

STRATHPEFFER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Notes of meeting held on
1 December 2021 at 7:30 pm by
Zoom video call

Date:	Wednesday 1 December 2021
Time:	19:30
Location:	Zoom video call
Present (members):	Val Macgregor, Peter Maclellan, Neil Moscrop, Ron McAulay and Archie Macnab
Present (public, officials and HC members):	Gavin Steel – Scottish Water and Sam Neill – Amey/Binnies Walter and Sandra Fleming – members of the community
Apologies:	Gail Maclean, Alison Wood and Cllr Ian Cockburn
Declaration of interest:	None.
Appointment of Minute Secretary:	Ron McAulay

Agenda items		Actions
1.	Minutes of last meeting: Approved.	All
2.	<p>Matter arising from the last meeting:</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday Ron confirmed that the CC had laid a wreath on Remembrance Sunday. Bob Irvine had laid a wreath on behalf of the Highland Council.</p> <p>Improvements in the Square by HC Despite some chasing up, Ron had yet to get confirmation as to when these works will be completed.</p> <p>Speed Monitoring exercise A further request to see the outcome of this survey has been made but as yet there has been no response.</p> <p>Disabled Parking Spaces at Fodderty Cemetery Ron was pleased to advise that HC seemed to be willing to delineate two spaces within the</p>	

	car park for disabled users.	
3.	<p>Proposed works by Scottish Water at the junction of Garden House Brae and the A834</p> <p>Gavin Steel of Scottish Water (SW) and Sam Neill of Amey/Binnies provided an update on their proposals to address an issue with the main sewer at the foot of Garden House Brae. An old electric cable encased in a concrete block is causing a restriction to the main sewer and SW are returning to open up the sewer and remove it. There is a risk that this restriction could cause blockages in the sewer in the future and must be removed. Scottish and Southern Electricity (SSE) have been on site and already carried out some preliminary works which should help when SW return to do their works. The SW works will result in a complete blockage of the road through the village and will last up to three weeks. The works are due to start on the 31 January 2022. SW will do all they can to minimise the length of the closure. Morrisons will be the contractor on site.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was accepted that these works were essential and must go ahead. • The signing of the diversions must make it very clear that there is no “rat run” through the village. This is essential to avoid a lot of traffic attempting to get through the short section of private land close to the Community Centre. To ensure that drivers do not attempt this, a form of temporary barrier/blockage will also be placed on this private land. • Given the level of disruption that the community are likely to experience, it was proposed that some form of community benefit should be provided by SW. A proposal to address a number of issues with a “safe routes to school” path called the Chisholm Trail was made and it was agreed that Sam would meet with Ron to discuss the matter in more detail. • Gavin confirmed that he was happy for his email address to be shared with anyone wishing to contact him with further questions. <p>Gavin and Sam were thanked for joining the meeting to explain their proposals. At this point they left the meeting.</p>	<p>Sam Neill</p> <p>Sam/Ron</p>
4.	<p>Recent incidents of vandalism in the village</p> <p>A number of recent incidents of vandalism in the village were discussed. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to the bandstand at the Pavilion • Damage to the public toilets • Egg throwing at windows • Damage to the handrails in the Pavilion gardens, and • Damage to the Ben Wyvis Hotel property. <p>It was noted that Ron had spoken to PC Fiona MacIntosh and she was investigating the matter.</p> <p>All agreed that this activity was very irritating and some consideration was given to setting up a form of Neighbourhood Watch.</p>	
5.	<p>Public Toilets – Proposal to lock them at night</p> <p>Due to the recent problems with vandalism, a proposal has been made to Highland Council that they provide us with a set of keys so that we can lock the toilets at night and reopen them in the morning. While the HC has acknowledged the proposal, the person who has the authority to decide is on holiday and will be back at work later that week. Ron will update all when he hears back from them.</p> <p>It was also suggested that it would be helpful to improve the lighting around the toilets. Ron agreed to speak to HC about this.</p>	<p>Ron.</p> <p>Ron.</p>

6.	<p>Heritage Lottery Bid – Update Since the last meeting, Dave Genney and Ron had met with a representative of Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE). HIE are impressed with our proposals and are happy to help us where they can. This help will include providing written confirmation that they support our proposals and advice on potential sources of funding for the projects.</p>	
7.	<p>Town Centre Fund (TCF) – 2021 Ron reported on progress since the last meeting with this fund as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last of the eight new fingerposts have now been erected. • The remaining finger signs for the Square and some of the new posts, have still not arrived but are due for delivery in the next ten days or so. • The available funds remaining from this fund, amount to around £1.5k. Ron advised that the Pavilion team had asked if it might be used for funding some signage within the Pavilion grounds. All agreed that Ron should speak to the TCF fund team to see if they would approve the remaining funds being used on these signs. 	Ron
8.	<p>Christmas Lights 2021 - Update Ron confirmed that the lights on the poles and around the gazebo were now up and in use. The Christmas tree was also in place. A few matters still to be addressed were noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One pole light had had a fault. This has been fixed and will be erected soon. • The old “Strathpeffer” sign has also been fixed and should be erected above the shops soon. A new socket for powering this light has been installed by HC on the gable end of the RS McColl shop. The owner of the shop gave his permission for this socket and we have had to pay HC for this work. We may need to install new anchor bolts on the wall to fix this sign in place. • The pole lights were erected by the HC lighting team at no cost to us in their own time. It was agreed that we should give them something to show our gratitude. • Some of the tree lights are causing the circuit breakers to trip and have not been used. As a result, the tree looks a little bare. We may have to consider buying more tree lights for next year. 	
9.	<p>Financial Update Archie gave his usual update. The bank account is positive with around £3,400 but this includes a sum of £2,500 which is reserved for the Strathpeffer Together initiative.</p>	-
10.	<p>Any other business: Mackay’s Hotel Ron advised that he had been informed that the Mackay’s Hotel had been bought by a company called Payman Club. They had also apparently bought the Garve Hotel. This was seen as good news and was welcomed by all.</p> <p>Queen’s Platinum Jubilee It was agreed that we should support some form of celebrations for this event in the village. Further details to be worked up and discussed at future meetings.</p> <p>Condition of Achterneed Road Val advised that the verges of this road were badly rutted and that the edge of the road were breaking up as a result. Ron to write to HC again.</p>	Ron/ Alison Ron

11.	Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 2 February 2021 at 7:30pm (N.B. There will not be a meeting in January).	All
Date: 1/12/21		