

**HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2025**  
**at Mosstowie School at 7.30 pm**

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Mrs S Hodder, Mr W Mustard and Councillor Neil Cameron

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 18 February 2025 were approved.

Proposed: Mr N Sutherland      Seconded: Mr W Duncan

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

a) Spynie Battery Storage: a meeting had been held but nothing has changed. No leaflets have been distributed and questions raised have not been answered. Pre-planning has gone to the Council. Battery storage was raised at a Highland Planning meeting and it seems that there are many applications for approval but SSE will then decide which ones they need. After the change of location it now seems that we are back to the beginning and after initial complaints from the meetings the planners have stipulated that this is not satisfactory and another meeting should be held. We cannot object until the planning application is submitted. Details to be given to Councillor Mustard who will pursue this and check whether the correct procedures are being followed. At the moment we have done all we can until the planning application is submitted.

b) Cloddach Bridge: there has been email correspondence with the Council. The suggestion that the Military Aid to the Civil Authority could help with funding has been put to Grenville Johnston who is happy to discuss the matter but this is as far as it has gone at the moment. Talks are still in progress.

c) Thomshill traffic control: ongoing. Flashing signs are being considered and Wind Farm funding could be applied for.

#### **4. ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Kirsty Leiper: Kirsty is the person we have been dealing with re Wind Farm applications. She was responsible for enabling the funding to be used for the Cloddach Bridge report. She is now leaving her post so the Chairman has written to her expressing our gratitude for her help and support. So far there is no indication as to a replacement for the post.

b) Insurance renewal: the Council pays this. We do not have any assets so there are no changes to our requirements.

c) New SEPA Flood Map: a new interactive map has been published online.

d) Anticipated expansion of Gedloch Quarry: we are just on the edge of the relevant Ward. Pre-planning has been submitted. No problems are envisaged.

#### **5. FINANCE REPORT**

We haven't received any income since the last Finance Report. Initial approval has been received for the two current Wind Farm applications – Pluscarden Hall changing to a SCIO and Dallas Hall roof – but so far no cash has been given.

There were no questions arising from the Finance Report of the last meeting.

Finance since the last meeting:

Income	Nil
Expenditure	£31,000.48

Balances:

HCC	£ 2,518.71
Roths 1	£ 5,437.25
Roths 2	£ 6,495.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£14,450.96</b>

#### **6. PLANNING ISSUES**

There were no issues.

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

a) Mosstowie School has had a recent Education Scotland inspection. Concern was expressed that the press had misleadingly implied that the report suggested weaknesses whereas the overall report, while mixed, was not this concerning and does not impact on the overall impression of the school. A follow-up inspection will take place after a year. Councillors were reminded that only strong economic grounds can lead to school closures.

b) Thanks were expressed by the Birnie representative for the support given for the application for Wind Farm finance for the Hall car park which has now been completed.

c) Councillor Mustard reported that the Education Department has put out a mobile phone policy. There has been a good response so far, including contributions from pupils. All voices need to be heard so people should be encouraged to complete the survey.

d) A consultation is being set up with the Libraries User Group. Anyone interested should contact Councillor Mustard.

Date, time and venue of the next meeting:

Tuesday 06 May 2025 at 7.30pm at Mosstowie School