

STRATHPEFFER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Notes of meeting held on
2 October 2019 at 7:30 pm in
Strathpeffer Community Centre

Date:	Wednesday 2 October 2019
Time:	19:30
Location:	Community Centre
Present (members):	Gail Maclean, Ron McAulay, Archie Macnab, Val McGregor and William Deas
Present (public, officials and HC members):	Colin Howell and Alan Fraser of Highland Council Infrastructure team, Cllr Ian Cockburn and several members of the community
Apologies:	Peter Maclellan and Brian Mackenzie
Declaration of interest:	None.
Appointment of Minute Secretary:	Ron McAulay

Agenda items		Actions
1.	Minutes of last meeting: Approved.	None.
2.	Matters arising if not covered elsewhere on agenda: Strathpeffer Sign at east end of village Still to be completed. Otherwise all items were noted as either closed or were covered by items on the agenda.	Ron and Walter
	Flooding in the Village and in the Achterneed/Fodderty/Blairninich area Colin Howell and Alan Fraser had joined the meeting to update everyone on what was planned by HC to address the issue of flooding in the area. Alan Fraser gave a very informative update on the various strands to their approach the key aspects of which were as follows: The Flood Risk Management Act 2009 places both obligations and powers with the local authorities and other public bodies to work together to address flooding issues. The other	

bodies include SEPA, Scottish Water and the Roads Team in the HC.

The key areas of responsibility are largely divided as follows:

- Flood team – mainly watercourses
- Roads team – Road drainage issues
- Scottish Water – Sewers – both combined and foul sewers

Alan Fraser heads up the flood team in Dingwall.

SEPA has a responsibility to develop flood risk management strategies, while the Local Authorities are required to produce flood risk management plans covering a six year cycle.

The plans for the period 2016-2022 include three active flood alleviation schemes in the Highlands – at Smithton/Culloden, Coul and Drumnadrochit.

Various flood studies are underway, one of which includes the River Peffery up to Blairninich. The recommendations of that study are likely to be available by the end of this year.

However, it was noted that **IF** SEPA were to prioritise this particular study for action and **IF** the Scottish Government approved the funding, it will still take as much as 5 or 6 years before any work would be undertaken. While this study was welcome there were concerns expressed about the landowners involved not being advised of what was planned. It was agreed that Ron would share contact details for Colin and Alan with the people concerned so that they could contact them.

Another area of the Flood team's work includes the development of Surface Water Management Plans which is what is required for the village of Strathpeffer given the nature of the flooding in the village. This study will consider the road drainage, sewer capacity and other overland flow issues. Eight of these management plans are being developed in the Highlands one of which is for Dingwall and Strathpeffer.

The Strathpeffer Surface Water Management Plan is due to start being developed in the next year. It should identify the key issues and begin to develop how those issues might be tackled.

Colin highlighted some of the individual responsibilities of those living within the community to protect their own properties and for maintaining the free flow of watercourses that pass through their ground.

More advice and guidance is available from the SEPA website, SEPA flood maps and the Scottish Flood Forum. Alan also left a copy of a leaflet called "Managing Flood Risk in the Highlands" – further copies are available from Highland Council.

Following an open discussion on the issues it was agreed that the long term solutions to the problems are likely to be many years away and therefore, the need for maintaining the current drainage system is very important. Blockages due to leaves, silt, etc. will restrict the capacity available in the system. Similarly, if the main culvert through the village is in poor condition it is likely to restrict flow and reduce capacity. While all agreed with this need for improved maintenance, the lack of resources within HC was highlighted as the crux of the issue.

All agreed that more maintenance work was required and it was suggested that the CC might invite someone from the Community Services team in HC to come to a future meeting to

