

**Strathard Community Council
Minutes of meeting 2nd March 2017
In Kinlochard Village Hall at 7.30pm**

1.	Present:	R Dingwall, A Goulancourt, F McEwan, C Smith, S. Stephen, A Sobey (Community Partnership), Nicola Melville (SEPA) plus 3 members of the public.	Actions
2.	Apologies	G Short, M Wright, J Quinn, M Colquhoun, T Geraghty (delayed), Pam Campbell (SC), Police Scotland.	
3.	Community Partnership Report	<p>Community Action Plan: Anne Sobey reported that preliminary responses showed a slightly lower response to surveys than expected, so more stakeholder surveys were done, which takes more time. Suggestions to ensure as much feedback as possible from the community, included possibly going door to door, and putting a display publicly e.g. in the TIC. May was anticipated as the timing for publication of the final plan. Five themes have emerged with the most emphasis on environment and economy. Strathard is a complex area to cover for opinion and it would probably be best to get a few more responses to the draft plan before publication, particularly from the younger and older residents. Although it is unlikely to change the results by very much, a higher percentage of responses would be useful.</p> <p>Strathard Initiative: Nicola Melville (SEPA) advised that the Initiative is working within Strathard to look at ecosystems and hoping to find funding through the Heritage Lottery fund, to work with the community on land and water management. Including opportunities for natural land management such as slowing water in the catchment. Forest Enterprise also want to look at run-off, tree felling effects, debris dams etc. and are currently doing feasibility studies. Comer Estate and the National Trust are also involved. Black grouse, botanical features, historical heritage interpretation and recreational trails are all being looked at, as is an alternative route up Ben Lomond. All agencies working together would form the 'landscape partnership'. Still under consideration whether Heritage Lottery is the right funder. Expressions of interest only have been notified at the moment. The Initiative might use other funding sources and would also need to show a management plan to carry this forward. Could be led by SEPA or FC, both of which are developing sub-projects. Not finalised yet but the National Park and SNH are already committed to involvement. Currently the project is aiming at the May round of funding for landscape partnership projects, although this is challenging and could be deferred perhaps. Questioned if an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed. If so, this will be at the development phase. Bid needs to include this plus cost of works. Large project however community aspirations for projects are currently low value. Lottery advice is to apply for up to £2m, and the project would need other sources of funding.</p> <p>Community projects would potentially be like the Old Military Road route which was an example of local work becoming part of a larger Heritage project run by FC. Stirling Council has an interest in the flood works element. There is now a climate with the Community Empowerment act for agency projects and working to be more involved with communities, but some local perception that approaches made could be to allow better access to funding for agency work. It was noted for example that currently community views have been ignored on goats, deer etc. while this project apparently includes 'browsing mammals management'. It was</p>	AS/RD

		<p>unclear what community involvement had been sought for this aspect. More information and a forward plan were agreed to be needed on the scope of the projects envisaged, so that these could be circulated and discussed, if the Strathard Initiative wishes additional community support from the wider community. May 2017 is the deadline for landscape applications, and the alternative Heritage application quarterly. This needs community input to succeed and must be led by the community, but has so far been led by agencies. The next Strathard Initiative meeting would be held in Kinlochard soon and the community council will encourage all to come.</p>	AS/CC SEPA
4.	Minutes	<p>February minutes approved. Proposed by Stuart Stephen, seconded by Colin Smith. Noted in relation to a query submitted that the AGM minutes of February covered a commitment to look further at the roles and responsibilities of community councillors with a view to sharing workload. No further decision had been made as to how this would happen. It was then agreed that the community councillors would discuss internal procedures after the next meeting, which would be kept as short as possible.</p>	
5.	Matters Arising	<p>Communication: Proposed and agreed that Stirling Council Connect Funding as discussed before would be sought to sponsor a Strathard News edition to communicate information about the community council and other organisations. Noted that the telephone directory now in preparation included an exercise to identify all local club and organisation contacts.</p> <p>Active Travel Hub: Advice received that Stirling Council was found to be unable to match fund the Transport Scotland monies, therefore the deadline of 28 February had proved impossible. Other funding would be investigated by the project team.</p> <p>Flooding: Stirling Council had inspected and planned to do river clearance after the fish breeding season finishes in April. Some work had been carried out by local people without entering the river. Council activities and any uncleared blockages would be reported back to the Community Council by T Woods.</p> <p>A81 closure: no update available as yet.</p> <p>Lochs Chon and Ard camping: Restrictions on camping apply from 1st March. Loch Chon campsite due to open also but not fully complete yet. Information had been received on progress from Gordon Watson, and the afternoon and evening community information open session held in Kinlochard had been informative. The next meeting of the Stakeholder Forum for 'Your Park' to be on 30th March, and CS would attend. New signage at Milton re camping has met with several complaints and safety concerns and been communicated to the Park.</p> <p>Stirling Branding: Noted launch to be on 8th March.</p> <p>Dog Fouling: Members of public and school involved in cleaning and raising awareness, and appropriate Council officers also. Bags available free in VisitScotland and Post Office. A new bin will be supplied by Council in Trossachs Road.</p>	

6.	Planning	<p><u>New applications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alteration and extension of two dormitory buildings at Dounans Centre in Aberfoyle. ▪ Formation of a vehicular access west of Dalchon, Lochard Cottages Road Kinlochard – Refused. ▪ Construction of forestry access, west of Gartnerichnich B829. <p><u>Decisions - approved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed erection of detached garage and landscaping to rear garden at Ardselma, Lochard Road, Aberfoyle. ▪ Erection of rear extension at Broomknowe, Main Street, Aberfoyle. ▪ Alteration and extension of 2 dormitory buildings at Dounans Centre, Aberfoyle. <p><u>Notifications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 80m permanent forest road at Craigie Quarry, Loch Ard. ▪ 320 m permanent forest road Corriegrennan, Bruach Caorainn Burn. 	
7.	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stirling Council - Loch Chon road closure 13-17 March. ▪ Stirling Council – Scottish community council survey ▪ Stirling Council – New community officer Michelle Flynn. ▪ FC - time phased log haulage from Teapot and Loch Dhu, with schedule to follow. ▪ FC – Loch Katrine & Arklet report. Noted deer helicopter count scheduled for March, mention of goat culling re. RSPB. ▪ Fiona Alexander – Research on goat contraception trials. Devon sterilisation of goats not successful for trial area. Meeting to discuss Inversnaid matters pending, and she would produce a summary. Meeting location and date needed. ▪ Licensing forum: looking for residents from within the community. CS will go if possible. ▪ St Marys Summer Fete - Tourist Information centre 17th June. ▪ Alex Rowley MSP, information on surgeries and Planning consultation. ▪ National Park – advance notice of consultation on Partnership Plan for 12 weeks starting 10th April, now online. ▪ Cllr. Martin Earl - information on Rural Development funding. 	AG/TG
8.	Stirling Council Issues, incl. Councillor report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mud on road, A81 near Gartartan, reported. ▪ Letter received re. potholes B829, Craigfoot to school. Also unsighted crossing at end of footpath, on way to Milton. To be followed through with Council. 	RD
9.	Finances	<p>SS has now taken over as treasurer and will investigate and propose new bank accounts before arranging signatories. The anticipated grant now received for minute taking expenditure in 2016/17. A Community Pride grant application had been submitted for noticeboard and planter refurbishment.</p>	
10.	Reports	<p>Police report noted, no local incidents reported.</p>	

Next meeting 6th April 2017 in 7.30pm in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall