

Struan Community Council

Chairperson	Secretary/Treasurer	Vice-Chairperson
Mr I Beaton	Mr A Morrison	Mr D J Morrison
Gesto Farm	3 Coillore	Ullinish
Struan	Struan	Struan
Isle of Skye	Isle of Skye	Isle of Skye
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Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Tuesday 4th February 2025

Present: Mr I Beaton, Mr G Semler, Mr D J Morrison, Mr G MacKinnon, Mrs S Illingworth, Mr N Till, Mr A Morrison, Mr A Lockhart, Mr D Millar (Councillor), Mr K Sterry & Mrs M Munro

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

None

3. Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting of 3rd December 2025 were put forward to the meeting for approval, adoption was proposed by Mr A Lockhart and seconded by Mr G MacKinnon

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.

Action: Mr G MacKinnon

b) Skips

Mr A Morrison confirmed Skip has been ordered for a week from 21st February 2025.

c) Village Improvements

Old Cemetery

Check at Old Cemetery to see if wall works has been undertaken yet.

New Cemetery

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

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

Mr D J Morrison advised nothing further on these matters at present.

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.

Action: Mr A Morrison

e) Struan Gala SCIO

At present nothing further in respect of the dissolution of the Struan Gala SCIO, nor in respect of the issue of the Articles of Association for the new Legal Entity being put in place by SCT, however, Mr A Morrison advised that the SCT have recently confirmed that copies of the Articles of Association are to be posted out to all households in the next 2 weeks, along with Membership Forms, in addition

copies of both documents to be uploaded to the Community Website, prior to calling a Community Meeting

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

g) CC Meeting Dates

Reviewed and agreed next meeting date to be amended to 1st April 2025, all other dates to remain as at present.

h) Christmas Shopping Bus Trip

Mr S Illingworth confirmed the trip had taken place on Saturday 14th December, using the Dunvegan Minibus, all went well, Mr A Morrison confirmed the total costs to CC amounted to £210.40, made up of the reimbursement to Mrs S Illingworth of a Parking Charge of £4.00 and fuel that was pt in the Minibus during the trip of £60.00, the total charge for mileage to DCT amounted to £206.40, after deduction of the £60 paid for fuel on the trip the net amount of £146.40 was paid to DCT.

5. SSEN Community Liaison

Mr A Morrison advised e-mail received from Ms M Ebeling of SSEN looking for the CC thoughts on setting up the Community Liaison Group, this being one of the planning conditions for Edinbane Substation. Discussion undertaken on the matter, felt at present the CC is being used to undertake communications activity for SSEN in relation to the ongoing works that they should be doing themselves, agreed to request the Terms of Reference from Ms Ebeling, Mr I Beaton to contact Ms Ebeling and request.

Action: Mr I Beaton

6. THC Budget Challenge

Mrs S Illingworth had sent an e-mail to all on 16th January attaching copy THC Budget Challenge Survey, survey closing on 20th January 2025, Mr A Morrison advised Mrs Illingworth's e-mail was first notice he had received in relation to the Survey, had not completed on behalf of CC due to insufficient time

7. Kaly Kelp Update

Further to last meeting, as agreed, Mr G Semler drafted topics and questions and these were submitted to Mr B Hare of Kaly along with an invite to met with the CC, local fishermen & other local interested parties, the meeting took place on 6th January 2025. A discussion was undertaken with Mr Hare, clear that strong resistance from all those in attendance, however, appears that despite any objections to the proposal Mr Hare made it clear they plan to proceed with their Project. Mr A Morrison advised he had responded to Kaly in respect of their request to use the School for a Community Consultation, confirming dates available, also advising best time for this to be undertaken so that as many as possible in the Community have the opportunity to attend, to date Kaly have not come back to confirm date or time, Mr A Morrison to contact Kaly for update.

Mr I Beaton has also written our local Councillors & MSP with our concerns in relation to the proposal, acknowledgements & advices received from Councillors Millar & Finlayson, in addition, Kate Forbes MSP caseworker acknowledged, to confirm had written both Marine Directorate & Crown Estates to share concerns, response received via caseworker from Marine Directorate to

advise the process post receipt of the submission of an application, post initial checks, the Kaly Group would be sent a template for a Public Notice. This public notice is required to be published in paid local newspaper, and provides contact details for the Marine Directorate, for anyone wishing to raise concerns with the proposal. The public are given 28 days to voice their concerns.

