

# STRATHPEFFER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Notes of meeting held on  
3 March 2021 at 7:30 pm by  
Zoom video call

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 3 March 2021
<b>Time:</b>	19:30
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom video call
<b>Present (members):</b>	Ron McAulay, Neil Moscrop, Val Macgregor, Ali Wood, Archie Macnab and Peter Maclellan
<b>Present (public, officials and HC members):</b>	Cllr Ian Cockburn
<b>Apologies:</b>	Gail Maclean
<b>Declaration of interest:</b>	None.
<b>Appointment of Minute Secretary:</b>	Ron McAulay

Agenda items		Actions
1.	<b>Minutes of last meeting:</b> Approved.	
2.	<p><b>Matters arising if not covered elsewhere on agenda:</b></p> <p><b>Representative from HC Community Services team to attend a meeting of the CC</b> Ron had yet to organise for someone to attend.</p> <p><b>Phone Box</b> No action yet taken to buy the paint.</p> <p><b>Overgrown hedges</b> Ron reported that the hedges around the Sheiling and across the road have now been cut back. It was not known who had done this work but it was very welcome news. <b><u>This item now closed.</u></b></p> <p>Otherwise all items were noted as either closed or were covered by items on the agenda.</p>	<p>Ron</p> <p>Ron</p>
3.	<p><b>Strathroy Wind Farm</b></p> <p>It was noted that further one-to-one meetings with the developer and the individual CCs had been held on zoom. These meetings had been held to allow the developer to gauge the view of the CCs to the development. Given that the development involves green, sustainable</p>	

	energy which will be essential going forward, it was agreed that Ron should write to the planners indicating our support for the application.	Ron
4.	<p><b>Heritage Lottery fund – proposed joint village application</b></p> <p>An update on progress was given as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The supporting “bid document” is now 98% complete. The only section to be completed is the introduction which is being written by Ron.</li> <li>• Nothing has been heard back from the owners of Peffery House. Ron has written to the owners twice with no reply.</li> <li>• The Strathpeffer Community Development Trust Ltd has now been established and the next step will be to encourage residents of the Strathpeffer and District area to join up as members. A membership application form is being prepared and will be circulated to all groups for sharing with their members. All were encouraged to promote membership to anyone who lives within the Strathpeffer CC area.</li> <li>• Once we have a bigger membership, we will then need to encourage people to put themselves forward for nomination to the board as directors of the new trust. Ideally each of the groups in the village will nominate people to represent them on the board. This does not exclude others who wish to put themselves forward to do so.</li> </ul>	Ron All
5.	<p><b>Town Centre Fund (TCF) 2020 – Square Project</b></p> <p>A detailed update on progress with the various works in the Square <u>since the last meeting</u> of the CC was given as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The gazebo is now effectively finished. The one remaining item of work on the gazebo from the TCF 2020 fund, is to place a bird net on the ceiling to prevent birds nesting. This will be done by volunteers once the lighting in the roof (being paid for by the TCF 2021 fund) is installed.</li> <li>• The new flooring has been installed.</li> <li>• The new safety cover around the electricity distribution box should be installed before the next meeting.</li> <li>• The two trees beside the gazebo have been felled.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Town Centre Fund (TCF) – 2021</b></p> <p>Ron reported on progress with this fund as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement pump for the fountain/waterfall cascade has been ordered</li> <li>• Wiring of the gazebo roof – three electricians have been asked to provide prices</li> <li>• Drainage for the Play Park is being progressed by the Strathpeffer Residents Association, and</li> <li>• On the signage within the village and the “brown tourist” signs at Contin and on the Dingwall side of the village, Ron advised as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The old “tourist info” signs on the A834 have been removed. The old brown Strathpeffer tourist sign at the Dingwall end will be removed in the next week or two. It will be replaced with a fresh sign and prices are being obtained for that new sign.</li> <li>○ Contact has been made with Transport Scotland and they have just agreed to the erection of Strathpeffer signs at Contin on the A835. Prices are being sought.</li> <li>○ The fingerpost signs within the village may need planning permission. However, an alternative involving the use of HC and their permitted development rights is being explored. This will save time and possibly costs too.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Ron will continue to progress these works as quickly as possible.</p>	Ron.

7.	<p><b>Monitoring speed through the village</b></p> <p>Ron had been in touch with Ross Bartlett of HC to get an update on the outcome of his work to monitor the speed of vehicles passing through the village. It would appear that the average speeds at the monitoring point outside the old Youth Hostel (Elsick House) were 30mph heading towards the village and 33mph towards Contin. More monitoring is planned for later in the year.</p> <p>After some discussion, it was agreed that further detail about how long the period over which this monitoring was carried out would be useful. It would also be useful to know the range of speeds and what the maximum speeds were. Ron confirmed that he had already written to Ross asking for this additional information.</p> <p>Ian advised all that the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh committee are promoting a proposal to establish 20mph speed zones in all villages across the area. This was welcomed by all.</p> <p>Val raised the issue of reducing the speed limit along the Achterneed road and between Fodderly/Blairninich and Strathpeffer to 40mph. While this was supported, the difficulties involved in implementing it were highlighted.</p>	Ron Ian
8.	<p><b>Proposed Food Larder</b></p> <p>Neil updated all on a virtual seminar he had attended which was held to share information about the operation of food larders elsewhere in the Highlands. After much discussion around the logistics of operating such a larder and the safety issues around keeping and sharing food, it was agreed that the CC would support the creation of a food larder. Neil and Alison undertook to work up and take forward a proposal on how it might operate and an option to base it at the Community Centre. The potential to access grants and obtain spare/surplus food from stores such as the Coop were also discussed.</p>	Neil and Alison
9.	<p><b>Planning proposals</b></p> <p>Ron had placed this item on the agenda to get guidance and agreement on what kind of developments the other members of the CC would like him to draw their attention to when they were included on the planning lists.</p> <p>The following developments were ones that the members agreed they would want to hear about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three or more houses;</li> <li>• Bigger developments that may have a community influence</li> <li>• Anything that affects the conservation area significantly,</li> <li>• Developments such as Windfarms</li> </ul>	Ron
10.	<p><b>Financial Position of the CC</b></p> <p>Archie confirmed that the bank balance remains in a healthy position. Archie advised that he was processing the end of year accounts and would be submitting them to the HC before the end of March. This will also include the application for the annual grant. He confirmed that he had access to all the minutes of the meetings held over the year including the AGM which appear to be required to close out the accounts.</p>	Archie
11.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pavement area outside the new sweet shop in the Square</b></li> </ul> <p>Peter raised the issue of the pavement at this area which is badly damaged due to the roots of a tree. The tree is also dominating the building that is now being used as a sweetie shop. The pavement is now quite dangerous with various bits of grating, etc. causing a significant tripping hazard. Ian agreed to get someone from the Roads team to take a look at it.</p>	Ian

12.	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 7:30pm by Zoom Video call	All
<b>Date: 5/3/21</b>		