

## Struan Community Council

**Chairperson**  
**Mr I Beaton**  
**Gesto Farm**  
**Struan**  
**Isle of Skye**  
**01470 572217**

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Mr A Morrison**  
**3 Coillore**  
**Struan**  
**Isle of Skye**  
**01470 572357**

**Vice-Chairperson**  
**Mr D J Morrison**  
**Ullinish**  
**Struan**  
**Isle of Skye**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024**

Present: Mr G Semler, Mr D J Morrison, Mr G MacKinnon, Mrs S Illingworth, Mr N Till, Mr A Morrison & Mr C Beaton

#### **1. Welcome**

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

#### **2. Apologies**

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

#### **3. Minutes of last Meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were put forward to the meeting for approval, adoption was proposed by Mr G Semler and seconded by Mr G MacKinnon

#### **4. Matters Arising**

##### ***a) Play Park***

Mr G MacKinnon advised awaiting 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 all went well with last Skip and Bowmans paid, all agreed to book further Skip for February 2025, Mr A Morrison to arrange. **Action: Mr A Morrison**

##### ***c) Village Improvements***

###### **Old Cemetery**

Mr A Morrison advised Mr K Gordon had been in touch to advise a Contract Price has been agreed with the contractor, works will be undertaken once contractor is clear of present jobs, all weather dependant.

###### **New Cemetery**

Mr A Morrison advised the new Gate is now completed and ready for collection, Mr J MacKinnon to arrange collection then Mr I MacPhie will hang.

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

Mr D J Morrison advised, in relation to parking at The Green kerbing agreed with Donnie MacLeod, also Mr MacLeod agreed signage and road markings as opposed to extending the crash barrier, furthermore, warning signage to be erected either side of the Broch, this along with already agreed that weedkilling, surface dress and tarmac of the affected areas of the Ose pavements along with white lining at Cemetery Car Park as clear demarcation between road and car park.

**d) NHS**

Mr A Morrison advised that Mrs F MacKinnon advised an invite to CC from NHS to attend the next SLWR District Planning Group teams meeting.

**e) PAS Invite – National Lottery Climate Action Fund**

Mr A Morrison confirmed he had completed and submitted the survey, acknowledgement received to advise 15 communities returned the survey and we will be contacted further once funding application has been processed with National Lottery.

**f) Highland Council – CC Review**

Mr A Morrison confirmed the survey completed & submitted

**g) Act of Remembrance**

Mr A Morrison confirmed all went well, with another excellent turnout, also wished to minute thanks to Rev J Beaton for leading, Mr C Beaton for reading the Roll of Honour, Mr P Morrison for piping and the ladies for providing the tea/coffee/baking in the school.

**5. NW Skye Minibus**

The running of the NW Skye Minibus has now been takeover by the Dunvegan Community Trust, consequently the rules in respect of usage have been altered, as now anyone wishing to drive the minibus must be a member/associate member of DCT to comply with the Section 19 Permit DCT have in place. Discussed whether it would be best for one of the Struan entities to apply for own Section 19 Permit, agreed Mr A Morrison in the first instance would e-mail Mr W MacKinnon at HC to see if a CC could apply for this Permit.

**Action: A Morrison**

**6. Struan Gala SCIO**

The Struan Gala SCIO is to be wound up and they have advised they wish to transfer their assets and any remaining funds to the SCC, the assets to be held until such time as new entity set up by SCT for the school asset transfer and once undertaken assets can be transferred to the new entity. It was mooted that as this is an existing legal entity, could it be taken over and used as the legal entity for the school be it with some AofA/Object changes required to make it fit for a community asset transfer?

At present still await SCT advices on the new legal entity for the school, Mr A Morrison advised that SCT have advised they are in process of reviewing the Articles of Association prior to finalising these with their legal representatives, once undertaken will be published and circulated to the community and once agreed will be the vehicle used to carry out the Community Asset Transfer application. Agreed that Mr A Morrison would contact SCT for update.

**Action: Mr A Morrison**

**7. Highland Transport Strategy**

The Highland Local Transport Strategy 2025 to 2035 – Draft Themes and Policies Engagement was sent out for response and feedback at the beginning of November by the HC consultants, Pell Frischmann. Mr G Semler advised he reviewed and has responded on his own behalf. He advised the report was lacking in ambition and devoid of the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback and generally a depressing read. He wrote under separate cover to Pell Frischmann with his suggestions and they have passed these comments to THC.

### **8. Foodbank Donation**

An e-mail from DCT to advise they had received a request for funding from the Foodbank, asking of similar received by us and Edinbane, responded and advised DCT to contact SCT as CC does not have any available funds to assist in this matter, SCT contacts provided. Mr G Semler questioned why the Foodbank require funding at present as from their Chair and Treasurers Report & Accounts for 2023 they would appear to have sufficient to hand to last the next two years at their current rate of expenditure even if they raised no further funds. There was no indication in the reports to suggest why at present they require funding.

