Speyside Community Council

Minute of Meeting Held

On Wednesday 26 February 2025

At 7pm

Speyside Sports and Community Centre

Community Council Members:
K.Ross, M. Middlehurst, N. Slessor, D. McLean, M.Ross

In Attendance:
Cllrs Ross, Harris and Gordon, PS (ECHC), MG (ECHC), CD (IDCA) TG, BG and GH (Members of the Public)
3 Representatives from Blackhills Windfarm

Apologies:
A. Bagnall (SCC), I. Blackhall (SCC), Fraser Dyer (SCC), B. Ross (AVC)

Welcome:
MR (SCC) welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.
MR proposed that the Draft Minutes of the meeting on 29 January were adopted and then proceed to the presentation on Blackhills Windfarm which would be followed by a Q and A session.
This proposal was accepted.

Previous Minutes: 29 January 2025

Proposer: D. McLean
Seconder: M. Middlehurst

Blackhills Windfarm Presentation

A presentation on the proposed windfarm and battery storage development was delivered by representatives of Koehler, the developer, Green Cat Renewables, renewable energy consultants and Orbit Communications.
This presentation followed on from the second round of exhibitions held by the developer.
The presentation was followed by a Q and A session.

A planning application will be lodged with the ECU in May 2025

MR gave a vote of thanks to the presenters before proceeding to the remaining items of business.

Matters Arising and not on the Agenda:

- MR wrote to Moray Council requesting relocation of the road pollution monitoring equipment in Rothes. No response yet.
- Road markings at Craigellachie Junctions. Transport Scotland has confirmed that work will begin on the right hand turns in March. Transport Scotland has confirmed that the bridge is Moray Council's responsibility and that it was Moray Council that carried out the works in 2020.
- Moray Draft Woodland and Forestry Strategy. Cllr Gordon gave an update. The Draft Strategy will come before the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee on 11 March.
- Gritting around schools. Cllr Gordon's update confirmed that there will be no changes to the gritting priorities – either for roads around schools or pavements.

Correspondence:

- SSEN Transmission Engagement Events: Inchberry Hall. 27/2/25 10am-1pm
- Wester Leochel Farm Woodland Creation Scheme
- Teindland Windfarm Community Ownership – Local Energy Scotland – online 4/3/25
- Woodland Creation in Cairngorm National Park
- Co-Op – Aberlour – confirmation that the parking area at the front is owned by the Co-Op
- Resilience – Training for Community Groups/Individuals

Reports

- **Treasurer**: Current Balance = £5733.77

  Available to SCC = £3223.64
  Available to ACA = £1773.27
  Available to SCI = £736.86

- **JCC (13/2/2025)**
  *Reminder from the Lord Lieutenancy of VE Day Celebrations on 8 May.
  *Period Plus Project, Moray Council (Free period products available for community owned toilets, halls, Blessings Boxes etc.)

*Succession Planning – a working group has been established.
*Preparation for CC elections and induction.

- Writing Funding Applications – online and organised by Tsi Moray. Slides from the meeting are available from MR, upon request.
- Planning Conditions and Enforcement (Biodiversity) online – input from CNPA and NaturScot. Slides of the webinar are available from MR, upon request.
- A Sustainable Learning Estate Workshop – feedback from M. Middlehurst and MR.

- **SCI**

The recently ordered equipment has been both paid for and received.
NS gave an update on the state of the Glen Spey Bridge. He will contact Glen Spey regarding the necessary repairs that are required to ensure that it is safe.
SCI continues to work with the Core Paths Ranger.

CSP Report: Previously forwarded.

Planning Matters: Weekly Wards list previously distributed.

- Dorenell Windfarm Extension and Biodiversity Enhancement Plan – Consultation
  Nearest venue: Braes of Glenlivet Hall, Chapeltown 6/3/25
  10am to 1pm
- **Forestry**
  *Scootmore Land Management Plan – online 5/3/25
  *Leonach Burn -potential new woodlands. D. McLean gave an update on the Moray Nature Networks.
  *Woodland Management Plan for the Macallan Estate

Licensing – N/A

Business

1) Community Benefits from net zero energy developments – Good Practice Principles for onshore and offshore renewable energy. SG Consultation, closes 11/4/25. It was decided that the CC would respond to this.

It was also decided to engage with those community organisations that are responsible for dispensing windfarm community benefits.
P.S and M.G (ECHC) requested a copy of the consultation documents.

M. Middlehurst, D. McLean, N.Slessor and MR expressed an interest in this item.

AOCB:

Future Programme: Moray Outdoor Access Forum/Ranger Service

Consultations:

Moray Council -
*Local Housing Development Strategy – online survey.
*Taxi Fare Review – Formal Consultation (Closes 20/3/25)
Polling Place and District Review – Consultation (Closes 7/3/25)

Scottish Government –
*National Speed Management Review (Closes 5/3/25)
*Rural Delivery Plan: Vision, strategic objectives and key performance indicators (Closes 7/3/25)
*Dual Mandates in the Scottish Parliament – Consultation (Closes 23/3/25)

Next Meeting: 26 March 2025

Meeting Closed: 8.45pm