

Struan Community Council

Chairperson	Secretary/Treasurer	Vice-Chairperson
Mr I Beaton	Mr A Morrison	Mr D Beaton
Gesto Farm	3 Coillore	1 Coillore
Struan	Struan	Struan
Isle of Skye	Isle of Skye	Isle of Skye
01470 572217	01470 572357	01470 572250

Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Wednesday 21st September 2022

Present: Mr I Beaton, Mr D Beaton, Mr K Davies, Mr A Lockhart, Mr G MacKinnon, Mr D J Morrison, Mr A Morrison, Mr G Semler & Mr M N Beaton

1. Welcome

Mr I Beaton opened & welcomed all to the meeting

2. Apologies

None

3. Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting from Monday 15th June 2022 were put forward to the meeting for approval, adoption was proposed by Mr A Lockhart and seconded by Mr K Davies.

4. Matters Arising

a) Notice Board

Mr G MacKinnon advised he has a quote for the preferred Notice Board just awaiting Quotes for erection & disposal of existing prior to submitting to the Trust for funding.

Action: Mr G MacKinnon

b) Broadband

Mr A Morrison advised that an e-mail has been sent to Kate Forbes MSP's Office noting disappointment of what was contained in recent response and asking if they can press further, also requested that they try and find out why there appears to be a reluctance to up-grade the Exchange. In addition, alternative options were discussed that could favour individuals, although preferred option is the matter to be resolved Community wide.

Action: Mr A Morrison

c) Skips

Agreed that Skips have again worked well, therefore, agreed that we would look to order more next Spring on a similar time frame to this past year.

d) Play Park

Mr G MacKinnon advised that he has been in touch with HAGS, the Company that carried out the refurbishment of the Play Park, they are to provide Quotes for covering the concrete areas, there are 3 options, same as at present, a resin-based covering or Astro turf. Will await quotes prior to deciding on best option but preferred option at this inst. would be Astro turf. In addition, was agreed that the installation of a bench seat would be appropriate although a bin may require some further discussion. Furthermore, it has been pointed out by a local resident that people do not appear to be

aware of the entrance to the Play Park, it was agreed to see if either a new entrance can be created, otherwise a sign erected showing path to enter from road.

Action: Mr G MacKinnon & Mr A Morrison

e) War Memorial Plaques

Mr G MacKinnon advised that the Plaques have been received and he will have these fitted prior to the Act of Remembrance.

5. Co – Option

As discussed at the last meeting Mr D J Morrison had been asked and agreed to join the Community Council, therefore, formal co-option requires to be undertaken and minuted:

Proposed: Mr D Beaton

Seconded: Mr I Beaton

Therefore, Mr D J Morrison formally co-opted to Community Council

6. Glen Ullinish II

Mr A Morrison initially provided a summary of the meetings held between Community Council, Trust & Development Group subsequent to our last meeting. Mr A Morrison, Mr I Beaton and Mr D Beaton attended on behalf of Community Council. In short, the 3 Groups agreed that the main focus moving forward should be a Community Action Plan (CAP) showing what the Community requires long term. Requirements to be established by way of Public Meetings, Survey and Analysis of outcomes, this will then form the basis of the CAP that can then drive negotiations with Muirhall in relation to the proportion of the Community Benefit that should be allocated to Struan. It was further agreed that the Community Council should take the lead, it was also agreed that we should appoint Consultants to undertake development of the CAP on our behalf and obtain funding from the Trust to cover costs. Mr Morrison advised the other Groups that he would put this proposition to the Community Council at this meeting and if they were in agreement would move forward to look for Consultants to carry out the work required. All agreed to go forward on this basis.

Mr G Semler then addressed the meeting as he is deeply concerned about the Wind Farm and its potential to become massively divisive both in Struan and out with, hence Mr Semler's previous e-mails to the Community Council and his attendance at the meeting. He stated his primary objectives are to minimise divisiveness and maximise community benefit to Struan, all in attendance were full agreement that this should be the stated aim of all.

Mr Semler went on to outline a number of key points that he feels the Community Council should address:

1. The need for the CC to establish the Community Opinion on the Project both from a planning and Community Benefit perspective.
2. His Two main concerns that he believes need to be addressed by Muirhall are the risk to Water Supply (Both Private & Public) and the management of the major disruption that will constantly be present throughout the build phase of the Project.
3. The urgent need to develop the CAP.
4. The need for transparency and his recommendation that CC officers that are going to directly benefit from the windfarm to "declare an interest"

In respect of Item 1, garnering a Community Opinion on the Project, Mr Semler had previously indicated to the Community Council that he felt we should find out whether the Community was in favour or against the Project. Mr M N Beaton, attending the meeting as a Community Member felt this could be in itself divisive if undertaken by way of some form of referendum, would be difficult to undertake and ultimately all community members have had and will have ample opportunity to make their feelings known to Muirhall by way of Consultations, it was agreed to request that Muirhall hold a Public Meeting in late October/early November with the recommendation that it be solely open to those resident in the Struan catchment area so that Muirhall can provide a full outline of their proposals on how they see the Project progressing, in particular in relation to how they are to manage the Water issues that have been raised and disruption to roads etc during the construction phase, and provide detailed information on the Community Benefit Package that will flow to the Community. Thereafter, the Community Council to hold a further Public Meeting (for Struan Community members only) to allow community members to express their opinions on all matters. It is anticipated that this meeting would also assist with the formulation of the CAP.

