

## Struan Community Council

### Chairperson

Mr I Beaton  
Gesto Farm  
Struan  
Isle of Skye  
01470 572217

### Secretary/Treasurer

Mr A Morrison  
3 Coillore  
Struan  
Isle of Skye  
01470 572357

### Vice-Chairperson

Mr D Beaton  
1 Coillore  
Struan  
Isle of Skye  
01470 572250

## Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Present: Mr I Beaton, Mr D Beaton, Mr A Lockhart, Mr G MacKinnon, Mr D J Morrison, Mr A Morrison, Mrs S Illingworth, Mr G Semler, Mr M N Beaton, Mr D Millar (Highland Councillor), Ms M MacDonald (Area Education Manager) & Mr I Jackson (Highland Council Education Office) by Teams

### 1. Welcome

Mr I Beaton opened & welcomed all to the meeting

### 2. Apologies

Mr K Davies

### 3. Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 were put forward to the meeting for approval, adoption was proposed by Mr A Lockhart and seconded by Mr D J Morrison

### 4. Matters Arising

#### ***a) Notice Board***

Mr G MacKinnon confirmed an application has been submitted to the Trust for funding new Notice Board.

#### ***b) Broadband***

Mr A Morrison advised that an e-mail had been received from Keith Nicolson, Kate Forbes MSP's case worker, we had asked if they could ask the R100 Digital Scotland Division to advise why the Struan Exchange cannot be up graded when so many & further spread communities on either side, Carbost, Dunvegan & Glendale have the service in place, is it the demographic of the population that is having our community passed over. In the response received Mr Nicolson did not have the question answered & simply responded to advise that they have been looking at local projects, such as the Glen Ullinish II Wind Farm proposal, as they are aware through other community benefit schemes broadband can sometimes be offered as part of the scheme, going on to say, if you have not done so already, we would certainly encourage the Community Council to enquire with Muirhall regarding their community benefit scheme and what consideration can be given to linking with Struan.

It was agreed that appears they are simply passing the buck and not interested in assisting us, will respond and press further for an answer to original question. **Action: Mr A Morrison**

### ***c) Play Park***

Mr G MacKinnon advised that from his discussions with HAGS that the Astra Turf option would be best, however, Hags have advised that although they will come and install the Astro Turf, they will not undertake the preparatory work, therefore, Mr MacKinnon to obtain quotes for this to allow the project to progress. The path to the entrance to the Play Park was also further discussed, agreed that a formal path be constructed from the road round to the back entrance, various forms of path discussed, chips, tarmac, slabs, Mr G MacKinnon & Mr D J Morrison will take on and obtain quotes for consideration.

**Action: Mr G MacKinnon & Mr D J Morrison**

### ***d) Village Improvements***

Mr A Morrison advised all matters ongoing

**Action: Mr A Morrison**

## **5. Struan School**

Ms M MacDonald (Area Education Manager) in person & Mr I Jackson (Education Officer) by Teams, attended the meeting to provide the Community Council with an up-date on the position with the school along with their proposal for moving forward. Mr Jackson advised that the mothballing of a School requires to be reviewed regularly, at each point of review they can either continue to mothball or they can move to commence the process to close the school, due to several factors they are minded to move towards closure of the school. At this point Mr Jackson asked for the views of the Community Council, all believed taking all factors into consideration they had no objection to the process of closure commencing.

Mr Jackson then went on to explain the process involved and the likely timeframe, the process cannot commence until has been put before a full Council meeting, the next one being due in March 2023, as the process likely to take a year after full consultation and final ratification by the Scottish Ministers, the earliest closure likely conclusion would be Spring 2024, Ms MacDonald left Mr I Beaton a timetable of the process for information. Ms MacDonald went on to advise the position with the building upon closure, initially would be offered in house to any Department within Highland Council for their use, if no takers, the next option is a Community Asset Transfer, if this not taken up then would go for sale on the open market. Ms MacDonald also advised that until such time as the school has been formally closed the Education Dept would continue to be responsible for the building and maintenance.

Mr A Morrison went on to advise the up-to-date position with use of the School by the Community, at present can be used by way of contacting Mr Morrison, as he will act as a Keyholder as agreed with Mr F MacDonald Highland Council Property & Facilities, in addition, Mr MacDonald will proceed to draft a Lease Document to allow the Community Council to have control over the building in the interim period, this will allow access to and use of the Keder House by the Community, it is hoped that a Lease will be in place by end of the year or early 2023. Furthermore, the Demountable Unit is to be demolished, the Contract has been agreed, the Unit has been cleared out and only outstanding item is an Asbestos Report to be undertaken, then will be demolished. Mr Morrison advised would keep all up dated on progress.

**Action: Mr A Morrison**

## **6. Glen Ullinish II**

Mr A Morrison advise that subsequent to the last meeting's short discussion on Declaration of Interests, he had sent a copy of Highland Council Code of Conduct for Community Councils to all members requesting they review with the intention anyone with an interest in the Muirhall



Development or for that matter any other Wind Farm Development either on going or proposed would be given the opportunity to declare their interest, Mr A Lockhart, Mr I Beaton & Mr D J Morrison all declared they had an interest in the Muirhall Development. Furthermore, no member has any interest in any other Wind Farm Development either ongoing or proposed.

In relation to the significant Community concerns with possible pollution/disruption to Public & Private Water supplies due to Turbines on the DWPA, Mr Morrison wrote Mr P MacIntyre at Scottish Water in Portree, Mr MacIntyre responded advising "as far as I am aware the Scottish Water catchment team are preparing to ask the planning authorities to stop the 6 turbines going within the catchment area" further going on to say "I have been keeping tabs on this and raising concerns to the Scottish Water sustainable land management people" concluding that he will continue to liaise with Scottish Water Sustainable Land Management people, so as they can hopefully provide reassurance that Scottish Water are doing what is needed to protect the catchment area.

