

DRAFT

HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held 01 March 2022 via Zoom

Chairman	Mr J Montford – Dallas	
Treasurer	Mrs L Smailes – Pluscarden	
Secretary		
	Mrs M Evans – Duffus	Mr N Sutherland - Dallas
	Mrs S Hodder - Pluscarden	Mr W Mustard – Fogwatt & Birnie
	Mr K Milne - Miltonduff	Mr C Souter - Miltonduff
Attendee	Councillor R Edwards	
Apologies	Mrs A Masson – Alves	Mr W Duncan - Fogwatt
	Ms J Kirby - Miltonduff	Mrs D Kelly - Alves

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms Jo Kirby, Mrs A Masson, Mrs D Kelly and Mr W Duncan.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 18 January 2022 were approved.

Proposed: Mr N K Milne Seconded: Mrs S Hodder

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Cloddach Bridge: Councillor Edwards has kept us informed. A survey is being carried out. There are three options: complete closure; to repair the damage; to replace the bridge. At the moment it is not included in the current budget as a decision has to be made first as to the way forward. The Council Leader has agreed that it will be at the top of the list once the decision has been reached. A comment was made that it is surprising how much traffic used that road and that traffic levels on alternative routes have doubled though part of this might be due to roadworks near to Dr Gray's.

b) Trees on Dallas-Kellas road: an inspection had been due to be carried out but there has been no feedback as yet. Nothing has been done so far about contacting the Forestry Commission.

c) Alves footpath: this has now been tarred and looks finished. Payment has also been made.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Most correspondence had been circulated to all members.

a) Millbuires: two communications have been received since the last meeting.

- The question had arisen as to the opening of the toilets now that the fishing licence has expired. Some research into the matter had begun but the proposer no longer wishes to pursue this.
- Work has begun on some environmental issues to make the path more accessible to the public after rain had made them quite dangerous. It was pointed out that better public access would make the opening of the toilets more necessary. There is a notice in the car park giving visitors information.

b) Feedback on the inaugural meeting: it was felt that the introduction was perhaps over-long given that we already had this information in written form.

c) Rural network news: this is worth studying as it mentions various sources of available finance for rural communities.

d) Forres Project Officer: it was felt that the title of this was misleading as it provided a list of funding available through grants. It was suggested that this information could be added to our Facebook page.

e) EV Workshop: this is concerned with electric cars.

f) Kellas masts: the chairman had made contact about this matter and one of these masts, as indicated at the last meeting, was concerned with a Wind Farm. Our comments are requested.

g) School Estate: public meetings are to be held. It is important that we keep an eye on this as rural schools can come under threat.

5. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer submitted her report. The accounts are as follows:

Roths 1	£23,057.61
Roths 2	5,754.65
HCC balance	1,116.24
Total	£29,928.50

The Alves footpath has been paid for. £4,125 of Roth's 2 is for the Fisheries Project and smaller amounts are left over from other projects. If these are not needed they can be put to use in future.

It was pointed out that the Wind Farms are paid a considerable amount of money to switch off when the power is not required but that we are not given a proportion of this. The current Wind Farm money is based on the amount of power generated but newer Wind Farm money will be calculated in a different way so we will benefit from any closures.

6. PLANNING ISSUES

All planning details had been circulated. There were no issues.

There will be a revision of terms for low-cost housing. The planning application for Dallas was indeed for the Horticultural Production Centre.

7. AOCB – to include area reports

- Considerable cutting back of gorse had been carried out on the Elgin to Duffus road and also in Mosstowie.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 05 April 2022 at 7.30 pm either via Zoom or face-to-face. A decision to be taken nearer the time.