

**HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 09 January 2024**  
**Via Zoom**

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Mr A Lyons, Ms J Kirby, Mr N Sutherland and Councillor Cameron.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2023 were approved.

Proposed: Mr W Duncan          Seconded: Mrs D Kelly

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

a) B9010 verges: work has begun on this.

b) Bank signatories: both the Treasurer and the outgoing Treasurer have submitted signatures. The Treasurer has spoken to the bank since but this is still ongoing.

c) Data Protection Officer: There was a query as to what such an officer would do and it was explained that they would understand the impact on us of any issues. It is important that we have a policy for the data we have – what information do we have and for how long do we keep it? We have more issues that most Community Councils as we deal with the Wind Farm applications but an information sheet is given out with these application forms. We were reminded that we need to be mindful of how we handle the data and we need to make sure that we delete information from our private computers. It was agreed to revisit this at the next meeting.

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- a) Cloddach Bridge: we have received an invoice from the Council for the first payment. 10% of the transport survey has been carried out and 100% of the topographic survey. There was considerable discussion as to whether VAT would be payable. We are not registered for VAT and if the Council is not liable for VAT then should there be a charge? If we pay as a donation VAT should not be charged.

**It was proposed that we should pay the £120,000 to the Council as a donation on condition that they continue to keep sending us invoices and keep us informed of progress and any issues along the way.**

**This was approved.**

An enquiry had been received from the Council as to whether we have managed to source any match-funding. This is being worked on. It was pointed out that SSEN is bringing in a new system and upgrading power lines. They have said that there will be funding to support community projects. Could we ask for funding for the bridge? However, no details of the funding are available as yet. Feedback has been very positive so far, though, so it could be worth asking. This will be checked.

- b) Planned gravel excavation – Dykeside Farm: a request has been received from them asking for permission to attend the next HCC meeting. This will be followed by a public meeting in Birnie Hall a week later. The chairman will write to extend an invitation.
- c) Alison Head – Berry Burn update: it is hoped to hold a series of public meetings, mainly in the south-west area of Heldon. Construction should begin next year.
- d) Kenneth Milne: this was withdrawn.
- e) Debra – funding opportunities; a great deal of useful information is circulated. It was pointed out that funding up to £500 is available for maintenance issues for Halls.

## **5. FINANCE REPORT**

The bank account is healthy at the moment with the Cloddach Bridge money covered. The Treasurer has not received any new invoices as yet. Some projects have not claimed all their Wind Farm money with this issue going back as far as September 2019. Amounts need to be claimed as soon as possible. We have also committed £5,000 for the Kitchen floor at Roseisle.

It was decided to check with Fred Olsen as to when the next payment would be received and how much this would be before making a decision about the dates for the next round of applications.

## **6. PLANNING ISSUES**

All planning details had been circulated.

- The planning application for the Fogwatt is still ongoing.
- The Millieburn application was refused at the appeal stage.

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

- People have been complaining about the tree-felling at Millbuies. There is some confusion as to what is being removed and how long the whole project will take. The red tape is also broken so members of the public are walking round the loch, causing the workmen to complain. A request will be made for a security gate to be installed.
- An enquiry was made as to whether there is any update on Viewmill Bridge. Councillor Mustard has not heard anything further but she will chase this up.

Good wishes were extended to Councillor Cameron who is undergoing a lengthy stay in hospital.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date, time and venue of the next meeting:

Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 7.30 pm in Mosstowie School.