There followed a discussion on the Community Benefit, various aspects discussed, in particular the level of funding being provided for the Community Benefit Fund, felt by all that although the figure proposed by Muirhall purported as being market leading at £7,000 per KW at present, it is still perceived as low in comparison to the return Muirhall will gain from the Development, Mr D Millar advised that he would be bringing this up when Councillors meet with Muirhall and he feels a significantly higher fund should be provided by Muirhall. In addition, was agreed to write Ian Blackford MP for his advice as Scottish Ministers are the land owners of much of the ground upon which the Development is to be sited to see if he can put any pressure on in respect of an increase in the Community Benefit.

Mr I Beaton and Mr A Morrison on behalf of the Community Council are to attend a meeting with Muirhall on Tuesday 8/11, along with representatives from the Development Group and Trust, there will also be representation from neighbouring Community Groups, the purpose of the meeting is for Muirhall to update on present position and provide details of their vision of the Community Benefit Fund, Mr A Morrison advised there is a meeting of the 3 local Groups on Monday 07/11 in preparation for the Muirhall meeting, All agreed that we should be insisting Struan have a separate standalone Community Benefit to others to ensure a guaranteed income year on year and to assist with levelling up, continue to press Muirhall to provide a date for a Public Meeting in Struan with Struan residents, question who should actually be classed as near neighbours and press for an increase in the per KW sum payable. **Action: A Morrison**

## **7. Other Wind Farm Developments**

Mr A Morrison advised in respect of existing and new Wind Farm Developments within the vicinity of the Community:

### **Vattenfall**

An initial e-mail received from Simon Lejeune and subsequently Mr Morrison had a telephone conversation with him in respect of their future plans for the existing Development, Mr Lejeune advised that their intention is to repower and extend the site, they will be replacing the existing turbines with a larger version, due to this the spacing between each will require to be extended, they hope to have plans in place early 2023 and will arrange Public Event in Struan.

### **Balmeanach**

In respect of the upcoming Development to be undertaken by Wind2, Mr Morrison sent an e-mail to Mr Fraser MacKenzie to se



e if they were intending holding any events in Struan & advising that we do have access to the school and is suitable for anything they may wish to undertake, also, asking about a Public Meeting in the future. Subsequently, response received from Ms Hannah Brown, Project Manager to advise they would be willing to hold an event in Struan, they are awaiting receipt of the formal boards they would use and these likely to be hand late November, can then arrange event in Struan thereafter. Although, an e-mail received from Fiona Scott of SLR Consulting this week advising of in person Consultations in Dunvegan & Edinbane on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>Rd</sup> November, Mr Morrison will contact them for advices on when they wish to undertake one in Struan **Action: Mr A Morrison**

### **8. Community Action Plan**

Mr A Morrison advised he had contacted three firms, Star Development Group, PAS & Nick Wright Planning to see if they would be willing to provide a Proposal & Costing for undertaking the work in relation to producing a Community Action Plan. Mr Morrison spoke at length with Lesley Campbell at Star, after going over what we were looking for, Lesley has provided a Proposal for a Community Action Plan for Struan outlining what they would propose to undertake along with a costing that has been circulated to all Community Council members. Mr Morrison also advised that he has arranged a call with PAS this coming Wednesday to discuss what is required and ask that they provide a costed Proposal, in addition, advised that he has had an e-mail exchange with Nick Wright, although Mr Wright would be delighted to get involved and provide a Proposal, unfortunately he has several Projects ongoing and committed to that will keep him tied up into the middle of next year, therefore, unable at present to get involved. Mr Morrison further advised that he would now send on the Star Proposal to the members of the joint CC, Trust & Development Group in preparation for the meeting this coming Monday and will outline details of the other options at the meeting.

### **9. Cemeteries**

Mr I Beaton advised that the application to the Trust has been successful for re-fencing the new Cemetery, will now contact Ian Leach to have the works undertaken, Mr Beaton further advised that he has submitted a further application to the Trust in respect of the replacement of the front wall at the new Cemetery. Mr D J Morrison advised in process of obtaining estimates for finishing off the perimeter of the Cemetery Car Park, hopes to have in early course, also, cannot locate the "No Overnight Parking" sign but will obtain a costing for a replacement. **Action: D J Morrison**

### **10. Act of Remembrance**

As all are aware this year's Community Act of Remembrance will take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November with a start time of 10:45am, Mr A Morrison advised he has the 2 Wreaths, will have copies of the Order of Service printed, Mr A Lockhart confirmed Rev James Beaton will officiate, also that Mrs J Beaton with assistance from Mrs K Lockhart will lay the Community Wreath, Mr Morrison confirmed that Alasdair Tindall will lay the Wreath on behalf of the Young People of the Community. Mr M N Beaton will read the Roll of Honour and confirmed that Peter Morrison will be in attendance to play the Pipes. In addition, as the school is now available it was agreed to provide Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after the conclusion Of events at the War Memorial for all. Mr Beaton further advised that the name of Kenneth Lockhart who died during the Boer Warr was not on the War Memorial and feels he should be named, all were in agreement, Mr Beaton agreed to contact John Hearch to see the best way to undertake the addition.

**11. Planning**

Consultation Request Notification received in relation to the Skye Reinforcement Project, response required by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**12. Correspondence**

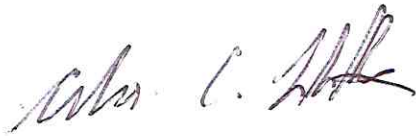
None

**13. AOCB**

None

Date of Next Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023@ 7.00pm at Struan School

The meeting closed at 9.15pm



D.G. Beaton

09/01/2023