

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 J Morrison
Ullinish
Struan
Isle of Skye

Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Thursday 2nd November 2023

Present: Mr D J Morrison, Mr G MacKinnon, Mr G Semler, Mr N Till, Mr A Lockhart, Mr A Morrison & Councillor D Millar

1. Welcome

Mr D J Morrison took the chair opened & welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Mr I Beaton

3. Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting from Monday 9th October 2023 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 G Semler advised he had spoken with Ashley McQuigg (H&I Ops Manager, BT) who explained that the microwave link from Struan to Craigh is obstructed by a tree on the Old Manse Grounds. They are looking at various options to overcome this, including a possible extension on the mast in Struan or an relay mast avoiding the existing obstruction. He also said that the mast in Struan had 2 new microwave dishes added to it pointing at Carbost each capable of 1Gbps capacity. He indicated that he expected this to be used to provide improved Broadband to Struan and also possibly part of the BT move to digital only services. He expected a cabinet to be established outside the existing exchange. He said he would try to keep us informed of progress and/or get Openreach to do likewise.

b) Play Park

Mr D J Morrison & Mr G MacKinnon confirmed they are chasing the Groundworks quotes prior to submitting an application for funding to the Trust. Action: Mr D J Morrison & Mr G MacKinnon

c) Cemeteries

As Mr I Beaton not in attendance no quote available for bulging wall repair at Old Cemetery available. Mr I Macphie has commenced and is progressing the work in relation to the new Cemetery Wall, however, as the opening to the Cemetery is to be widened the present pillars will require to be removed and re-built with a new gate required. Mr I Beaton to obtain details of additional costs from Mr MacPhie and will submit further application to the Trust for additional funds

Action: Mr I Beaton

d) NHS

Mr A Morrison confirmed he had written Kate Earnshaw in respect of an update on the confirmed numbers of vacancies and employees on Skye, response awaited will chase. **Action: A Morrison**

e) Community Action Plan

Mr A Morrison advised that the CAP Group are continuing to progress through the Draft Action Plan and are awaiting the results of the recent Housing Survey that was directed at those who reside or have moved away from the Community in the younger age demographic, this will be incorporated in to the Action Plan. Further meeting to be arranged end of November beginning of December to address first 3 sections of the Plan and Costings

f) Act of Remembrance

Mr A Morrison confirmed that once again an excellent turnout at the Community Act of Remembrance, thanks to all who took part and assisted, Rev J Beaton for taking the service, Mr M N Beaton for officiating, those who laid Wreaths and those who assisted with the Teas at the School.

5. Wind Farms

Wind Harvest - Beinn Mheadhonach Wind Farm

Nothing further at present

Balmeanach Wind Farm Limited

Nothing further at present

Glen Ullinish II

Mr A Morrison advised since the last meeting there had been no further comments received either in favour or objecting to the Planning Application.

Mr A Morrison advised that the 5 Community Group met to discuss the response received from Muirhall to the Document, there was unanimous agreement from all attendees that no one was prepared to accept the "final offer" from Muirhall Energy contained in Lesley McNeill's email of 27 September 2023, further agreed to submit several questions to Muirhall requesting further information. In addition was agreed to write HIE with a list of questions to be sent to an appropriate HIE representative, together with an invitation to them to come and talk to the group about what is being proposed for the "Skye Wide" fund, also to write local Councillors via THC Ward Manager, requesting that an appropriate representative from THC comes to talk to this group and explains what their position is with regard to wind farms, community investment funds and community share ownership generally.

Mr A Morrison further advised an e-mail received via THC Ward Manager from Mark Brennan LES & Ian Philp HIE, inviting two representatives from each community council area – ideally one from the community council and one from the local community development organisation to a meeting, in-line, to find out about and discuss the possibilities for a new community body to deal with community benefit fund and/ or community shared ownership body in relation to Wind Farms. It was agreed to confirm we are willing to attend, once date has been confirmed.

Further discussion was undertaken in relation to "The Port" and various other aspects of the proposed development.

Ben Sca

Updated Application to be submitted.

Action: A Morrison

6. Struan School

Mr A Morrison advised that he is in the process responding to Anne David at HC in relation to the amended Notice To Occupy along with advices on present issues as previously advised, Water System, Fire Alarm, Clearance of School, to be undertaken in early course. In addition, Jenny MacRae at HC has confirmed that Scottish Woodland have been appointed to carry out the works in relation to the removal of the Japanese Knotweed, to commence in the next 3/4 weeks, they will extract then spray the area, with a further programme of spraying to continue over the next 2/3 years

Action: A Morrison

7. Village Improvements – Roads etc

The state of the local roads was discussed and although there has been some pothole work done recently that should reduce the risk of burst tyres the general state of the roads is poor. Cllr. Miller stated that the current plan was that next year the budget for Skye roads will return to its previous levels of circa £500,000 and that will go nowhere near as far as the work done this year, as 10 men had been and will continue to work on the roads until March 2024 to utilise the additional funding that has been provided. Cllr Millar further stated that about the only action we can take is to continue to report issues through the formal channel. Geoff Semler suggested the use of www.fixmystreet.com which is a quick and easy app. that allows reporting of road related matters that get formally reported and acknowledged by the HC. The CC would encourage all residents to continue to report road related matters to the HC.

8. Correspondence

None

9. AOCB

Ward 10 – Eilean A Cheo – National Park EOI

Cllr Millar confirmed that the EOI has been accepted by the Scottish Government post a meeting with them, a second meeting to take place in due course, with an Application to be submitted by end of February 2024. Further advised that prior to submission of the Application, a Community Survey & Community Consultations will be undertaken to ensure the community is fully aware of the pros and cons to having National Park status, so an informed decision can be made.

Struan Community Development Group – Community Regeneration Funding Application

Mr G Semler asked Cllr Millar for some context on why the Application submitted by SCDG to the Community Regeneration Fund for 50% funding for a Development Officer was declined. As from the response received in relation to the declination appeared to point to the fact that should be done on a joint funding basis, which it was, as other 50% was being requested from Struan Trust, is it the case that as Struan is in receipt of Wind Farm Benefit Funds they are being disadvantaged. Cllr Millar responded by saying that all Applications are looked at on their merits, due to the amount of funding available and the number of Applications received it is not possible to satisfy demand fully, Cllr Millar advised will look fully at the matter and respond further in early course.

Date of Next Meeting to be Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.00pm in the School

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Millar

4/1/24

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