

STRATHPEFFER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Notes of Annual General Meeting held on 2 June 2021 at 7:30 pm by Zoom video call

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| Date: | Wednesday 2 June 2021 |
| Time: | 19:30 |
| Location: | By Zoom video call |
| Present (members): | Ron McAulay, Archie Macnab, Val McGregor and Neil Moscrop |
| Present (public or HC members/officials): | Cllr Ian Cockburn |
| Apologies: | Gail Maclean, Alison Wood and Peter Maclellan |
| Declaration of interest: | None |
| Appointment of Minute Secretary: | Ron McAulay |

| Agenda items | | Actions |
|--------------|--|---------|
| 1. | Minutes of last AGM: Approved. | - |
| 2. | Chair's report The Chair's report was presented by Ron. Copy of the report is attached as Appendix 1. | - |
| 3. | Treasurer's report The treasurer's report covering the expenditure and income over the year was presented verbally by Archie. | - |
| 4. | Resignation and selection/re-selection of office bearers All office bearers resigned and Cllr Ian Cockburn temporarily acted as chair of the meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that the following members would carry out the following roles: Ron McAulay – Chair and Secretary (Proposed by Val and seconded by Neil) Val MacGregor – Vice Chair (Proposed by Archie and seconded by Neil) Archie McNab – Treasurer (Proposed by Ron and seconded by Neil) | - |

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| | Following this selection, Ron took back the chair from Cllr Cockburn. | |
| 5. | Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no other business. | - |
| 6. | Meeting closed The meeting was closed. | - |
| Date: 4/6/21 | | |

APPENDIX 1

STRATHPEFFER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CHAIR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) TO BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE 2021 AT 7:30PM BY ZOOM VIDEO CALL

Our last AGM was held late on in 2020 on the 4 November, due to the Covid pandemic. This report covers the period since November 2020 to date. Despite the pandemic, the Community Council has remained very active with lots of issues being progressed. Our meetings have continued on a monthly basis thanks to the availability of video conferencing facilities i.e. Zoom.

Change of membership of the Community Council

In December 2020, it was with regret that we heard that Duncan Macphail had decided to announce his resignation from the Community Council. He was replaced in January by Alison Wood who was co-opted onto the Council.

Creating the Strathpeffer Community Development Trust (SCDT)

We are delighted to report that the new SCDT has now been formed and directors appointed. As was reported in November, the former Strathpeffer Community Association that has successfully operated and managed the community centre for the last 21 years has been transformed into the new SCDT. New articles of association have been drafted and approved by both the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and Companies House. At its first AGM, which was held on Thursday 27 May 2021, four new directors were appointed to join the existing board. These new directors will represent a number of the groups from around the community.

Strathpeffer.org website

The village website continues to provide useful information on issues around the community. Bruce Messer is to be thanked for his hard work in maintaining the website.

Strath Times

We have now produced four editions of the new Strath Times and continue to look for articles and stories which can be included. Due to the pandemic the circulation of the paper has been rather limited. We have relied on publishing the paper on the website and having a limited print run of hard copies that are made available in the local RS McColls shop. Miranda Wharam is eager to hear from people within the community who would be willing to contribute articles. She continues to do a tremendous job of editing the paper.

Town Centre Fund - 2020 and 2021

In our last report we advised on progress with improvements to the Square that were being funded through the Town Centre Fund - a grant administered on behalf of the Scottish Government by the Highland Council. The works funded by this particular grant for 2020 have all now been completed and we have been successful in securing a further grant through this same scheme, for more works in the village in 2021. The works planned for 2021 include: improved signage; a replacement pump for the fountain and waterfall cascade in the Square along with the installation of lighting in the roof of the new gazebo. The Strathpeffer Residents' Association also secured some funding towards the cost of installing essential drainage works for the new play park.

Proposed Wind Farm at Strathrory

Discussions continue with the various community councils that will either host or surround the new proposed wind farm at Strathrory near Ardrross. These discussions are focussing on the distribution of any community benefit fund that will become available should the wind farm receive planning permission and be developed. To date the discussions have not been able to come to any firm conclusion.

Strathpeffer Together - Heritage Lottery Fund application

One of the key themes of our community action plan, which was published in 2019, was to bring together the various groups within the village to share information and hopefully work more closely on applications for funding. So far, we have been quite successful with this element of the plan having created a group called Strathpeffer Together. This

group has been working on the preparation of an application for Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) for a range of projects that will benefit the community. The groups that make up the Strathpeffer Together group include:

- Strathpeffer Community Council
- Strathpeffer Residents' Association
- Strathpeffer Pavilion Community Trust
- Strathpeffer Community Association
- St Anne's Church
- Highland Museum of Childhood
- Strathpeffer Golf Club
- Strathpeffer Shinty Club

We expect to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the coming weeks.

Christmas Lights

At the end of 2020, we were able to raise funds to purchase an additional four Christmas lights to supplement the twelve new lights purchased the previous year. These new lights made the village look even more festive this last Christmas.

Flooding in the Village

Incidents of flooding in the village have continued on occasion during the year with the most recent event happening within the last month. A meeting has been held on site with representatives of the Roads team at Highland Council and Cllr Ian Cockburn. This visit highlighted a number of areas where some essential maintenance works would make a significant improvement in the ability of the existing drainage system to cope with more of the water. While it is recognised that major works will be required to address the problem completely, it is good to see some activity on site in recent days to address some of these points. This matter will be closely monitored going forward.

Inner Moray Firth Development Plan (IMFDP)

The Highland Council launched its consultation document on the new IMFDP earlier in the year. The Community Council became heavily involved in submitting a response to the consultation having taken into account many representations made to it by members of the community. The outcome of the consultation process will not be known for some months if not a year or so, but the CC believes that its submission set out a workable way forward that would address concerns from within the Community while recognising the need for new housing to meet the demand.

Speeding through the Village

Over the course of the last year, this has become more of an issue and the matter has been discussed at the Community Council meetings on more than one occasion. Plans by the Highland Council to introduce a 20mph speed limit in all villages across the Highlands, is one of a number of initiatives the Community Council has welcomed or is trying to progress. Some informal monitoring of speeding cars coming into the village at the east end, has provided some disturbing results with most cars exceeding the limit by a significant amount.

Summary

It has been another busy year and despite the restrictions created by the Covid 19 pandemic, the Community Council has managed to continue to make good progress on a number of important fronts.

Ron McAulay

Chair of Strathpeffer Community Council - 28 May 2021