

Minutes of Meeting held in Strachan Hall
on Thursday 27th October at 7.30pm

Present

Community Councillors:

Mr.W.Smith jnr., Mr.I.Brockie, Mr.I.Morrison, Mr. A.Neish, Mrs J.Randalls, Mr. M.Smith

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors:

None present

Co-opted members:

Mr. I. Adams, Mr. P.Tyrell, Mr. R.Sheridan, Mr. W.Smith snr

Minutes:

Mrs. I.Addison

Members of Public:

5 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies and Absences

No apologies were received.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes for the previous meeting were approved with the following amendments:

Page 2 Planning Issues/Glen Dye Wind Farm Development

Par 1

Subsequent to a prior public meeting at Strachan Hall with Coriolis, and due to later concerns expressed, another public meeting was held prior to tonight's FWCC meeting.

This was in order to provide a platform for Community Councillors to gauge public opinion.

Par.4

Six Community Councillors were generally of the opinion that members of the local community had been given fair opportunity to attend the two public meetings and to express their opinions, positive or negative, regarding the proposed Wind Farm.

In the opinion of those six Community Councillors, ongoing interaction with the local community revealed that the people who had been spoken to had no objections, or were ambivalent.

Community Issues/Scolty Footpath

It was reported that a specific check had revealed that part of the path was falling into a state of disrepair. This is due to the formation of an overgrown water channel which has developed. It was suggested that a run-off should be dug to alleviate this problem and to make some necessary repairs.

Minutes Proposed by : Mr. P.Tyrell
Seconded by : Mr.W.Smith jnr.

3. Treasurer's report:

Opening Balance		£1837. 93
DD to BT	£70.92	
Information Com.	35.00	105. 92
<hr/>		£1732. 01
Midhill Windfarm Credit for Strachan Hall and Strachan Youth Group		5600. 00
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4. Police Matters

A police officer gave a brief report along with a written report for the Sept/Oct period. It was reported that two youths had been identified and charged with willful fire-raising at Glen O'Dee Hospital.

There had also been some opportunistic thefts in the surrounding area mainly involving insecure homes. Home owners are being encouraged to secure all property even whilst at home.

A full report of ongoing local and force-wide engagement activities will be posted to the FWCC web-site.

5. FWCC Community Benefit Application

There have been no further applications. Plans and ideas for renovations to Strachan Hall are presently being gathered. These will be presented to Community Council once surveys and other information are to hand.

6. Planning Issues

Mount Battock, Strachan

There was an application for the erection of an agricultural building at Mount Battock, Strachan. There were no comments or objections. It was decided that prior approval is not required.

Woodhead, Tilquhillie

Erection of 2 dwelling houses and garage with change of use, from agricultural land to domestic garden ground, has been applied for. A decision is awaited.

Balbridie Farm, Banchory

There is an application for the erection of a 25m high lattice tower with associated infrastructures at Balbridie Farm. This is awaiting decision. No comments or objections to date.

There was a brief discussion about poor reception in the area. It was intimated that this is to be brought up with the local M.S.P.

7. Transport, Roads and Infrastructure

There was a short discussion about the barbed wire fencing at Bridge of Feugh. Despite various attempts to address and solve the problem with the owners and with Health and Safety, little progress has been made. Issue is ongoing.

8. Education and Youth

Nothing to report.

9. Community Issues

Dog Fouling

As a result of Community Council action, it was reported that notices "Pick Up or Pay Up" have now been erected at the Play Park.

This addresses the issue of extensive dog fouling at the Strachan Park and football pitch which resulted in several angry complaints being raised by members of the public.

Scolty Footpath

There was another short discussion about the Scolty Footpath and plans to address its deteriorating condition. Strimming has already taken place.

Parking for Hall and Graveyard

There was a short discussion again about the necessity of additional parking at the Hall and Graveyard. This is an ongoing issue.

Mill of Strachan

Damage to the loch at Mill of Strachan which was caused by earlier flooding is to be rectified and the loch restored.

Glen Dye Wind Farm

There was further discussion about the proposed Wind Farm and about ongoing negotiations with Coriolis.

A general plan of action as to how to engage with the local community online and by mail-shot was the main topic of discussion. The wording for a questionnaire and covering letter was presented as an initial means of engagement.

E.mail contact addresses are presently available for around 150 residents. The initial mail shot and anticipated replies would help build a data base for future communications with anyone wishing to be included on an FWCC distribution list. This would serve as a platform on which the current proposed Wind Farm and any future Community Issues could be communicated.

It was estimated that approximately 300 letters would be distributed door-to-door. The letter will give residents the opportunity to express their opposition or support for the proposed Wind Farm. It will also encourage residents to respond and engage with FWCC so that they can accurately represent the community on this issue and any future issues.

It is anticipated that after feedback on the wording of the letter is received, plans for distribution should go ahead before the next FWCC meeting in November.

There was a discussion regarding the wording of a letter sent to Coriolis representing FWCC, where the term "a few locals" was used.

Some people present at the meeting tonight expressed the opinion that this terminology was derogatory and did not adequately represent the tone of the public consultation.

It was agreed in retrospect that a better expression would have been, "a group of constituents".

Christmas

Arrangements are in hand for the Christmas Tree Fest in Strachan Hall during the last week of November.

Arrangements for the erection and lighting of the village Christmas tree were also discussed and an offer of a tree which is ready for cutting down was presented.

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday were discussed.

10. Current Consultations/Correspondence received

Nothing to report

11. Any Other Business

BT Charges

It was reported that due to previous concerns raised regarding continuing increased charges, BT had been approached by telephone requesting a new deal. However, BT were unwilling to negotiate on any terms.

It was suggested that BT be contacted by letter to plead the case as a Community Council working in the best interests of the local community.

Bench in Memory of C.C.Frank Sheridan

Permission has been granted by the Forestry Commission for the erection of a bench in memory of the late Community Councillor Frank Sheridan. The exact location is still to be decided.

FWCC Web-site

Now that the new FWCC web-site is up and running it was noted that the old Web-site should now be removed from search engines.

12. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.07pm

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 24th November, 2016 at Inchmarlo Hall 7.30p.m.

