

Struan Community Council

Chairperson	Secretary/Treasurer	Vice-Chairperson
Mr I Beaton	Mr A Morrison	Mr D J Morrison
Gesto Farm	3 Coil lore	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 20th August 2024

Present: Mr I Beaton, Mr G Semler, Mr A Lockhart, Mr D J Morrison, Mr G MacKinnon, Mrs S Illingworth, Mr N Till, Mr A Morrison, Mr D Millar (Councillor), Mr C Beaton, Part Attendees: Mr B Hare & Ms G Hare (Kaly Group)

1. Welcome

Mr I Beaton opened & welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

None

3. Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting of 12th June 2024 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 A Morrison advised that SCT have approved the application submitted and funds have been received, Mr G MacKinnon confirmed he has contacted Sean Morrison to advise he can go ahead with the groundwork required, Sean Morrison is busy at present but will get to at the earliest opportunity, thereafter Mr MacKinnon will contact the Wet Pour Contractors to have them on site to carry out their portion of the work.

Action: Mr G MacKinnon

b) NHS

Mr A Morrison apologised he has not yet obtained the required data will chase and have it e-mailed to all at earliest opportunity

Action: Mr A Morrison

c) Skips

Mr A Morrison confirmed SCT has approved the application and funds received for 3 further Skips, agreed to order a Skip for a week from 6th September 2024, Mr Morrison will order and confirm once response received from Bowmans.

Action: Mr A Morrison

d) Village Improvements

Old Cemetery

The large portion of the trunk from the fallen trees remains in situ, agreed would be best for the tree to be chopped up and removed with wood being distributed locally & preferably to older members of the community who could use the wood. Agreed to contact Mr K Gordon at the Council to see if the HC can deal with, alternatively, to obtain quotes from local Tree Surgeons, A MacKay & M Burd

for chopping and moving out of the cemetery. Also, when contacting Mr Gordon ask if they have any date or timeframe for carrying out the repairs to the cemetery wall as they previously indicated they would undertake.

Action: Mr A Morrison

New Cemetery

Mr I Beaton advised just awaiting final quote for the new Gate required and once to hand will submit an application to the Trust for funding so can be purchased and hung, Mr I MacPhie has kindly offered to hang the gate at no charge.

Action: Mr I Beaton

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

In relation to all these issues, as they have a common link to HC, was agreed to invite MacKenzie Sutherland, HC Area Manger, to a meet in Struan to visit each site to discuss to see if they can offer resolutions to each issue. Is it possible to widen the road to extend the crash barrier at the top of Totarder Brae, provide recommendations to resolve the parking issues at The Green, as noted Motor Homes still parking on the grass at War Memorial end and congestion at the Shop end, discuss what HC require on open side of car park at the new cemetery. Mr D J Morrison advised that Historic Scotland advised that the access to the Broch across the road from the Car Park not their issue and should be addressed by HC, can HC help, as the car park area belongs to HC, also, possibility of the community taking over the car park from HC was mooted, can be included in discussions. Councillor Millar advised that issues with several pavement areas in the ward and worth raising the issue of Ose pavement with Mr Sutherland. Mr D J Morrison to contact Mr Sutherland to see if meet can be arranged, he and Mr A Morrison to attend.

Action: Mr D J Morrison

5. Kaly Group

Mr Bruce Hare & Ms Grace Hare from the Kaly Group attended the meeting to provide a presentation on their Kelp Farming enterprise based in Waternish, the main aim of the group is cultivating kelp in conjunction with local fisherman and community.

Mr Hare provided a comprehensive brief to the CC on the background, process, hopes and expectations of the group, the main reason for attending is that they are looking at and would like to set up a site in Loch Bracadale, have identified 4 sites that they feel are appropriate for Kelp Farming, these to be assessed and at the point they have identified which would be most suitable, they would propose to hold a meeting in Struan to outline their vision, gauge & obtain community views on their proposal, they have engaged with local fishermen and would look to partner with them to manage the sites out with the core fishing season. Mr Hare will keep the CC updated on progress, also advised that only too happy to answer any questions or queries on any aspect of the proposal at any time.

