

Struan Community Council

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Mr D Beaton
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Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Thursday 23rd March 2023

Present: Mr I Beaton, Mr D Beaton, Mr G MacKinnon, Mr D J Morrison, Mr A Morrison, Mr K Davies, Mrs S Illingworth & Mr G Semler

1. Welcome

Mr I Beaton opened & welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Mr A Lockhart & Mr D Millar (Highland Councillor)

3. Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting from Monday 9th January 2023 were put forward to the meeting for approval, adoption was proposed by Mr D Beaton and seconded by Mr G MacKinnon.

4. Matters Arising

a) Notice Board

Mr G MacKinnon confirmed the new Noticeboard to be in situ shortly.

b) Broadband

Mr A Morrison confirmed still await response from Mr K Nicolson, Kate Forbes MSO case worker, in relation to an answer as to why the Struan Exchange cannot be up graded, will again press for an answer.

Action: Mr A Morrison

c) Play Park

Mr G MacKinnon & Mr D J Morrison confirmed that access to the Playpark agreed and will require some groundworks for both new access and in preparation for the Astro turf, hope to have these to hand in early course, will then submit application to the Struan Trust for funding. Also, will arrange new signage and bench for the Playpark.

Action: Mr G MacKinnon & Mr D J Morrison

d) Village Improvements

Subsequent to receipt of Councillor D Millar's e-mail and having circulated same to all, signage agreed, Mr A Morrison to contact Mr D MacLeod at the Council to discuss and move forward at the earliest opportunity.

Action: Mr A Morrison

e) Struan School

Mr A Morrison confirmed still await receipt of Draft Lease from Highland Council, in addition, still await notification of date for the demolishen of De-mountable Unit, confirmed School being used on a regular basis by Community Groups for meetings along with use by Wind Farm Developers for

Consultation Events, a log being kept of all usage, also, Mr Morrison continues to undertake the weekly inspections, checking the building and keeping a record of these actions. Mr Morrison will contact Mrs J MacRae at the Council for update re both Lease & Demolition. In addition, Mr Morrison confirmed that the formal School Closure Community Meeting had been held on Monday 20th March 2023 by Highland Council in the School, chaired by Mr J Finlayson Education Committee Chair, also in attendance were Mr I Jackson Highland Council Education Office and Ms M MacDonald, Area Education Officer, Mr Jackson went through the process for the formal closure along with the timeframe and answered questions from community members in attendance, of which there was a good number. Mr Jackson confirmed the Public Consultation would run from 23rd February to 21st April, consultation will then continue with Education Scotland, the Final Report will then be drafted and submitted to the Education Committee likely November 2023, then to the full Council for ratification in December 2023, subsequently requires to go to Scottish Ministers who have 8 weeks to make their decision, therefore on the basis that all progresses official closure likely February/March 2024.

f) Other Wind Farm Developments

Vattenfall

Mr A Morrison advised that Vattenfall have requested use of the School for a Consultation Event in relation to their proposed re-powering, agreed for Tuesday 18th April 2023 from 3.00pm to 7.00pm.

g) Cemeteries

Mr I Beaton confirmed that Ian leach has now completed the fence, the Application for funding to Struan Trust for the wall at the new Cemetery has been approved and Iain MacPhee to undertake the work. Mr I Beaton also advised was obtaining estimates for repairs required to the old Cemetery wall and will obtain these prior to submitting funding application to Struan Trust. Mr D J Morrison advised was still in process of obtaining Quotes for perimeter barrier at the Cemetery Car Park, after further discussion agreed would be best to go with a 600mm high barrier in recycled material that can be obtained from Marmax Recycled Plastic Products, Mr D J Morrison to obtain price for materials then obtain estimates for labour to undertake the work in erecting.

Action: Mr D J Morrison

h) NHS

Mr A Morrison advised no response from NHS in relation to invite for someone to attend this meeting to provide an update on Health Services, agreed Mr Morrison would contact them again to advise date of next meeting and re-invite them to attend

Action: A Morrison

i) Planning – Edinbane Scoping

Mr A Morrison confirmed that a response had been drafted, circulated to all, agreed and submitted to the Energy Consent Unit.

