

Struan Community Council

Chairperson
Mr I Beaton
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Isle of Skye
01470 572217

Secretary/Treasurer
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Vice-Chairperson
Mr D Beaton
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Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Monday 15th May 2023

Present: Mr I Beaton, Mr D Beaton, Mr G MacKinnon, Mr D J Morrison, Mr A Morrison, Mr K Davies, Mr A Lockhart, Mr D Millar (Highland Councillor), Mrs S Illingworth & Mr G Semler

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 23rd March 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 has arrived and will be in place in the next few weeks, also advised would see if the existing blackboard can be fitted to rear of Noticeboard, if not will look to obtaining one to fit. **Action: Mr G MacKinnon**

b) Broadband

Mr A Morrison confirmed response received from Mr K Nicolson, Kate Forbes MSO case worker, with text of email from Openreach, circulated to all. The response from Openreach still has not answered the question as to why Struan Exchange cannot be up graded, will try again to get a definitive answer, went on about Fibre and not Superfast as we asked about, also about previous work done by HIE around about 2020. Agreed Mr A Morrison to go back to Mr K Nicolson, Councillor D Millar advised may be worth contacting Mr Blackford MP. **Action: Mr A Morrison**

c) Play Park

Mr G MacKinnon & Mr D J Morrison confirmed should have quote for the Astro turf option from Abacus by end of the week & are progressing with other aspects of works required, will continue to move forward and up-date. **Action: Mr G MacKinnon & Mr D J Morrison**

d) Village Improvements

Mr A Morrison advised he had not to date moved forward with signage as wished to discuss further to confirm type of sign required after discussion agreed at present to go with simple bi-lingual sign in

same position as previous signs, Mr Morrison advised would contact Mr D MacLeod at Highland Council to progress

Further to several comments in relation to the damage being caused by vehicles parking on the grass on the Green on the inner road, Mr A Morrison contacted Mr D MacLeod at Highland Council, copying in Councillor D Millar, to see what type of protection could be installed as we believe the land belongs to the Council. Mr Macleod advised that they would recommend either fencing or bollards with rope, in addition, advised they would provide the materials if the Community could provide labour to erect, if fencing would require to be a metre away from the road side, if bollard & rope 0.5 of a meter would be adequate. It was agreed the bollard & rope would be the preferred option, although also agreed that Mr D J Morrison e-mail Mr A Morrison details of the proposed option for the cemetery car park to see if this was a possibility, Mr A Morrison will seek Mr MacLeod's opinion. In addition, Mr I Beaton to speak to businesses on the Green to advise what was proposed if they are unable to deter their customers from parking as they at present otherwise will proceed with bollards & rope to protect the Green. Mr A Morrison advised he had spoken to Mr M N Beaton to seek his advice in relation to the War Memorial, Mr Beaton happy with what is being proposed and felt that clearance a couple of metres either side of the War Memorial would be appropriate.

Action: Mr I Beaton & Mr A Morrison

e) Cemeteries

Mr I Beaton advised that he is in process of obtaining quotes for repairs required to the stone walls at the Old Cemetery, 2 stone masons have expressed an interest and are both going to have a look at what is required and submit quotes, Mr Beaton will then take forward. In addition, is going to contact Iain MacPhie to see when he hopes to commence work on the new Cemetery wall and will report back.

As previously advised the re-fencing of the new Cemetery was completed by Ian Leach, Invoice received and paid, however, Mr A Morrison noted when preparing the Income & Expenditure Statement for the past year that there was a difference of £360 between the original quote and the addition sum requested by Mr Leach in relation to hire of machine and additional labour hours as had not realised there were concrete posts required to be removed. Mr I Beaton contacted Mr Leach regards the matter and was advised that extra time was required on the job from original estimate and this was added to the Invoice, Mr Beaton advised Mr Leach was disappointed that he had not contacted him to advise prior to submitting the Invoice.

Mr D J Morrison advised he should have 3 labour quotes shortly for the Cemetery Car Park perimeter barrier to allow him to submit application to the Trust for funding.

Action: Mr I Beaton & D J Morrison

f) NHS

Mr A Morrison advised that Ms K Earnshaw from NHS Highland will attend the next meeting on 14th June 2023 to provide an update of Health Care in Skye

g) Trust Applications

Mr A Morrison confirmed that all applications submitted to the Trust for Skips, War Memorial plants, compost etc, Grass Cutting and Audio/Visual Conferencing Equipment for use at the School had all be approved.

