

Struan Community Council

Chairperson
Mr I Beaton
Gesto Farm
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Secretary/Treasurer
Mr A Morrison
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Vice-Chairperson
Mr D Beaton
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Isle of Skye
01470 572250

Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Monday 9th October 2023

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

1. Welcome

Mr K Davies took the chair opened & welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Mr A Lockhart, Mr I Beaton, Mr D Beaton & Mr D Millar (Councillor)

3. Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting from Monday Wednesday 11th September were put forward to the meeting for approval, adoption was proposed by Mr D J Morrison and seconded by Mr G MacKinnon

4. Matters Arising

a) Broadband

Mr A Morrison advised that Kate Forbes MSP's office had forwarded a response received from Andrew Massey, DSO Executive Complaints Customer Resolutions, he advised that a number of Openreach engineers have recently attended a number of different faults across the Struan exchange area, the fault is not with the Openreach network, the problem is with broadband equipment in the local exchange, this is looked after and maintained by another part of BT Group. The problem continues to persist across the Struan Exchange area and is also impacting on land line service, also appears that some other exchanges in the vicinity are also having issues. Agreed to write both Ian Blackford MP & continue to press Kate Forbes MSP to request they pursue the issue on behalf of the Community.

Action: A Morrison

b) Play Park

Mr D J Morrison & Mr G MacKinnon confirmed they are in the process of obtaining the quotes for the ground prep work required prior to the wet pour being installed, hope to have these in early course & will then submit application to the Trust for funding.

Action: Mr D J Morrison & Mr G MacKinnon

c) Cemeteries

Mr A Morrison advised he had received a response from Kevin Gordon at Highland Council to confirm the Grass Cutting Contract was only for cutting & not collection of grass. Agreed that to find out at the beginning of the year what the programme for cutting will be to see if we can arrange to either have volunteers clear the grass or obtain cost for having done in the cemetery, was also

suggested that the grass cuttings could be collected and for a compost heap that could be accessed by the community. As Mr I Beaton not in attendance no quote available for bulging wall repair at Old Cemetery available.

Action: Mr I Beaton

d) NHS

Mr G Semler commented that he thought Ms Earnshaw of NHS was to confirm the actual numbers of vacancies and employees on Skye, then report back on post filling, Mr A Morrison confirmed nothing had been received, however, will e-mail Ms Earnshaw requesting an update on the present position and report back once response received.

Action: A Morrison

e) Village Improvements

Mr I Beaton and Mr G MacKinnon have not had the opportunity to measure the area at The Green for bollards and chain, will undertake and provide details to Mr A Morrison to allow him to contact Mr D MacLeod at Highland Council so that materials can be obtained.

Action: Mr I Beaton, Mr G MacKinnon & Mr A Morrison

f) Community Action Plan

Mr A Morrison advised that the CAP Group met recently and have commenced reviewing the draft Action Plan, initially going through the Action Points in respect of the Community Life and Housing that has been completed, to meet again shortly to go through the next 3 sections on Transport, Economy & Communications and Implementation, thereafter, will review the rest of the document and look to provide apply costings to the document. In addition, Paul Ede has provided a draft of Survey for young people who are living and have lived in the Community to see what their needs would be in terms of housing and what would attract them back to live in the Community, the CAP Group reviewed and have forwarded requested amendments and anticipated it will be issued in early course.

5. Police Up-Date

PC A Logan attended in her capacity as the Police Office having responsibility for our Community Council area asking if there were any issues the Community Council wished to raise, PC Logan was advised that Traffic related issues were the main concern, in particular would the Police have input in relation to possible movements on the roads in relation to the proposed Wind Farm Developments, PC Logan will take this back to Inspector MacKenzie. In addition, PC Logan asked is any issues with speeding through the village 40mph limit as this had been raised in the past and they are monitoring. Finally, PC Logan advised if anything did come up, advised we could contact her at any time. PC Logan left the meeting at this point.