In respect of Item 2, Mr A Morrison confirmed he had first raised the issue of concerns about risk to the Water Supply with the previous Project Manager, Ross Jamieson, at one of the earliest Consultations, requesting that they look at the situation and are able to respond to questions on the matter; unfortunately, appears that not all questions posed have been adequately answered to the satisfaction of community members who have private water supplies in the vicinity of Turbines that are within the defined Drinking Water Protected Area. This area is also adjacent to the Public Water Supply so this matter must be addressed to the satisfaction of the Community. It was further agreed that Muirhall should be required to provide information on their plans for minimising, disruption to the community during the construction phase, along with how they will deal with any ensuing damage.

In respect of Item 3, as previously noted this will now progress and hopefully move forward at a rapid pace.

In respect of Item 4, Mr A Morrison advised that at present he felt no discussion on this point would be warranted without first referring to the Community Council Constitution to see if any guidance within, the matter can then be addressed at the next meeting.

Further discussion was undertaken in relation to the process and workings of both the Energy Consent Unit and the Community Benefit Package in relation to these being two wholly separate processes and how we can obtain the best outcome for the community.

Action: A Morrison

7. Cemeteries

Mr I Beaton advised he has the Application & Estimates ready for the replacing and improving the fencing at the Cemetery, will be submitted to the Trust for funding at their next meeting. Further advised that he awaits Estimates for the proposed wall at the new Cemetery and repairs to the wall at the work of the at old Cemetery, once these are to hand a further application will be submitted to the Trust for funding. In relation to the Cemetery Car Park, Invoice received and paid. A discussion was then held in relation to finishing off the perimeter. It was agreed that a wooden fence similar to the previous one would be the best option Mr D J Morrison advised he would obtain Estimates and reporting back once he has quotes, he will also see if he can locate the "No Overnight Parking" sign and have re-erected. It was advised that there had been an issue recently during a funeral where the Undertakers had some issues with their trolley and the slope at the front of the Cemetery, it was

agreed to investigate to see if the area to the front of the access to the Cemetery could be somehow levelled off or if there is any other solution to resolve and assist undertakers, Mr A Morrison advised he would discuss with local Undertakers to see if they have any comments or thoughts.

Action: Mr I Beaton, Mr DJ Morrison & Mr A Morrison

8. Village Improvements

Mr A Morrison advised an e-mail had been received from Mrs S MacKinnon raising a number of issues, a couple have already been dealt with earlier in the meeting in respect of the Play Park & Notice Board, in addition, Mrs MacKinnon wished to raise the following:

Signs: There are no signs at either end of the village to say that you are in Struan, will contact Highland Council to see if they intend erecting signs or can the Community obtain and have Highland Council erect as they are at the road side, also requested that bi-lingual signs be erect

Action: Mr A Morrison

Bushes: The bushes at Ullinish Road end, Dun Beag Corner, Recycling Bin Corner & St Johns Chapel Corner all in need of a trim. Mr M N Beaton advised that this had been an issue a number of years back and it was determined at the time that these areas were the responsibility of the Department, they were advised and arranged trimming as bushes were on their ground and Highland Council were not responsible. Mr A Morrison advised he would contact the Department for their thoughts and advices

Action: Mr A Morrison

Offlets A863: All blocked between Sligachan and Dunvegan, Mr A Morrison advised will raise with Highland Council and ask they look into clearing

Action: Mr A Morrison

Toilets: What about considering using the school toilets for public use? even just the one staff toilet at the front door, is it something that could work?, all agreed good idea, was further agreed would be worth investigating on the basis we can agree a Lease of the School from the Highland Council, as do not believe at present Highland Council would entertain.

9. Struan School

Mr A Morrison was happy to advise that after a number of e-mails and some frustration it had finally been agreed in the first instance that Lets of the School could resume, the first one will be for the Muirhall Consultation on Wednesday 28th September, Mr Morrison at this juncture wished to express his sincere thanks to Local Councillors Drew Millar & John Finlayson for their support and promptings to Highland Council Property & Facilities Management as without their assistance this may have dragged on even longer. However, although the School can now be let by Local Groups and others, the ultimate aim is to obtain a Lease of the Property to allow the for the Community to have full control and in due course, purchase so as to develop into a Community Hub, to this end Mr Morrison is awaiting contact from Mr F MacDonald, Head of Property & Facilities Management, who has advised he will phone to discuss a lease. Mr Morrison advised he would report back as & when he has anything further.

Action: Mr A Morrison

10. Act of Remembrance

This year's Community Act of Remembrance will take place on Saturday 12th November with a start time of 10:45am along similar lines as in past years, Mr A Morrison advised he has ordered 2

Wreaths, has copy of Order of Service and will have copies printed. Mr A Lockhart advised he would speak to Rev James Beaton to see if he was available and willing to officiate. Mr M N Beaton was asked if he would act on behalf of eth Community Council to welcome all and read out the Roll of Honour, Mr Beaton agreed, will also contact Peter Morrison regards piping, Mr Beaton also wished to commend the Community Council in arranging new Plaques and how good the Memorial has looked since the planting has been done this year. It was also agreed who we would ask to lay the wreaths on behalf of the Community, if either cannot will re-visit. It was further mooted that as the School is now available for Let would it be an idea to invite all in attendance to the School for Tea & Coffee after conclusion, all agreed would be worthwhile, Mr A Morrison advised will arrange.

11. Planning

No issues

12. Correspondence

None

11. AOCB

None

Date of Next Meeting 31st October 2022 @ 7.00pm at Struan School

The meeting closed at 9.15pm



04/11/2022