

# STRATHPEFFER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Notes of meeting held on 6 February 2019 at 7:30 pm in Strathpeffer Community Centre

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 6 February 2019
<b>Time:</b>	19:30
<b>Location:</b>	Community Centre
<b>Present (members):</b>	Brian Mackenzie, William Deas, Gail Maclean, Val McGregor, Archie Macnab and Ron McAulay
<b>Present (public):</b>	No members of the community but joined by Catriona Knott of Local Energy Scotland and Hazel Allen of Athena Solutions
<b>Apologies:</b>	Peter Maclellan and Cllr Ian Cockburn
<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> Approved.</p>	None.
2.	<p><b>Matters arising if not covered elsewhere on agenda:</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Housing Development on Land to the west of Kinellan Drive, Strathpeffer</b> The planning permission for this development has not yet been determined. However, the developer has been carrying out various CCTV surveys of the drainage in the area. A report from their consultants was received earlier that day and has been circulated to all members of the CC. These surveys had discovered various sections where root infestation and silt had reduced capacity and work was underway to clear much of these obstructions. Further work is planned to make further survey work possible.</p> <p>There is no further update on when the Highland Council will produce a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) with the support of Scottish Water for Strathpeffer.</p> <p>Ron confirmed he had sent a copy of the email providing the information on the SWMP to the Strathpeffer Residents Association for their information given they are embarking on a project to assess the drainage issues associated with their own site.</p>	

	<p><b>Letter of thanks to Dingwall CC</b> Ron confirmed that he had still to write to thank Dingwall CC for their offer of support with the Christmas lights.</p> <p><b>Funding for new Christmas lights</b> Archie advised that due to work on the Pavilion steering group and the submission to the Land Trust, he had been unable to devote any time to the Christmas lights but would do so over the coming month.</p> <p><b>Fabricated Christmas Tree</b> Ron also advised that while he had found out that it was the Nigg Skills Academy who had made this tree, he had not yet contacted them to see if they would make one for Strathpeffer.</p>	<p>Ron.</p> <p>Archie</p> <p>Ron</p>
3.	<p><b>Discussion with Catriona Knott of Local Energy Scotland</b> Local Energy Scotland (LES) is the organisation that is funding the Village Community Plan work. They have offices over most of Scotland but Catriona is based in Inverness and looks after the Highlands. Their aims include improving local and community ownership of renewables.</p> <p>Different funding streams are available as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enablement grants</li> <li>• Innovation grants, and</li> <li>• Development loans.</li> </ul> <p>Each has different intervention rates and limits in terms of value. Brochures providing more information were made available.</p> <p>If the Village Community Plan suggests that we should set up a development trust, LES can offer advice and funding might be available. Catriona was thanked very much for a very informative discussion.</p>	-
4.	<p><b>Police Report</b> There was no Police report available this month.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Christmas Lights</b> While no progress had been made on funding applications for new Christmas lights, it was noted that the existing tree lights were still in place although they had been turned off. Val was planning on speaking to Peter to arrange for them to be taken down and stored.</p>	Val and Peter
6.	<p><b>Strathpeffer.org website</b> Ron updated all on progress. He had spoken with Rob Elliot and Paul Hunter both of whom confirmed that the best way forward was to adopt a new platform for the website. The preferred option was one called WIX. It appears to offer a relatively robust but easy to adapt system with the potential for a number of individuals being able to update the site as and when required. Ron had discussed the matter with Rob and Rob had agreed to produce a “proof of concept” for the CC to review. Ron agreed to continue to maintain dialogue with Rob and to progress the matter as quickly as possible.</p>	Ron.
7.	<p><b>Financial Position of the CC</b> Archie gave an update on the financial status of the CC. He has still to arrange for the last year’s accounts to be signed off and submitted to the HC which should allow the release of the annual allocation of funds for the present year.</p>	Archie

8.	<p><b>Village Community Plan</b></p> <p>Hazel Allen of Athena Solutions joined the meeting at 8:20pm to discuss progress on the Village Community Plan. Given that the Pavilion submission to the Land Trust had now been made, Hazel was able to return to the Plan and devote more resources to getting it finished in time so that the Plan can be finalised and paid for before the end of March. She outlined the findings of the research and consultation work done to date. The village has many resources and attractions that other villages would view with envy. The issues that the plan can help us address include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating and providing support to (including seeking additional funding) the work of all the groups in the village,</li> <li>• Boosting the economy of the village by finding ways to attract more people to the village as tourists, visitors, etc,</li> <li>• Giving those tourists and visitors plenty to do when they are here.</li> </ul> <p>The need to consider the different groups of people that visit the village and to tailor activities to each was also raised. Those groups include: coach parties; Chinese coach parties; independents; local day trippers and others.</p> <p>One of the recommendations of the plan is likely to be that we should set up a development trust. There was strong support around the table for such an idea however, the issue of who would take roles in that trust was the biggest concern.</p> <p>Hazel advised that she still needed to hold discussions with some individuals and groups and would then be in a position to produce the first draft of the Plan.</p> <p>It was agreed that Hazel would attend the next meeting of the CC to present the findings of the Plan if not to actually share the first draft of the Plan. This will be the main item on the agenda for the meeting in March.</p>	Hazel
9.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Flooding</b> A number of incidents of flooding had occurred in recent days at Achterneed and on the main A834 road. It was suggested that some maintenance was required to the road drainage in these areas. William agreed to send Ron some photos of the areas in question and then Ron would forward them on to the Roads team at HC.</li> <li>• <b>Strathpeffer Pipe Band</b> Gail advised all present that it appeared that the Pipe Band was proposing to reduce the frequency of times they were playing in the Square to once a fortnight (currently once a week). All agreed that if this is correct then it is extremely disappointing.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Wednesday 6 March 2019 at 7:30pm.</p>	All
<b>Date: 7/2/19</b>		