Ron

Ron to request someone to attend a future meeting

	discuss the need for more maintenance of the drainage system.	
4.	<p>Town Centre Fund – Square project</p> <p>It was noted that a further meeting of the group within HC that is considering applications for the Town Centre Fund was due on the following day. It was hoped that further information would be available after that meeting.</p> <p>Ron advised that he had sought and now obtained pre-planning advice from the HC planners for the proposed works. It had been confirmed that we will need planning permission, conservation area consent and some other consents relating to the traffic management alterations and the erection of advertising signs above the shops. Ron proposed that we proceed to apply for these permissions so that we had them in place as soon as possible. Even if funding is not made available this year, obtaining these consents will put us in a better position for any applications to the fund if it is available next year.</p> <p>He has spoken with Rory Stariski and with Rory’s assistance, he hoped to be able to pull together the appropriate drawings, plans, documents required to make an application. The fee for this process within the HC is 50% of the normal cost if the application is made by the CC. All agreed we should continue to prepare an application. The cost of the fee will be discussed with the owners and a suitable sharing of that cost will hopefully be agreed.</p>	Ron
5.	<p>Transport Fund</p> <p>Since the last meeting of the CC, Ron and Archie had looked at this fund and had submitted a provisional application for consideration. This provisional application had secured the CC an extension of time to make a full application as it did not include any costed details of proposed additional bus services. The HC had granted an extension to the 10/10/19 for the submission of a completed application.</p> <p>Following discussions with both a local bus provider and Stagecoach, the cost of additional services operated by these organisations seemed to be more than would be likely to be approved under this scheme. Information on the possible level of usage of these additional services was not clear as we had not had sufficient time to survey the community on this specific issue.</p> <p>After some discussion it was agreed that we would not submit a full application at this time and hope that a future opportunity may arise in the coming months when we have more detail to hand on which we could develop a more robust proposal. Ron will write and withdraw the provisional application.</p>	Ron
6.	<p>Village Community Plan</p> <p>During the process of applying for the Transport Grant mentioned in the previous item, it was noted that any applications made would only be eligible if they were made by an organisation such as a “not for profit” limited company or a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The CC as a CC would not be eligible to apply. Similarly, it was pointed out that the application to the Town Centre Fund may not be eligible unless we had such an organisation making the application. Ron had investigated what was required to set up a SCIO as proposed in the Village Plan, and he proposed that we should set one up now to cover the delivery of projects such as the Town Centre Fund project and the delivery of the wider actions in the Village Community Plan. After some discussion, it was agreed that Ron, Archie, Val and Gail would be the initial trustees for the new SCIO (or Trust) and Ron would begin the process of applying for SCIO status. Ron had circulated a draft constitution for the Trust prior to the meeting. All agreed to let Ron know if they wanted to make any alterations to the draft constitution.</p>	Ron All
7.	<p>Christmas Lights</p> <p>It was noted that the Christmas lights were due for delivery during October. Archie confirmed that he had applied to the Corriemoille fund for funds to install the power supply connections</p>	

	required on the lampposts. Ron agreed to ask Stuart Bruce at HC to begin the process of ordering materials for the connections with a view to getting them installed as soon as possible.	Ron
8.	Speeding through the Village No progress had been made on securing funding for the proposed speed lights. A competitive cost of c.£3,700 for two lights had been provided by the HC but as yet a funding source had not been secured. After some discussion it was suggested that we should make an application to the HC discretionary fund.	Ron and Archie
9.	Strathpeffer Pavilion – transferring to community ownership Archie gave a very brief update on the recent news that the Pavilion group had been successful in securing the transfer of the Pavilion to community ownership. The date it is likely to transfer is April 2020. High Life Highland will continue to operate the building on behalf of the Pavilion Trust and it is likely that the Trust will appoint a project officer.	-
10.	Police Report It was noted that the role of liaison officer for the CC was being passed to a new Police officer and there was no report available for this meeting.	-
11.	Strathpeffer.org website All were reminded of the need to promote the recently revamped website - www.strathpeffer.org . – around the community.	All.
12.	Financial Position of the CC Archie confirmed that the bank account held a balance of £1,290.90 and there were no outstanding invoices to be paid.	Archie
13.	Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All were reminded that the next meeting of the Corriemoille fund group was scheduled for 11 November 2019 at 7pm. Some reports of anti-social behaviour by a group of young lads were made. It was suggested that if the matter became an issue, the person witnessing the behaviour should call 101. It was noted that the CC had been asked to assist with proposing a name for the new road within the “soon to be” constructed housing development at Kinellan Drive. All were asked to consider options and to advise Ron. The next meeting of the Kinellan Drive Housing development liaison group was scheduled for the 28/10/19 but Ron was now not able to attend on that date. It was agreed he would seek a revised date for the meeting. All were reminded that the CC elections were now being organised and the closing date for nominations was close. 	All. All Ron All
14.	Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 6 November 2019 at 7:30pm.	-
Date: 05/10/19		