Following this, the proposal is then sent out to all official consultees – including statutory consultees Scottish Natural Heritage, Marine and Coastguard Agency and Northern Lighthouse Board, non-statutory consultees may include the local council, RSPB and fishing groups, thereafter, all the comments, advice and opinions are taken into account before the licensing decision is reached.

8. SSEN Works

Several communications received regards works being undertaken on the Balmeanach Road and Access tracks that are being upgraded, including some blasting that was to be undertaken. Councillor Millar advised that several complaints had been received by HC in relation to access track upgrades both in the North & South of the island, he advised that SSEN had been told to stop the works on the access tracks.

9. CC Review Scheme

Mr A Morrison confirmed had responded on behalf of the CC.

10. Visitor Levy

The Highland Council are undertaking a consultation and survey on the proposal to introduce a Visitor Levy, the proposed levy rate would be 5% in respect of the accommodation portion of the chargeable transaction, the consultation runs from 15th November 2024 to 31st March 2025. Mr K Sterry and Mrs M Munro attended the meeting to express their & others concerns on the proposal asking the CC to oppose the levy as it has been documented to date, Mr Sterry went on to highlight a number of the issues:

HC are not committed to spending any levy monies in the area where it is raised

All Highland residents would be liable to pay the levy if staying away for any reason medical appointments, travel disruption, weather disruption, etc

Likewise, any tradesman, medical staff, emergency service staff if seconded to anywhere in the Highlands for work will be liable

No full business impact assessment undertaken, reliant on scant information from 2019

Motorhomes parking in Car Parks, Lay-bys, etc would be exempt as are wild campers, this will encourage less use of registered camp sites with the added issues this brings to bear

Owners of the accommodation liable to pay not the guests

Complicated system of administration and difficult to assess what should be charged

Monthly remittances required by HC, owners will be out of pocket as remittances from booking agents can take 2 to 3 months to be received

Possible VAT implication for number of owners

Mrs M Munro concurred with all that Mr Sterry had highlighted, further discussion was undertaken, a number in attendance have already responded to the consultation via the Survey, noting that the tick box question set was quite biased in favour of the Levy, although there is sufficient space to add further comments. As the consultation is ongoing to the end of March with the HC voting on the proposal in mid-June, Councillor Millar encouraged the CC to lobby all in the community to respond to the consultation so as many as possible can make their feeling known on the matter. It was

agreed that a note would be placed on the Community Web Site with a link to the Survey and encouraging all in the community to respond. The CC will write HC post the end of the Consultation and prior to the HC vote on the issue expressing its opposition unless the community make their feelings known otherwise

11. Wind Farm - Various

Ben Sca Re-Design & Share Ownership

The Non-Binding Agreement of Intent in respect of Shared Ownership was tabled and agreed to would be signed on behalf of the community by the CC, Mr I Beaton duly signed the Agreement and will now be returned to DCT.

Wind Harvest – Beinn Mheadhonach – Broadband

Nothing further at present

Glen Ullinish II & Caroy Quay S/E Report

An e-mail received from Ms K Battu at Muirhall share the finalised turbine layout, advising they believe that the necessary changes to the layout have addressed SEPA's concerns, in addition are aiming to submit the AEI to the Scottish Ministers at the end of March 2025. Further confirming the finalised layout includes 33 turbines with 200m tip heights and provided a copy of the layout, also advising they are currently finalising the infrastructure layout and plan to share this in February.

Mr A Morrison advised, he and Mr G Semler has attend the most recent Near Neighbour Meeting to review and discuss the sample Community Benefit Agreement provided by Muirhall, after much discussion between those in attendance, the groups suggestions on changes required were agreed and submitted to Muirhall, receipt of comments has been acknowledged by Muirhall, and they are to revert in due course.

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.

13. Budhmoir Fund

Mr A Morrison tabled letter received from Lorna MacKenzie, Skye Older Peoples Welfare Committee, to raise awareness of the Budhmoir 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

14. Planning

No issues

15. Correspondence

Nothing except for e-mail correspondence that is either going to all via SCC e-mail address or forwarded by Mr A Morrison.

16. AOCB

None

**Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7.00pm in Struan School
The meeting closed at 8:50pm**

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Mrs. Shok 7/4/25