Mr I Beaton thanked both Mr Hare & Ms Hare for their attendance and providing a detailed brief on the group & their aspirations.

6. Highland Council – Various Topics

Several e-mails have been received from HC on various topics:

20 mph Speed Limits

Ecology Strategy

Local living in the Highlands

Local Place Plans

Community Wealth Building

All were discussed, the 20mph Speed Limits do not have any impact on our Community, the Ecology Strategy is well meant but there is no evidence that it can be funded, the Local living in the Highlands & Community Wealth Building Surveys are more related to Urban settings and it would be better to have a set of survey questions that were aimed purely at Rural settings, agreed to write HC Chief Exec with our thoughts.

Action: Mr A Morrison

7. Scottish Fire Strategic Services

A Survey was recently received from the Scottish Fire Service seeking views on what would appear to be a rationalisation and redesign of their services. Individuals have submitted their own responses. It was felt that in time this will ultimately become a reduction to the service being provided with statistics being used to decide where resources will be based.

8. BT R100

It was agreed that the service provided to the community from BT continues to be wholly inadequate, Mrs S Illingworth advised that due to continued loss of service for a year she has raised the issue with the Ombudsman and is awaiting the result. Further discussion ensued with regard to various issues in relation to the problems many facets of services being provided by BT, for both existing & new customers attempting to obtain a service, in addition to the continued problems with the existing exchange. Agreed to write all the Highland List of MSPs so the matter can be recorded and hopefully addressed.

Action: Mr A Morrison

9. Wind Farms

Ben Sca Re-Design & Share Ownership

Mr A Morrison advised that he and Mr G Semler had taken part in a Teams Meeting with the Dunvegan & Edinbane Reps and Solicitors from Harper Macleod on 10th July 2024 to discuss the Agreement of Intent. As this agreement is not binding, Community Reps agreed to sign with a couple of minor amendments. As the Trust have yet to have the new CLG in place, it is not in a position to sign the Agreement of Intent on behalf of the community In the interim it was proposed that SCC would sign the Agreement if this were acceptable to Wind 2. This was put to all and agreed unanimously that SCC would sign document on behalf of the community. Further discussion was undertaken in respect of the correct type of legal entity to be used to accept and distribute funds should the agreement on Share Ownership proceed, nothing agreed as more work will be required on this matter.

Wind Harvest – Beinn Mheadhonach

Post meeting with Simon Tribe & Tim French, an e-mail received from Simon Tribe in relation to community broadband, advising that one of his colleagues was involved in the community broadband initiative in Glenelg and thought his experience could be useful and they would offer to pay for a feasibility study into setting up something similar in Struan. He asked if we thought this would be helpful and if so, he could contact the local expert in Glenelg, Calum, to get in touch to discuss the scope of the work in more detail. Mr G Semler responded to Simon Tribe with an account of what has been undertaken in the past and the ensuing issues. Mr. Semler confirmed that we would be happy to talk to Calum, but that Muirhall had already looked at feasibility so a further study may not be fruitful.

Glen Ullinish II

Mr A Morrison advised that he and Mr I Beaton had been invited and attended a hastily arranged Teams Meeting along with the other 4 Communities Reps with Muirhall on 10th July 2024, the main reason for meeting was for Muirhall to obtain confirmation that the communities were all in agreement to their recent revised offer of 40/40/20 split of Community Benefit. All the communities were in agreement, as this is what had been requested by them. In addition, Mr C Walker advised that they expect the Highland Council to object to the Planning Application as it stands, therefore, they are to review and revise the plan prior to re-submitting and will hold further Public Consultations late September. Ms K Battu advised they wish to hold an in-person meeting with the Communities in Struan on 9th September 2024 and she will issue an invite and Agenda in early course. Ms Battu got in touch post the meeting to request use of the school on 9th September from 7:00pm for the meeting and for use of the school on 25th September from 10:30am to 7:00pm for Public Consultation. Agreed that Mr A Morrison and Mr G Semler would attend the meeting on 9th September with Muirhall.

