

Struan Community Council

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Vice-Chairperson

Mr D J Morrison
Ullinish
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Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Tuesday 1st April 2025

Present: SCC- Mr I Beaton, Mr G Semler, Mr D J Morrison, Mrs S Illingworth, Mr N Till, Mr A Lockhart

Residents: J-A & L MacCusbic, K & S Merrick, I & A Patterson, Conor Beaton

1. Welcome

Mr I Beaton took the chair opened & welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

G MacKinnon, A. Morrison

In view of the residents that had come to the meeting to discuss the Amer "holiday camp" planning Application, item 5 on the agenda was moved to the front of the meeting. See item 14. After the discussion the all the residents with the exception of Conor Beaton, left the meeting.

3. Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting of 4th February 2025 were put forward to the meeting for approval, adoption was proposed by Mr N. Till and seconded by Mr A Lockhart

4. Matters Arising

a) Play Park

Mr G MacKinnon advised awaits confirmation of date when Sean Morrison can undertake the groundworks so as works can be commenced
(carried forward)

Action: Mr G MacKinnon

b) Skips

Despite the signs to the contrary, a mattress and cushions had to be removed from the skip. Further skips to be discussed at the next meeting as A.M not available.

c) Village Improvements

Old Cemetery

Check at Old Cemetery to see if wall works has been undertaken yet (DJM). Paul MacKinnon has offered to cut up the remains of the fallen tree. IB to apply to SCT for £200 to cover the cost. Suggestion is the cut wood is moved to somewhere in the school grounds to dry before making it available to residents.

New Cemetery

Gates have been delivered and will be hung by Mr I MacPhie with assistance from Mr J MacKinnon. DJM to check progress

Crash Barrier, The Green, Cemetery Car Park, Dun Beag & Ose Pavements

Mr D J Morrison advised nothing further on these matters at present despite having emailed council trying to get an update

d) NW Skye Minibus Mr A Morrison yet to contact Mr W MacKinnon at HC to see if a CC could apply for a Section 19 Permit, will attend to in early course. To be addressed at next meeting

Action: Mr A Morrison

e) Struan Gala SCIO

At present nothing further in respect of the dissolution of the Struan Gala SCIO

f) CC Bank Account

Mr A Morrison yet to contact Mr W MacKinnon at HC to see if any possibility of increase in Annual Grant to take into consideration the additional charges being applied by Bank of Scotland, in addition to see if any benefit by doing the banking online as transaction charges may be less. Also, to enquire with RBS on charges for a CC Account

Action: Mr A Morrison

(carried forward)

5. SSEN Community Liaison

Ms M Ebeling of SSEN was contacted by IB and confirmed that SSEN would communicate via Facebook and also keep SCC informed.

6. Struan School License to Occupy

A revised version of the license to occupy was received and was a considerable improvement over the previous version. It is close to being acceptable and GMS has circulated a version with his comments.

7. Applying for SCT grants on behalf of third-party organisations

SCC had applied for a grant on behalf of a "Mother and Baby Group" and it was agreed that this was an exception and SCC would not normally do this. SCC is only too happy to assist with making the application but in future it should always be the receiving organisation that makes the application. There was further discussion about the need or otherwise for an independent referee on the SCT application. IB to write to SCT seeking a change or explanation of the value of doing this.

7. Kaly Kelp Update

Kaly Kelp held their "Public Event" on 10th March. The material presented was more or less the same as was presented to SCC back in August. Subsequent to the meeting IB was contacted by Alexander Tindall who suggested he may want access to the community to present the fisherman's view of the world. SCC is minded to object to the planning application should it be submitted and with this in mind GMS will produce a draft to this effect, in preparation.

Action Mr G Semler

8. Struan Community Company Ltd

The final draft Articles of Association were made available on the web site and a residents meeting was held by SCT on 24th March at the school. The meeting was in support of setting up the CLG and subject to a few further alterations to the AofA there was general agreement to them. A revised version of the AofA is expected in due course.

9. Community Action Plan

Unable to address due to absence of AM, to be carried forward to next meeting.

10. Visitor Levy

Conor Beaton advised the meeting that he understood that the whole matter of visitor levy had been paused by the council for 12 months. No further action at this time.

11. Wind Farm - Various

Ben Sca Re-Design & Share Ownership

No further action at this time

Wind Harvest – Beinn Mheadhonach – Broadband

Nothing further at present

Ben Aketil

GMS advised that he plans to attend the public enquiry in June (in his own name) and will be raising the matter of the lack of a coherent transport plan for this and the other wind farms proposed.

Glen Ullinish II & Caroy Quay S/E Report

A partial response from ME was received along with a suggestion that they would discuss it further the next time they were here. GMS has suggested to the Near Neighbours that perhaps there should be a sub group of the NN formed to negotiate the agreement. AM is attempting to set up a further NN meeting to agree this. In the mean-time there is a major change to the offer from ME for Community Benefit in that they are suggesting the payment should be linked to actual power generated to the grid, not installed capacity.

Community Benefits from net zero energy developments: Consultation

Mr G Semler has raised the issue by e-mail, until that point no one else had been aware of this Scottish Government Consultation, Mr Semler has completed the Consultation Survey on his own behalf, agreed that Mr A Morrison will complete for CC, and we should urge others to also complete. Carried forward to next meeting

13. Budhmor Fund

Mr A Morrison tabled letter received from Lorna MacKenzie, Skye Older Peoples Welfare Committee, to raise awareness of the Budhmor Fund which was set up recently to benefit groups of older residents, enclosing the relevant details, requesting that the information could be discussed at next CC Meeting and passed on to any interested relevant groups in your community council area. It was agreed that should pass on to the SCT as aware they provide funding to Groups that this Fund may assist.

Action: A Morrison

Carried forward to next meeting

14. Planning

There was a general discussion about the proposed development at Amer, and all present strongly object to the development on a variety of grounds. There are many inaccuracies in the statements in the application and the local residents presented a detailed paper on their objections including an environmental report. Conor Beaton advised that if there are more than 6 objections then it will have to be referred to the Planning Committee of the Highland Council. The meeting agreed that the bullet list of objections drafted by GMS would be used by SCC to object through the planning portal on-line along with a note indicating that SCC would be submitting a more detailed objection off-line. It was also agreed that the Local Resident's paper would form the primary basis for the SCC detailed objection.

Action A. Morrison

There was a further discussion regarding the principles behind SCC objecting to planning applications as the policy has generally been to not object, but only comment where appropriate. The consensus was that this was an unusual case given the size and intrusiveness, of the development, and the fact that it was being made by a non-resident of Struan (or even Skye) with no interest in the community. There was also a discussion about the lack of notification to local residents and it appears that the "rules" applied to notification might well be appropriate to a metropolitan environment with high density accommodation, but seem totally inappropriate to a rural environment. Matter to be raised with Drew Miller at next meeting.

15. Correspondence

None

16. AOCB

IB raised the question of whether we should be considering a "speed light" for placement on the road near the Broch car park

CB suggested we should make an annual application to the Trust for the upkeep of the war memorial. It was also pointed out that there is an error on the war memorial plaque, that needs correction.

IB to discuss with AM

Date of Next Meeting will follow the AGM on Thursday 12th June at 7.00pm in Struan School

Nick Hill
Mrs. Hill