

STRATHPEFFER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Notes of meeting held on 5 September 2018 at 7:30 pm in Strathpeffer Community Centre

Date:	Wednesday 5 September 2018
Time:	19:30
Location:	Community Centre
Present (members):	Val McGregor, Brian Mackenzie, William Deas, Archie Macnab, Peter Maclellan, Gail Maclean and Ron McAulay
Present (public):	Cllr Ian Cockburn and five members of the community
Apologies:	None
Declaration of interest:	William Deas in respect of item 4 below. William removed himself from the meeting during the discussion on this item.
Appointment of Minute Secretary:	Ron McAulay

Agenda items		Actions
1.	<p>Minutes of last meeting:</p> <p>Approved.</p>	None.
2.	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>Tree felling in the Pavilion Gardens Ron confirmed that he had emailed and spoken to Robbie Bain at HC asking him to include trimming back of trees along the main road which were in HC ownership during the works to fell trees in the Pavilion. Robbie had agreed to speak to the relevant people.</p> <p>Consultation on planning applications Ron also confirmed that he had raised this issue with Robbie Bain at the HC. Significant applications should be passed to the CC for consideration and comment.</p> <p>Police Report Ron advised that there was no Police Report this month.</p> <p>All other actions covered by agenda items.</p>	

<p>3.</p>	<p>Update from Trish Wedderburn (Community Centre manager) on the “Strathpeffer Saves” Initiative</p> <p>Trish Wedderburn outlined this initiative which covers the Strathpeffer and Contin areas. Its key aims are to raise awareness and promote and support people to reduce their carbon footprint through saving energy and money.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the Community Centre to reduce its energy consumption • Running workshops for residents on improving home energy and saving money, • Running workshops on the benefits of growing our own food and recycling, <p>The project is funded until August 2019 and will employ a development officer for 21 hours a week.</p> <p>The first community event is planned for Saturday 17 November 2018 in Strathpeffer and will consider along with other matters, proposals for installing an electric car charging point in the village along with showcasing the opportunities offered by electric bikes.</p> <p>Various questions were asked on matters such as how the project will measure its success and the cost of the alterations to the Community centre. It was agreed that the main benefit that will come from the project will be through advice to people on how they can reduce their energy consumption and save money.</p> <p>Ensuring that the project is well publicised throughout the community and in doing so, engages with the community will be essential to its success.</p> <p>Trish was thanked for her update and the CC asked that they be kept up to date on progress.</p>	<p>Trish</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Deli in the Square – planning issues</p> <p><i>William Deas declared a potential conflict of interest with this item and removed himself from the meeting during the discussion on this item.</i></p> <p>The owners of the Deli in the Square raised two areas of concern that they had about potential planning issues. Details are as follows:</p> <p>Removal and replacement of the external canopy at the front of the Deli</p> <p>The old timber and glass canopy that had existed outside the front of the Deli had been removed as a matter of some urgency following an inspection by the Highland Council. This was done to address safety concerns. Given the need to provide some form of protection to customers at the Deli, a temporary canopy has since been erected. The Planning department has indicated that they are considering whether or not this temporary canopy is “appropriate for the historic area in which it sits”. The owners of the Deli intend to replace the temporary canopy with a permanent fixture and intend to apply for the appropriate permissions. They are keen however not to lose the ability to provide cover for customers during the interim period.</p> <p>Extent to which external seating can be accommodated outside the front of the Deli</p> <p>The Planning department has also advised that permission will have to be sought from the</p>	

	<p>Roads department of the Council if they wish to have customers use the outdoor seating area for periods extending beyond 28 days a year.</p> <p>The Community Council (CC) discussed these issues and all agreed that the Deli in the Square had brought a new lease of life to the Square and the village, and was a venture that all wished to see succeed. To that end, it was agreed that Ron would write to the planners on behalf of the CC whenever the owners of the Deli made application to address these matters. This letter would be one of support.</p> <p>It was suggested that one way of addressing concerns about the outdoor seating may be to consider a one way traffic system through the Square as part of a wider Square improvement project.</p>	Ron.
5.	<p>Village Community Plan</p> <p>Ron and Archie updated all present on progress with the Village Community Plan. Tenders have now been issued to six different consultants seeking support for the community consultation and drafting process. Tenders are due to be returned on Monday 10 September, 2018. Once returns have been received, Archie and Ron will assess them and use the criteria set out in the tenders to score them. One consultant will be chosen and appointed.</p> <p>The consultant will then begin to plan out and begin the consultation exercise after agreeing it with Ron and Archie.</p> <p>It was noted that one of the members of the community who was present at the meeting gave some feedback on one of the consultants who had tendered for the Strathpeffer Residents Association work recently.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Pavilion consultation exercise is likely to be running around the same time as this consultation process might be underway. It was agreed that the last thing we would want was to duplicate such meetings and all agreed that a joined up approach was essential.</p> <p>On the matter of who should be consulted as part of this exercise, the one addition to the list produced at the last meeting (see mins of meeting dated 1/8/18) were the local Highland councillors.</p>	Ron/ Archie.
6.	<p>Improving the Strathpeffer.org website</p> <p>Information on the current costs of running the website and potential improvements that could be made to it had been gathered and were discussed. Information had also been gathered on a potential replacement system for the website. Given the difference in costs and the need for greater clarity on exactly what each alternative would bring, it was agreed that further information and discussion would be required on this matter.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed that Ron, Archie and William would discuss the options in more detail and come back to the CC with a firmer proposal that had clear costs set out. It was noted that this information may not be ready for further discussion for a few months.</p> <p>In the meantime however, it was agreed that the current hosting arrangements with Calico should be renewed when they fall due in December.</p>	Ron/ Archie and William. Archie.