### **9. Kaly Group**

It was agreed to write Bruce Hare at Kaly Group to invite him to meet with the CC, local Fishermen and other residents who use Loch Bracadale for fishing, leisure, etc both at present and in the past, to offer dates in January & early February. Mr G Semler will draft topics and questions to submit to Mr Hare along with invite to allow them time to be able to provide responses at the meeting. Also, agreed to write Marine Directorate & Crown Estates Commission to request that we are advised of any applications they may receive from Kaly Group. **Action: Mr G Semler & Mr A Morrison**

### **10. SSEN Works**

A number of questions have been raised locally in relation to the works being undertaken to a track off the Hill Road by R J MacLeod, in response, Mr A Morrison confirmed he had contacted Marin Ebeling at SSEN for her advices, Ms Ebeling advised that this was work they had commissioned in relation to maintenance works required to the track should the project progress.

### **11. CC – Bank Account**

Mr A Morrison advised that he had received a communication from the Bank of Scotland to advise that from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 they will be converting the present Bank Account to their Community Account and will levy a charge of £4.25 per month for use of the account along with charges per cheque, per pay-in and for paying in cash to the Account. Agreed Mr Morrison would contact Ward Manager to see if they Annual Grant could be increased to take in the additional costs, will also enquire with the Royal Bank to see if the CC transferred their Bank Account to them would similar charges apply. **Action: Mr A Morrison**

### **12. Wind Farms – Ben Mheadhonach Broadband & Caroy Quay S/E Report**

#### **Ben Sca Re-Design & Share Ownership**

Nothing further at present

#### **Wind Harvest – Beinn Mheadhonach – Broadband**

The Broadband Study produced by Wind Harvest commissioned from Calum Stiven was discussed, after discussion was agreed that the proposal was of no real value to the Community as presented, ideally the Community requires a design of 1 Gigabit, hence the problem being that if anything else is undertaken it will let the existing service providers off the hook for a long-term solution. Agreed in the interim the best solution as opposed to the present terrestrial services is to use 4/5G or Starlink

that would provide a comparable if not better service than going down the route of the proposal offered. Mr G Semler to advise Simon Tribe accordingly. **Action: Mr G Semler**

### Glen Ullinish II & Caroy Quay S/E Report

Post the meeting with Muirhall on 9<sup>th</sup> September, met with Near Neighbours in the school on 30<sup>th</sup> October to discuss a number of matters which relate to Muirhall and the meeting initially arranged by Muirhall for 11<sup>th</sup> November, however, now postponed until 9<sup>th</sup> December, after discussion was agreed to submit a note to Muirhall highlighting the salient points raised and for discussion:

1. The group agreed they accept the proposed Community Benefit split with a distribution of 40% to Struan, 10% each to Skeabost & Edinbane, Portree & Braes, Minginish and Dunvegan, and 20% to a Skye-wide fund. Payment should be to each of the six entities by GUII WF Ltd.
2. The group agreed that the desired position with regard to share ownership is that there should be one entity that handled all share ownership for all the proposed windfarm developments including Muirhall and that it was agreed that investment could be open to all Skye communities (i.e. not just those receiving community benefit).
3. The group would like to see a draft contract for the Community Benefit, it is assumed the agreement will be the same for each community.
4. The group considers the current community benefit offer of £7000/MWh generating capability should be revised upwards to more accurately reflect the value to the community of the assets being exploited.
5. The group would like to see a draft proposal on share ownership
6. The group would welcome a community benefit proposal from Muirhall for the Caroy Quay.
7. The group would like it noted that we are concerned at the potential multiplication of organisations that will be dependent on voluntary labour that may require to be in place to deal with all matters
8. Will the company be investing in local apprenticeships that will result in the delivery of qualified young people in this particular industry? Will this be done in advance of construction to maximise the opportunity for direct employment on Skye?

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, members of the CC & SCT met with Andrew Marshall of Muirhall and Mark Kummerer of MKA Economics to review and discuss an independent Socio/Economic Report commissioned by Muirhall from MKA to report on the 'scale of the opportunity' of Loch Caroy Quay. After a significant amount of discussion it was clear that the Report does not demonstrate any real or tangible benefit to the local community in its present form, suggestions were presented to Andrew and Mark that could provide this benefit, they were happy to accept all comments and will review and update the draft.

### 13. CLG School

Previously discussed under Item 6 – Struan Gala SCIO

### 14. CC Meeting Dates

Agreed & set for 2025.

**15. Planning**

No issues

**16. Correspondence**

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

**17. AOCB**

**Christmas Shopping Bus Trip**

Mrs S Illingworth is to arrange a Shopping Bus Trip to Inverness, recent trips were arranged by SCDG, will liase with Mr A Morrison regards cost and if an application requires to be submitted to SCT to fund.

**Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm in Struan School**

**The meeting closed at 8:55pm**

*Mrs. C. Illingworth* 04/02/25

*U MacKinnon* 04/02/25