis would the Nursery be re-opened.

**Action :A Morrison**

**j) Village Improvements & Issues**

Mr D Beaton brought up the state of the Coillore farm road. He noted it was some 2 years since he attended a surgery with Kate Forbes MSP when she had advised it would be done within a year. It has not been done,

it was swept possibly a year ago which further eroded the brittle surface. It was noted that the road is well used by tourists which increase the wear and tear on the road. It was noted that there has been considerable patching done this year by HC within the community. It was agreed to raise the issue of the poor condition of the road with Donnie Macleod & copy the email to Willie Mackinnon

**Action: H Macleod**

## **5 Cemeteries**

Mr A Morrison advised that he & Mr I Beaton had received an email from a member of the community regarding the state of the new cemetery. The Resident expressed their dismay at the condition of the fencing and that rabbit burrows were apparent within the Cemetery, also advised that he had e-mailed the Trust & the Council. In relation to the Trust, he advised that he felt that there was no better way for funds to be utilised than to carry out repair work to the Cemetery & also to up-grade, by way of tarring the paths. Mr A Morrison advised the resident that the issue has previously been raised in relation to both the old & new cemeteries with Mr Kevin Gordon at Highland Council. Initially an email was sent in order to confirm who was responsible for the up keep of both cemeteries, to advise on the issues in both Cemeteries and in the same e-mail, Mr Morrison asked if there would be any objection to works being carried out by the CC if funds could be made available by Struan Community Trust. Mr Gordon responded to confirm that both Cemeteries are the responsibility of Highland Council, Mr Gordon advised that if the Trust were able to provide funds it would be very helpful as their budget is very limited, also, he advised would try and have a look to see if they can make the old cemetery stock proof. Consequently, the old cemetery has been made stock proof, Highland Council have installed posts & planks to the outside of the area where the wall has collapsed.

There followed some discussion about the frustration that the lack of available funds by the Highland Council were again forcing the local community to source alternative. Mr A Morrison explained that the Struan Community Trust would likely be in breach of their agreement with Vattenfall if they were to grant funds in relation to anything that is the responsibility of Local Authority as this is precluded within the Trust Deed. Mr Morrison further advised that to enable the Play Park to be revamped & the proposed works being planned for the Cemetery Car Park to be undertaken, the CC had to enter into a Lease with Highland Council both areas, so that the CC became responsible to allow funding to be obtain from the Trust.

It was agreed that the CC should contact the SCT to see, if as we believe, they are unable to provide funding, and if that is the case, could they contact Vattenfall to see if Vattenfall would be willing to make an exception in this instance & allow the SCT to grant an application in relation to providing funds to carry out a complete re-fencing of the new Cemetery, replacing the gate, up grading the pathways, etc, also, to carry out remedial works required at the old Cemetery.

**6. Play park.** Mr A Morrison advised he had ben unable to take this action further. There is still exposed and broken concrete immediately adjacent to the soft safe surface and needs to be addressed. It was suggested by the gentleman who carried out the inspection immediately after the inspection of the new equipment that additional soft safe surfacing could butt up to the existing surface but it could be problematic. He had suggested artificial turf. Mrs Macleod asked for clarification on who is responsible for the maintenance of the actual equipment was she was aware that the pain flaking on the equipment that had been left had caused minor injury yo a child. Mr A Morrison confirmed that it was the Community Council's responsibility to maintain the equipment as per the terms of the lease. Highland Council would carry out the routine annual inspections and would advise th eCC of any issues arising from the inspection. Highland Council are responsible for any liability issues. It was agreed to contact Highland Council to see when the last inspection had taken place and if they had identified any issues that could be then taken forward to be included in the remedial works to the bare concrete. It was noted that there was a request for a bench to be sited within the palypark. This would be included in the application for funding form the Struan Community Trust once all works had been identified and costed.

**Action: Mrs H Macleod**

**7. Bins @ Picnic benches.** At the recent Struan Community Trust meeting it was raised the there are no bins for tourists at the Green or the popular viewpoints where the community council have previously located benches. It was suggested that the Community Council were to purchase bins, would Highland Council then empty them? There followed some discussion on the lack of resources and funding from Highland Council leading to a lack of provision within the community. Mrs H Macleod advised that there were several bins at the Ullinish Lodge Hotel that the present owner would be willing to gift to the community. It was agreed to speak to Highland Council Refuse Manager to see if the road side bin at the Green along with bins at the more popular bench locations could be added to the HC routes.

**Action: H Macleod**

**8. Act of Remembrance.** This will take place on the Saturday the 13th of November. Mr A Morrison advised a new flag was required for this year at a cost of approx £45. Further preparations to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Action: A Morrison**

### **9. Correspondence**

Runners up certificate from Skye Climate Action for the Golden Skye 2021 competition

Invitation to the climate Feis

### **10. AOCB**

It was noted there was no update from Police Scotland

It was noted there was no update from the local Counsellor

Mrs H Macleod asked if it would be possible at the next application for funding for the grass cutting within the community for the new community planters to be added to the schedule of works. She is happy to continue to trim them at present. A list of sites of the planters is to be compiled to be included in the next application to the Struan Community Trust for grass cutting for 2022.

**Action: Mrs H Macleod**

Mr G Mackinnon advised that there is a lack of provision for the Struan area by Dunvegan fire brigade during working hours due to lack of qualified drivers. Mrs H Macleod advised she was aware another fire fighter was undergoing the blue light driver training and is awaiting her test in Dundee. Mr I Beaton advised of two events in the past 2 weeks where the fire brigade were called out to assist to a road traffic accident and a cow stuck in a bog and it was Portree fire brigade that attended. No one has seen any recent adverts for recruitment for the Fire Service in the local area. Mrs H Macleod will speak to the Fire Chief in Dunvegan Station for clarification on the current situation.

**Action: Mrs H Macleod**

Mrs Macleod advised the Struan Community Gala Committee were to host a coffee afternoon for the Struan community on Saturday the 25th of September from 2-4pm at the Green using the 2 marquees to still allow for social distancing for those who would feel more comfortable in maintaining a safe distance but still being able to fully participate in the event. Each community group has been asked to attend as there have been a number of changes during the period of lockdown and subsequent restrictions to the community and various groups so this would give everyone a chance to catch up. The Archive Centre have been asked to attend with a presentation relevant to the community.

### **Planning Application**

Mr A Morrison had circulated via email details of the Planning Application for which we are Consultees dated 16th August 2021 20/04065/S42 Section 42 application for non-compliance with condition 1 of Beinn

Mheadhonach wind farm as consented (18/03214/FUL) Land 1600M NE Of Sumardale Croft, Struan. No comments to note

**Date of Next Meeting Monday 18th October 2021 @ Tanda's shed**

**Mr I Beaton thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.30pm**

*Mr. Liddell 1/11/21*

*J.G. Beaton 1.11.21*