5. Glen Ullinish II

Mr Morrison confirmed that meetings were held on 4th April & 3rd May in Struan by the 5 Communities to discuss the outcome of the last meeting with Muirhall, to agree the basis for submitting our Proposal on how the Community Benefit Fund should be split, how it should be set up between Muirhall and the beneficiaries, how the funds would be administered and each Community to provide details of how they have spent previous funds received, what they are working on at present and what they have planned/require for their communities for the future with an indication of costs involved. It was further agreed that Fiona Thomson, Alistair Danter & Peggy Semler would come together to put the document together and once a draft available would submit to all for agreement & submission to Muirhall by end of May.

Mr A Morrison advised that he is still trying to get answers to a number of questions in relation to the Water Supply from Scottish Water, to date no response, will keep chasing, Councillor Millar advised would be worthwhile contacting SEPA to raise concerns and requesting their opinion, agreed would contact them for comment, particularly as Muirhall have indicated they are to submit their Planning Application to ECU in June.

Mr Morrison advised that Muirhall had been in touch to advise that upon submission of the EIA-Report, they will provide a hard copy of the full report to the community, asking if there is a suitable location which could be easily accessed by those near to the proposed development to view. After discussion between CAP Group members was agreed that Portree Library best option but would ask Muirhall to provide copy that can be kept at the school and anyone in the Community can request sight & will be provided to them.

Mr G Semler also advised that subsequent to the Public Meeting, he submitted a list of 30 questions to Muirhall in relation to the Development, to date no answers to the questions have been received, despite Muirhall advising at the meeting that of anyone had any questions they could submit direct and Muirhall would respond

6. Community Action Plan

Mr A Morrison confirmed that Zoom Meetings have been held between the CAP Group and PAS, PAS represented by Paul Ede (Project Manager) and Ieuan Rees (Intern) on 27th March and 24th April. The initial meeting was of an introductory nature, the second meeting being more substantive, in which the initial face to face meetings agreed for 16th & 17th May which will include meeting with CAP Group, evening meeting with all members of CC, SCT & SCDG along with other invited stakeholders from the Community to outline the process over the next 6 months and a tour of the Community so that Paul & Ieuan have a knowledge of the area.

Mr Morrison further advised a couple of things to be ironed out with the contract but should be resolved in early course. Finally stressing that for the Community to gain the best outcome from the process it will require as much involvement from the Community as possible.

Mr Morrison confirmed will update all as matters progress

Action: Mr A Morrison

7. Struan School

Mr A Morrison advised that a Draft License to Occupy had been received from Highland Council Legal Dept, asking for response and comment advising *"Please note that only alterations of a minor nature will be permitted"*, also advising that Community would be liable to pay the Legal Fees in the sum of £644.00. Mr Morrison forwarded copy to CC Members and CAP Group members for

comment, all in agreement that not satisfactory and extremely onerous, as Mr DJ Morrison pointed out, it would appear that HC are trying to shift the upkeep and maintenance of the school onto the community, have us pay for the privilege, when we are only trying to keep it breathing in the short term.

Mr G Semler kindly went over the Document and has effected changes that would make the License to Occupy acceptable to the Community, was agreed to submit this copy to HC for their comments and response. Mr Morrison confirmed he would do so and will copy in appropriate parties.

Mr Morrison confirmed the school continued to be used regularly. **Action: Mr A Morrison**

8. Planning

Mr A Morrison and Mr I Beaton received an e-mail from Mr G Semler 15th May asking the CC to lodge an objection to the planning application 23/01434/FUL on the grounds that it withdraws a long-standing community facility (licensed restaurant with rooms/bar) and is the only one of its kind in the Struan community council area. It also implies a change of use for which there has been no application. Mr I Beaton responded to advise it can be discussed at this meeting.

For clarity the Planning Application refers to the conversion of the existing Bar & Outbuilding to 3 Holiday Letting Units, after discussing it was agreed that the CC would not object to the Application, however, would e-mail Mr Mark Harvey at Planning Dept to request clarification on the question of Change of Use. **Action: Mr A Morrison**

9. AOCB

Dr Jowett



Mr A Morrison advised he had received an e-mail from Miss C G MacLennan asking if the CC would consider writing to Dr Jowett to mark her retirement and thank her for her service to the Community over past years, unanimously agreed to write. **Action: Mr A Morrison**

Skye Radio

Mr I Baton advised he had received a message from Skye Radio to ask if they could attend CC meetings to report thereon, as CC meetings are open to the Public so would appear no reason why this was not possible, Mr Beaton to respond accordingly. **Action: Mr I Beaton**

Date of Next Meeting & AGM Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7.00pm in Struan School

The meeting closed at 8:50pm

 15-06-2023
 15-06-2023