5. Glen Ullinish II

Mr Morrison confirmed that meetings held with Muirhall on Monday 23rd January with CAP Group and on Tuesday 24th January with the Public, in both meetings the main topics discussed were Community Benefit, Public/Private Water Supply and Disruption during the build phase. CAP Group made it clear that the revised proposed Community Benefit Split (20% Struan, 30% Near Neighbours & 50% Skye Wide) was wholly unacceptable, this was further reinforced by the attendees at the Public Meeting the following evening, where standing room only with 60 to 70 community members in attendance. After the CAP Group meeting with Muirhall on Monday evening, on Tuesday morning

Muirhall requested a Zoom Meeting with CAP Group later that week, after discussion Muirhall advised not possible, as CAP Group need to see outcome of Public Meeting and will also then have to discuss both meetings prior to responding to Muirhall, this was relayed to Muirhall on Tuesday evening prior to the Public Meeting.

The CAP Group met on 3rd February to discuss the two meetings, after discussion was agreed to send our comments to Muirhall, in addition agreed to contact the Near Neighbour Communities to an informal meeting in Struan and providing them with a note of latest interaction with Muirhall to discuss this along with other proposed Wind Farm Developments, meeting proposed for 20th February. The meeting took place on 20th February with all Communities represented, a wide-ranging discussion was undertaken in relation to Muirhall and other proposed Wind Farm Developments, number of points agreed and the opportunity to work together to benefit our communities was the best way forward and will all report back to relevant groups and come together again in the future.

Consequent to the Communities meeting, response received from Muirhall that was taken by all too be an ultimatum in that if Struan did not accept the 20% share of the Community Benefit being offered by 17th March we would fall back into the Near Neighbour share of 50%. CAP Group members agreed to write both MP & MSP in relation to the position with Muirhall, in addition to contact Near Neighbours with details of what we have received from Muirhall and to see if they would be happy for us to attend the Near Neighbour meeting in Dunvegan on 20th March.

All Near Neighbours responded to confirm happy for us to attend meeting in Dunvegan, e-mail sent to Muirhall advising that Near Neighbours would like out attendance at meeting, Muirhall responded to advise we were not invited as we have had ample opportunity to discuss matters with them and offering a half hour before the Near Neighbour meeting. In addition, positive response received from Ian Blackford MP strongly backing our and neighbours' position, Zoom Meeting arranged for Friday 17th March, meeting undertaken, went over up to date position and that we had been advised not welcome at near neighbour meeting, Mr Blackford aghast and advised he would speak to Chris Walker at Muirhall as clear Muirhall trying to split the communities. Subsequent to Mr Blackford speaking to Chris Walker, e-mail received from Muirhall confirming we were welcome to attend Dunvegan Meeting.

The Near Neighbour meeting was similar to previous meetings with Muirhall in that they provided an update on present position with the Development, details of final layout, up-date on the Pier Proposal and confirming their intention of a 20/30/50 split of the Community Benefit. In relation to the Community Benefit all the Community Reps were as one in rejecting and proposing as previously 40/40/20 split, after long discussion was agreed that the Communities would come together to provide a proposal to Muirhall regards the Community Benefit including details of how to administer along with providing information on what the Communities plan going forward so as to flush out the proposal. The Communities agreed to meet on 4th April to discuss further.

6. Community Action Plan

Mr A Morrison confirmed that since the last meeting the CAP group have had their application for funding to the Struan Trust for £30,000 approved, in addition, have also had confirmation from HIE that they will contribute £15,000 to the cost of the Community Action Plan, therefore, the amount now required from the Struan Trust reduces to £15,000. Consequently, after discussion with both STAR & PAS, the contract to carry out the Community Action Plan was agreed with PAS with an official start date of 1st May 2023, however, some ground work being undertaken in the interim with

a Zoom Meeting arranged with Paul Ede of PAS and the CAP Group on 27th March 2023 to start the process. Mr Morrison will update as and when matters have progressed further.

7. Trust Applications

Agreed to submit applications for funding to the Struan trust for Skips, Plants Compost etc for the War Memorial and Grass Cutting around Community Benches & Picnic Tables. Mr A Morrison will submit for end of March.

Action: Mr A Morrison

8. Correspondence

None

9. AOCB

None

Date of Next Meeting Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.00pm in Struan School

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

D. G. Beaton 15.5.23

G. Mackie 15/05/23