Mr G Semler noted that there were still two significant outstanding issues with the GUII proposal viz: Turbines in the DWPA and direct remedy to any disruption or pollution to the Struan water supplies (public or private) during construction and/or operation. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Muirhall asking for clarification on these matters

Action: Mr A Morrison

10. Community Engagement

Mr A Morrison confirmed in the process of drafting a minute of the Community Meeting and will distribute for checking once complete, Mr G Semler suggested that where appropriate any actions ensuing from the meeting should be absorbed into the SCC Minutes. In addition, Mr A Morrison advised that in response to the request for volunteers to help with the CAP, 15 names and contact details were provided on the night and a meeting is to be organised in early course, Mr Morrison to e-mail or contact all to suggest date and time to come together and discuss, will also invite all SCC and Trust members along.

Further to recent e-mails received in relation to the Dunvegan CC initiative in partnership with Police Scotland as regards wrap around signage for lamp posts to provide key messages to tourists as they travel around the islands. Agreed to contact and see if we can obtain 15 of the wrap arounds that can be used on the lamp posts and the signs and The Green.

Action: Mr A Morrison

11. CAP

Mr G Semler raised the subject of funding for the CAP, as with the way matters are progressing with the Wind Farms at present any possible funding from this source could be in the region of 5 to 7 years away. Mr A Morrison advised that during the CAP process it was made clear that if the CAP funding could not be predicated on Wind Farm funds, alternative sources of funding would be required to be applied for in respect of each individual project within the Plan. Discussed, agreed and accepted that this would be a significant body of work, conclusion that it would probably require the employment of a Community Development Officer or alike to facilitate this work

Mr A Morrison provided an update received from John MacKinnon at the Trust on both the new CLG and the Community Asset Transfer.

In respect of the CLG the final draft of the Articles of Association has been received from the solicitors and the Trust are to meet to discuss and confirm prior to releasing for others in the

community to view. It was noted that as Muirhall have now proposed an amended allocation of the Community Benefit Fund and are meeting in person on 9th September they are likely to now put pressure on to have contract in place with the communities and therefore an appropriate legal entity needs to be in place for this. The meeting between SCT and SCC 10th April 2024 states that:

"It was agreed in principle that we will require one entity to receive funds in a way which the funds are protected, along with a further entity to hold, manage and run assets belonging to the Community. The structure to provide this and the relationship between the two entities needs further discussion once this has been put before the Community although in principle it was agreed that the existing trust may eventually be succeeded by one of these entities and initial discussions with Vattenfall indicate that they would have no objection to such a proposal."

The legal entity for receiving Muirhall wind farm funds as distinct from one running assets still needs to be created and it is not clear how, who, and when this will be addressed. In respect of the CATR this has been held up as the Office within Highland Council based in Lochaber who was to deal with the matter has been off sick for some time and the Trust have just been advised that he is leaving the HC, therefore, Mr MacKinnon has advised that he has spoken to Mr Willie MacKinnon at HC in Portree who will take this on and is to meet with the Trust to progress at the earliest opportunity.

12. Planning

No issues

13. Correspondence

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

14. AOCB

Remembrance Service

Mr A Morrison advised this years' Service will take place on Saturday 9th November 2024 at the War Memorial, along usual lines, wreaths have been ordered, tea & coffee after the service in the school, all were asked to think about community members who could lay the wreaths, so we have some names from the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7.00pm in Struan School

The meeting closed at 10:02pm

Karin Gordon 8/10/24
J. S. Morrison 08/10/2024