7.	<p>Pedestrian Crossing at entrance to Community Centre/School</p> <p>Ron shared a response he had received from the Road Safety Officer at Highland Council regarding this matter. The proposal made by the HC to address this concern involves removing the markings on the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the community centre and school and introducing new markings directing people further into the complex before crossing the road to access the school and community centre. Ron advised that he had consulted on these proposals with the Headmistress of the school and the Manager of the Community Centre. Both agreed that the proposal would improve the situation.</p> <p>After much discussion it was agreed that the proposal, while not as far as we might have hoped, did go some way to making the situation a safer one for people to use. It was agreed that Ron would write back to the HC advising them that we wished them to proceed but also asking that the pedestrian barriers be extended to further encourage people to go further into the complex before crossing the road. The letter will also reserve our position to ask for further improvements if experience shows a need for them.</p>	Ron.
8.	<p>Condition of the roads and road drains around the village</p> <p>Ron advise that he had received a response to his letter to the HC about this matter. The response had advised that pot hole filling/patching would be carried out before the winter set in and the drain gullies would also be cleared and the drain confirmed as clear and running. If funding allows, further resurfacing works may also be carried out but given the financial position of the Council this work may have to wait until a future year.</p> <p>Councillor Cockburn reinforced this message by advising that the work should commence in the next couple of weeks.</p>	
9.	<p>Financial Position of the CC</p> <p>Archie shared an up to date spreadsheet showing the accounts for the CC. At present the bank balance has just under £600 in it. A further guaranteed £650 will be added to that balance by the HC once we have submitted the previous year's accounts for approval. While there are some minor foreseeable commitments, the larger commitments are generally covered by the windfarm grant monies.</p>	
10.	<p>Leaflet printing carried out by Sandra Fleming</p> <p>Given the discussion on the previous item, it was agreed that a cheque should be made out to Sandra Fleming for £125 as a contribution towards her costs in producing these leaflets. It was noted that future print runs of leaflets should get approval in advance of orders being placed and the wording on the leaflets in future print runs should acknowledge the support of the CC.</p> <p>Archie will issue a cheque.</p>	Archie
	<p>Brown Tourist Signs on the main roads around Strathpeffer</p> <p>At the last meeting Ron had agreed to collate information on what brown signs existed at various key road junctions that referred to Strathpeffer. Details are as follows:</p> <p>Tore junction (A9) No mention of Strathpeffer on any signs. The only brown signs referred to retail outlets in</p>	

11.	<p>Beauly. Cromarty Bridge (A9) Very little mention of Strathpeffer on the normal road signs. Only brown signs refer to “Local Services: Dingwall” and “Moray Firth Tourist Route”.</p> <p>Kinnahaird junction, Contin No mention of Strathpeffer and no brown signs.</p> <p>Contin junction Strathpeffer mentioned on normal road signs but brown signs only refer to “Moray Firth Tourist Route”.</p> <p>Dingwall – junction with Strathpeffer Road Strathpeffer mentioned on normal road signs but no brown signs.</p> <p>Entrance into Strathpeffer from Dingwall Brown sign announces “Welcome to Strathpeffer, Victorian Spa Village, etc.” and “Tourist Information centre”.</p> <p>This matter will now be left to be discussed as part of the village community plan.</p>	Ron.
12.	<p>Caravan at bottom of Ardival Road</p> <p>It was noted that the caravan was no longer there.</p>	
13.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>a) Christmas Lights The issue of renewing the Christmas lights was raised and discussed. Various costs were highlighted. The current power supply arrangements for the Tree lights were also raised as an issue of concern.</p> <p>The following actions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter and Val will prepare a list of what lights are needed and where. They will advise Archie who will prepare an application for a grant to pay for the new lights. • We will need to find an electrician who can check out/fix the power supply arrangements for the tree lights. • Ron will check with Robbie Bain that the HC will connect the appropriate Christmas lights to the power supply feeding the street lights. Ron will keep Cllr Cockburn advised. <p>b) Donations towards the cost of the Christmas Lights It was suggested that a box seeking donations towards the cost of the Christmas lights should be placed in the shop at the Square. Val and Gail agreed to organise such a box.</p> <p>c) Minutes of the CC meetings Copies of these minutes should be made available in the notice boards at the Community Centre and at the shop in the Square.</p>	<p>Peter, Val and Archie</p> <p>All</p> <p>Ron.</p> <p>Val and Gail.</p> <p>Ron to speak to Trish.</p>
14.	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday 3 October 2018 at 7:30pm.</p>	All
Date: 6/9/18		