

DRAFT

HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 03 October 2023
Mosstowie School

Chairman	Mr J Mountford – Dallas	
Treasurer		
Secretary		
	Mrs M Evans – Duffus	Ms S Hodder - Pluscarden
	Mr A Lyons - Roseisle	Mr W Duncan – Fogwatt & Birnie
	Mrs D Kelly - Alves	Mr K Milne - Miltonduff
	Mr N Sutherland - Dallas	Mr W Mustard – Fogwatt and Birnie
Attendees	Councillor Bridget Mustard	Ms J Johnson
	Councillor Kathleen Robertson	Ms H Ospazuk
Apologies	Mrs L Smailes - Pluscarden	Councillor Neil Cameron
	Mr C Souter - Miltonduff	

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A welcome was extended to our visitors.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mrs L Smailes (Treasurer), Mr C Souter and Councillor Neil Cameron

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 22 August 2023 were approved.

Proposed: Mrs D Kelly Secoded: Mr A Lyons

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Bridges:

- Cloddach Bridge: this matter had been due to come before the Council the previous week but this has now been postponed to allow more time for studying the Report. It is now on the agenda for 04 October but hoped to be deferred until 25 October. Councillor Robertson has been having discussions about funding and has written to both the Scottish Government and our Westminster MP Douglas Ross. A meeting was held with our MP to see if there could be any movement on the time as the Department of Transport funding has a time limit. An extension has been obtained for the Report but only of ten weeks until April 2024.

The Council does not have the required £1.5 million to match the Westminster funding so is against funding the £150,000 - £187,000 necessary for the Full Business Case Report. The expectation with Council Officers is that the money will be coming from the community but

it will be difficult to raise money for a report which might then be rejected. The bridge is still rated as category 2 so not seen as essential but it is a vital link from the south-west of Elgin.

The Full Business Case is essential if the case is to move forward. Local firms will contribute to the bridge but not to the FBC. A survey had suggested that only around 800 vehicles were using the bridge but it was pointed out that the three-tonnage limit impacts this. Wind Farm money cannot be used for Council-owned property and also has to serve the whole Community Council area, not just a single bridge.

Comments provided on the recent Pre-feasibility Study were discussed. It was pointed out that we need to either raise the money or gain sufficient political support and that it is therefore very important to contact the other political parties on the Council. Time is of the essence as the matter will be put before the Council on 25 October.

Proposal: that Heldon Community Council will lobby all the Councillors in Moray, starting this evening, in an attempt to have them on our side.

This was carried unanimously.

- Allarburn Bridge: tenders have now gone out.

b) Roseisle traffic measures: a meeting will be held on 05 October. Two local representatives will join this meeting along with representatives of the Council and the Police. There was a suggestion that part of the available £15,000 Ward money could be used for this but Diageo might be funding the project.

c) Treasurer: the current Treasurer and the prospective volunteer have not yet been able to meet but it is hoped that they will do so as soon as possible. The next round of Wind Farm funding is due and it would be helpful if they could work together on this.

d) Roadside verges: there has been no improvement on the B9010 since the last meeting. Concern was again expressed about this.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Most correspondence had been circulated to all members but some might need further action.

a) Moray Way Association: an enquiry has been received as to whether our Wind Farm funding could be available for long-distance paths but this will depend on whether the project is beneficial for Heldon.

b) Moray Learning Estate: meetings have been held and the Chairman attended the one for Community Councillors. A lengthy discussion will be held before a policy is produced. Only Forres has been involved so far but Buckie will follow. These are the two priority areas.

c) Millie Bothy: an appeal has been lodged so this is still a live project.

d) Clash Gour update: this is now at the point of beginning construction of the 140+ turbines. We will be kept informed of any changes or modifications.

5. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer submitted her report and accounts. These are effectively the end-of-year accounts. There has not been a great deal of change since the last meeting.

Roths 1	£ 13,511.97
Roths 2	£ 13,700.46
HCC balance	£ 2,065.01
Total	£ 29,277.44

The HCC total includes interest of around £500.

Applications for the next round of funding should have been submitted but so far none have been received. There is a little leeway and some submissions are due to be forwarded. It was decided that it would be sensible to move the date of the Finance Meeting from the 17th to the 24th October.

Roths 2 will be due in three or four months' time. It is important to raise awareness of the availability of this money in our local communities so that it can be taken advantage of. Later Wind Farms will have Moray-wide funding.

Each Ward has £15,000 available for local projects. However, it was decided that since Heldon has access to Wind Farm funding it would be more appropriate for this £15,000 to be allocated to other areas of Moray.

6. PLANNING ISSUES

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

7. HONORARIA

It was decided that these should remain the same – £350 for the Minutes Secretary and £500 for the Treasurer – but that an extra £100 should be awarded to the retiring Treasurer in acknowledgement of her hard work and dedication over a long period of time.

7. A.O.C.B. to include area reports

- Council meetings on webcam: the sound on these can be faulty but it was pointed out that it involves complex technology and that every effort is made to see that quality is maintained.
- Stagecoach is not providing a bus service for Roseisle, despite serving all the surrounding communities.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Grateful thanks were extended to the Councillors for attending. This is much appreciated and we are very fortunate in Heldon to have such support.

Date, time and venue of the next meeting:

Finance meeting: Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 7.30 pm in Mosstowie School.

Next HCC meeting: Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 7.30 pm in Mosstowie School.