6. Wind Farms

Wind Harvest - Beinn Mheadhonach Wind Farm

Mr A Morrison confirmed that Wind Harvest had held the 2 Consultation events in the School on 19th September and 4th October, their representative advised that as far he was aware all Community Benefit would be going to the Struan Community. As the Planning Application will go through Highland Council it is likely that they will have some input on the Community Benefit as it will form part of the Planning Application process.

Balmeanach wind Farm Limited

Mr A Morrison advised the Planning Application has now been submitted with comments requested by 28th October 2023

Glen Ullinish II

Mr A Morrison confirmed the Community Council's response to the Planning Application has been submitted to Highland Council by the deadline of 12th September and the response to the ECU by the extended deadline date of 11th October. Mr A Morrison further advised that the response being submitted by Scottish Water to the ECU in relation to the Planning Application has been received, it raises concerns from their point of view but does not object to the Turbines within the DWPA nor those in the vicinity of the DWPA. Mr A Morrison advised that he has e-mailed Mr G Steel at Scottish Water requesting they re-consider their position in light of the comments contained within their response and object to these Turbines being sited within the and in the vicinity of the DWPA. In the case of SEPA it has been noted they have objected to the siting of these Turbines.

Mr A Morrison advised that further to the 3 e-mails requesting the Community Council object to the Application as reported at the last meeting, a further 4 e-mails received, 2 from Struan residents representing 3 residents and 2 e-mails from non -residents representing 2 people. Mr G Semler asked if there had been any e-mails received by the Community council in support of the application, Mr A Morrison advised none had been received.

Mr G Semler requested and reiterated CC should register an objection to the Muirhall planning application on the grounds of the turbines in the DWPA, the misrepresentation in the Socio-economic section, and the failure to provide an adequate detailed transportation plan and adequate disruption mitigation.

Mr A Morrison further advised that Muirhall had now finally responded to the Communities Group submission in respect of the Community Benefit Fund, the main line being that 60% of the Fund would go to the 5 Communities with the remaining 40% going to the Skye Wide entity that they have advised has been set up by HIE. Mr Semler commented that this would mean no guarantee of any monies going to the Struan Community. A meeting is to be held later in the week with the 5 Communities to discuss a response to Muirhall's latest communication, the CC has not at this point taken a view and will await discussions with others.

Action: A Morrison

7. Struan School

Mr A Morrison confirmed that an amended Notice to Occupy had been received from Anne David at Highland Council along with confirmation that the license would cover the full School campus and buildings thereon. The new draft was forwarded to all along with those on the CAP group for comment prior to responding to HC, initial thoughts that better than original document but couple of issues require to be clarified, in relation, to the proportion of costs that would require to be borne by the CC, along with some outstanding internal issue that require to be addressed, water system, school clearance, etc. Mr Morrison will contact Anne David at HC for with our advices. Mr G Semler commented that he could see no reason why the Struan Community should pay for any of the costs until the building was in its ownership.

Action: A Morrison

8. Community Council Elections

Mr A Morrison confirmed that he had spoken to Willie MacKinnon, Ward Manager who has confirmed Struan has sufficient nominations to re-constitute the Community Council, Mr G Semler confirmed he has checked HC website and 7 nominees. Mr A Morrison advised he would contact Mr W MacKinnon to arrange next meeting that will be chaired by either Mr MacKinnon or Councillor D Millar in the first instance.

Action: Mr A Morrison

9. Act of Remembrance

As previously advised the Act of Remembrance will be held on Saturday 11th November at the War Memorial, all in place with those to lay the wreaths having been contacted and have agreed, wreaths organised, Mr M N Beaton has been contacted and agreed to officiate, tea/coffee arranged for the school, Mr Morrison will print off Order of Service.

9. Correspondence

None

10. AOCB

None other than as noted above

Date of Next Meeting to be arranged by Highland Council

The meeting closed at 8:30pm

 02/11/2023

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