

Strathard Community Council
Minutes of meeting 3rd December 2015
Kinlochard Village Hall

1. Present	J Clow, R Dingwall, A Goulancourt, F McEwan, J Quinn, G Short, S Stephen, Cllr A Hayes, W Ronald (LLTNP), L McColl (minutes). The chair welcomed Billy Ronald to the meeting as the new representative of the National Park representing Ward 2 Breadalbane and the Trossachs.	Actions
2. Apologies	M Colquhoun, C Smith	
3. Minutes	Proposed J Quinn, seconded A Goulancourt.	
4. Matters Arising	<p><u>Forestry Tour</u>: Postponed to the spring as not enough numbers to justify – possibly April. Minibus takes up to 12 people, others could be invited.</p> <p><u>Openreach</u>: Noted Kippen CC contact was Stuart Thomson, ref. issues experienced there.</p> <p><u>Flooding</u>: A consultants' report was being prepared on flooding and the details would be available soon. These would need to be openly discussed with the community at large as there were implications that the community council could not make decisions upon.</p> <p><u>Illegal Dumping</u>: The dumping and condition of the field near Fairy Hill had been reported to SEPA and Stirling Council by members of the community. Cllr Hayes would take it to the council officially from the meeting. Noted that there was no knowledge of what was actually in the ground and the effect on the community at large.</p> <p><u>Camping Regulations</u>: Mr Ronald did not have any update on the overdue decision, but would advise if he could get this.</p> <p><u>Goat Culling at Inversnaid</u>: Update article had been published in The Sunday Times but this gave little new information. No culling had taken place yet.</p> <p><u>Christmas Dinner</u>: Numbers at 66 with 20 unconfirmed. Checks would be done to identify the homebound and those in hospital for gifts. Transport by minibuses organised.</p>	AH WR
5. Correspondence	<p><u>NP Community Grants</u>: Any application would need to be jointly with the Trust, who usually submitted under this grant scheme. We would be in a better position to apply once the new Community Action Plan was prepared. This scheme was the one which provided the village planters. Future ideas for grant applications included a bench in the graveyard, restoration of the mortsafes and general upgrading / signage. Inversnaid was also looking for funding to restore the graveyard there. The condition of the Aberfoyle graveyard would be checked regarding any maintenance required by Stirling Council. Noted that Stirling Council no longer had an archaeological officer. Legal obligations required from Historic Scotland and Stirling Council regarding artefacts would need checked.</p> <p><u>Bruach Hydro Scheme</u>: The meeting was informed that it was almost certain that this scheme would go ahead which would result in the community receiving financial benefit potentially of £5500 per annum. This money would be available via Strathard Community Trust and there would need to be agreed local processes regarding the administration and allocation of any monies gained. That would require further discussion and input.</p> <p>There was also still the opportunity for the community to invest in the scheme via the Trust and information expected on this had at last been received. It was noted that the Community Trust had to be the body that would now take the lead reviewing the offer, and that it would be looking to obtain a grant to obtain expert help. It was agreed that professional advice was necessary and also noted that risks would need to be insured. Further information would be reported back as it became available.</p>	JC / AH

6. Stirling Council Issues	<p>a) Signage in car park needed improved due to road safety issues. Also road lining was needed here and elsewhere. Progress would be checked.</p> <p>b) General state of road deterioration was discussed, including drainage problems. Cllr Hayes noted this problem.</p>	AH
7. Planning	<p><u>New applications:</u> None</p> <p><u>Decisions:</u> Erection of No 1 dwelling house Ballanton yard Montrose Road. Approved. Erection of agricultural building Duchray House Duchray Road. Approved. Installation of additional pole land opposite Ardmore Kinlochard. Installation of stepped access ramp and handrail Inversnaid Hotel. Formation of 4 access ramps at land north of Loch Chon water and land north of Loch Chon - Forestry Commission (prior approval not required).</p>	
8. Reports	<p><u>Police:</u> Not present. Discussion regarding local police availability – now stationed in local fire station. Cllr. Hayes informed the meeting of the policing strategy within the community: restoring the community team, dedicated to being visible with a mobile phone number which could be circulated.</p> <p><u>Finances:</u> Awaiting annual hall invoices, which are the biggest expenditure.</p> <p><u>Stirling Councillor:</u> Fergus Woods had raised a motion to reinstate Village officers which the council had discussed and rejected.</p> <p>The PBB process had been very active and there was an extended discussion on this, including recycling, bins, education cuts, potential closure of smaller schools, relocation of amenities for example libraries to be placed within schools. Also proposals for council properties e.g. after closing Viewforth a central office was being actively sought. The community and public now have opportunity to feedback through official channels, and this would be publicised.</p> <p>Discussion on support given centrally to community councils, which was felt could be more helpful as the volume of information being sent out and workloads for volunteers had greatly increased. This was one of the reasons for current backlog. Finance was inadequate being mainly spent on meeting rentals, with no support for other expectations like the website or external meeting attendance.</p> <p>DRT review underway, which would be publicised locally by the community council for feedback.</p> <p><u>Meetings attended:</u> Community Partnership Gathering at Gartmore, by J Quinn.</p> <p><u>Trusts:</u> TACT - Garage refurbishment imminent, with new branding.</p>	
9. AOCB	<p>a) Meeting dates for 2016 discussed – Inversnaid Hotel shut till February.</p> <p>b) Craigmere Centre proceeds. An outdoor learning centre had been identified by consultation as the preferred option and this was supported. A Community Trust decision / discussion was required also. The right of way has been secured. Any correspondence with the National Park Access Officer should be copied to Mr Ronald, as it was still unclear what further action or signage would be required.</p> <p>c) Thanks to all who worked on Christmas lighting. Issue raised that no actual ability to display street lights as the lamp posts within the village were of dubious safety. A Hayes confirmed she would approach Stirling Council regarding suitable arrangements for displaying lights within the village safely.</p> <p>d) Community Action Plan would receive support from the Community Partnership including a tool kit - wide participation would be needed.</p>	RD AH
11 Next meeting	Thursday 7 th January in Aberfoyle	