

# STRATHPEFFER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Notes of meeting held on  
1 August 2018 at 7:30 pm in  
Strathpeffer Community Centre

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 1 August 2018
<b>Time:</b>	19:30
<b>Location:</b>	Community Centre
<b>Present (members):</b>	Val McGregor, Brian Mackenzie, William Deas, Archie Macnab and Ron McAulay
<b>Present (public):</b>	None
<b>Apologies:</b>	Gail Maclean
<b>Declaration of interest:</b>	None
<b>Appointment of Minute Secretary:</b>	Ron McAulay

Agenda items		Actions
1.	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting:</b></p> <p>Approved.</p>	None.
2.	<p><b>Matters arising:</b></p> <p><b>Standard of grass cutting on common areas around the village</b> Given the second cut of the year was a much improved cut, Ron had decided not to write to Highland Council about this matter.</p> <p><b>Gardening group</b> Ron confirmed that he had spoken to Alison and the gardening group is still in existence and will be seeking support from the Community Council (CC).</p> <p>All other actions covered by agenda items.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Opting in of one more member to the Community Council (CC)</b></p> <p>Ron advised that an email had been received from Peter McLellan requesting that he be allowed to join the CC as an opted in member. All present agreed to Peter being opted in. This now brings the CC to its full membership.</p>	

4.	<p><b>Signatories to the Community Council (CC) bank account</b></p> <p>It was agreed by all present that the signatories to the CC bank account should be the Chairman (Ron McAulay) and Treasurer (Archie Macnab). Archie will now contact the bank and arrange for the signatories on the account to be updated.</p>	Archie.
5.	<p><b>Village Community Plan</b></p> <p>Ron and Archie advised that the application for funding had now been approved for the preparation of the Village Community Plan. The 'letter of contract' from the funder CARES, had been received that day by Archie. The conditions of the offer appeared reasonable and all agreed that Archie and Ron should confirm acceptance.</p> <p>The terms of the funding will require us to obtain three quotes from consultants to support us with the consultation and drafting/publication processes. All agreed that the selection of an appropriate consultant would be key to the success of the plan.</p> <p>Ron also advised that we had been offered support in the form of advice (not funding) by another organisation called Scottish Community Development Centre. This advice could take the form of an officer from that organisation meeting with the CC to share their experience and give guidance on how to go about the consultation, etc.</p> <p>The proposed programme at this time is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint consultant – end of September</li> <li>• Carry out initial community consultation – Oct/Nov</li> <li>• Draft plan – December</li> <li>• Consult on first draft – during December</li> <li>• Finalise plan – end of January.</li> </ul> <p>It was emphasised that this plan was quite optimistic but was worth following at this stage if possible.</p> <p>A discussion followed on who we should include in the consultation process. In addition to the various groups in the community the following were considered important to contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CC as a group</li> <li>• The managers of the various hotels in the village (or their marketing managers)</li> <li>• Someone representing the retail outlets in the village such as Square Wheels, Deli, etc</li> <li>• The various leisure venues such as the golf club, shinty club, Pavilion, Square wheels, etc.</li> <li>• Other key facilities or venues such as the school, medical centre, bus company, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Ron and Archie were tasked with continuing to take this whole matter forward.</p>	Ron/ Archie.
6.	<p><b>Improving the Strathpeffer.org website</b></p> <p>Concerns were expressed about the current state of the website. Lots of information was out of date, the most recent set of CC minutes shown on the site was dated June 2017. The site is not being maintained and is considered 'fragile'. A discussion followed and the actions listed below were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archie would confirm how much is paid each year to host the website and maintain the domain name. He would also advise what services are provided by the host.</li> </ul>	Archie.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archie and Ron would speak with Posy and a local IT expert to discuss what might be needed to improve the robustness of the website and to discuss possible improvements to how it is maintained.</li> <li>William will speak with an IT expert in Dingwall who will be able to advise on the robustness of the website and on what might be offered as an alternative to the current arrangements.</li> </ul>	Archie/ Ron  William.
8.	<p><b>Pedestrian Crossing at entrance to Community Centre/School</b></p> <p>Ron confirmed that he had written to the Highland Council about this matter but as yet had not received a response. He will continue to pursue the matter.</p>	Ron.
9.	<p><b>Tree felling in the Pavilion Gardens</b></p> <p>Details of what was proposed were shared. Two sycamore trees and a horse chestnut tree are to be felled completely. Two oak trees are to be 'crown cleaned'.</p> <p>Val suggested that it would be useful if the same tree surgeons could also trim back the trees along the main road through the village to clear growth from the Christmas lights. Ron agreed to contact Robbie Bain to suggest this idea.</p>	Ron
10.	<p><b>Condition of the roads and road drains around the village</b></p> <p>Ron confirmed that he had written to the HC about this matter. As yet he had not received any reply however, he confirmed that he would continue to pursue the matter.</p>	Ron.
11.	<p><b>Leaflet printing proposed by Sandra Fleming</b></p> <p>It was confirmed that Archie had sent Sandra details on how to apply for funding for future publication runs of this leaflet. These applications would be considered by the CC alongside other applications for funding.</p> <p>As regards the outlay that Sandra had made in respect of the leaflets she had had published already, it was proposed that we should gather together a clear picture of our current funds and the possible demands to be made on those funds before a decision was made on whether to make a contribution towards the costs already incurred by Sandra. To allow this information to be gathered by Archie, a decision was made to defer the discussion until the September meeting of the CC.</p>	Archie
12.	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>PC Stephen Chalmers had been unable to attend the meeting this evening due to holiday commitments. However, he had submitted his report which was discussed. No actions were considered necessary.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Brown Tourist Signs on the main roads around Strathpeffer</b></p> <p>A discussion on the potential costs and benefits of these signs was held. At the end of this discussion it was agreed that this matter should be taken off the regular agenda and included in the consultation process on the Village Community Plan. That way the community can decide whether or not the costs are worth incurring.</p> <p>Ron agreed to gather together photographs of what brown signs relating to Strathpeffer already exist and where.</p>	Ron.

14.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>a) Val asked if the CC were still consulted on planning applications affecting the village. Archie indicated that previous policy had been to consider the implications of significant applications rather than all applications, many of which would be of a minor nature. Ron agreed to contact Robbie Bain to ask him.</p> <p>b) It was noted that application was being made to renew the Nutwood Housing site planning application.</p> <p>c) It was suggested that Cameron Duncan who was employed by the Strathpeffer Community Centre, be asked to come to the next CC meeting to discuss his work with us. Ron will ask.</p> <p>d) Finally it was noted that the benches in the square were being renovated under the supervision of Peter Maclellan.</p>	<p>Ron</p> <p>Ron</p>
12.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Wednesday 5 September 2018 at 7:30pm.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Date: 2/8/18</b></p>		