

HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held 09 August 2022 in ALVES Hall

Chairman	Mr J Mountford – Dallas	
Treasurer		
Secretary		
	Mrs M Evans – Duffus	Mr N Sutherland - Dallas
	Mrs S Hodder - Pluscarden	Mr W Mustard – Fogwatt & Birnie
	Mrs D Kelly - Alves	Mrs A Masson – Alves
	Mr W Duncan - Fogwatt	Mr C Souter - Miltonduff
Attendees	Councillor Bridget Mustard	
Apologies	Mrs L Smailes - Pluscarden	Councillor Neil Cameron
	Ms Jo Kirby - Miltonduff	Councillor James Allan
	Mr K Milne - Miltonduff	Councillor John Cowe
		Ms Rhona McNicol

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs L Smailes (Treasurer), Ms Jo Kirby, Mr K Milne, Councillor Neil Cameron, Councillor John Cowe, Councillor James Allan and Ms Rhona McNicol.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were proposed:

- the addition of an apology from Ms Jo Kirby
- the second point under AOCB should be corrected to read ‘the trees on the verges of the B9010 have not been cut’

With these corrections the minutes of the meeting of 28 June 2022 were approved.

Proposed: Mr N Sutherland Seconded: Mrs A Masson

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Cloddach Bridge: Councillor Bridget Mustard was thanked for her update. It was agreed that this is now a major issue. Nicola Moss, Head of Roads, had been approached and a number of points had been made from both sides:

- We would like a meeting with the Council
- Could the bridge be open just for cyclists and pedestrians – but there would only be an economic benefit if open to all traffic.
- If the bridge is completely removed it would further divide our scattered community.
- Has there been an investigation into funding? How was the Lossie bridge funded?
- