

Strathisla Community Council

Minutes of Meeting 2nd March 2016

Present. Keith Comrie (Chair), Ian Ross (Secretary), Karen Pryce-Iddon, Priscilla Gordon-Duff,

In Attendance. Catherine Sinclair (minutes), Cllr Gary Coull (till 8pm)

Apologies. Innes McPherson, James Mark, John Gelling, Cllr Ron Shepherd

Previous Minutes. Item 8. Boharm should say, “Keith to draft letter to *The Moray Council* stating Strathisla Community Council maintain their previous position”. Subject to this amendment, the minutes were approved by Karen Pryce-Iddon, seconded by Ian Ross.

Matters Arising.

Item 2. Guest speaker

ACTION: Ian to contact Jenny Anderson and update Jane. c/f

Claiming mileage expenses: It was proposed that Strathisla Community Council, members should agree to claim expenses so cost does not become a barrier to being a Community Councillor. **ACTION: Ian to clarify with Jane Martin about claiming mileage to Strathisla Community Council meetings**

ACTION: Karen Pryce-Iddon has 3x50 mile trips to JCC meetings to claim.

Item 7. Rothiemay. Discussion was held on the difficulty to gauging the opinion of dispersed, rural communities accurately. Cllr Coull noted this is a difficulty for all Community Councils. Some find canvassing at fixed point e.g. central shop useful, some send out surveys or hold public meetings as well as making use of social media. Karen put a notice in the shop and knocked on the doors of those neighbouring the proposed site of Easter Knauchland. Discussion was also held on the short time window on planning applications, which does not always allow time for a response. Local community associations and committees can also ask to be added to the Planning notification list. Clarity was sought on what consultative measures have been agreed with The Moray Council.

ACTION: Ian to ask Jane Martin to advise on how best to fulfil planning role and strategizing. Also to ask if there are local authority-wide plans to help support this role of Community Councils

Item 9. Botriphnie. An email was received from Meg Deasley regarding the one way system. The Moray Council responded to advise they do not consult on temporary road changes. It was felt as the change will last a year it would have been a courtesy to consult locally.

The Gully Road from the hall to the church has had some work carried out but is still wet and potholed. It is also very narrow for the large vehicles which regularly use it.

ACTION: Cllr Coull to pass information to Speyside Councillors

Item 8. Boharm. Discussion on graveyard access road and that there must be many similar situations across Moray. Cllr Coull advised it would not be easy for The

Moray Council to identify all such sites. It was suggested this may be something Strathisla Community Council could pursue.

ACTION: Ian to ask Jane Martin to advise if Community Council funds could be spent this way.

1. **Police.** Report circulated. Four crimes reported in Strathisla since the last meeting including vandalism, theft of tools, theft of lead from the vestry roof of Rothiemay Parish Church, and sheep worrying, for which the owner of a whippet type dog is sought. The report also contains information on Claire's Law, Rural Thefts and Security, fraudsters targeting farmers in receipt of EU grant payments, and the Fair Warning Campaign to tackle anti-social driving.
2. **Guest Speaker.** None
3. **Treasurer.** No report
4. **Youth Issues.** None
5. **Planning.** Planning permission for the turbine Easter Knauchland was rejected. There was further discussion on Strathisla Community Council's role in Planning and about submitting comments regarding applications that were neither objecting nor supporting.
The secretary has replied to an email that expresses concerns about the proposed Lurg Hill wind farm. He advised the resident her objection would be noted and discussed at the meeting. It was agreed there could be no further action by Strathisla Community Council until a planning application was submitted. John Gelling suggested he could contact Grange residents if required. Historic Scotland has stated they will object to this site.
6. **Rothiemay.** Easter Knauchland Wind Turbine. As per Matters Arising and Planning. Karen Pryce-Iddon has put a comments box in the local shop. Nobody aged 90 or over has been found for the Queen's birthday tea event.
7. **Boharm.** Keith Comrie has written the letter stating the community's position with respect to site A and will send to The Moray Council.
ACTION: Keith to give Ian a copy of the letter for the records
8. **Botriphnie.** The footpath parallel to Gully Road needs to be upgraded for the safety of pedestrians walking to the church or train station.
9. **Grange.** As per Planning - Lurg Hill
10. **Newmill.** The tree on Quarrybrae Road that blew over has also damaged a safety barrier. There are still exposed, taped wires where the streetlamp was damaged. **ACTION: Cllr Coull to email Roads**
11. **Correspondence.**

Edintore Wind Farm Update. A meeting to discuss strategy was held on 24th February. James Mark is organising a further meeting of the working group, without the developer or consultant.

Drummuir 21. A survey was circulated consulting the local community on what they would like to see in the area to help inform a local action plan. Priscilla Gordon Duff encouraged everyone to respond.

CARES Conference. The conference is on 15th & 16th March in Stirling and is free to attend. CARES can help communities identify how to make the most of local renewable energy projects and how to spend grants. Local officer is Jamie Wilkinson.

Joint Community Council. Karen Pryce-Iddon gave an update on Participatory Budgeting. She has agreed to be on the working group. Details are to be finalised but the funds will be available to rural areas and will likely have a broad theme of economic development. She gave an update on information shared by other Community Councils and circulated the Moray Connected survey for users to say what they would like to see on The Moray Council website.

Dufftown & District Community Council have started a petition about the safety barrier at Parkmore Brae and have asked for Strathisla Community Council's support with this.

- 12. AOCB.** Plan to discuss strategic ways to promote Strathisla Community Council and benefit all communities equally. This could be by one-off sponsorship of events or projects suggested by each community. Also please bring ideas to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday to the next meeting.

Date of next Meeting. 6th April 2016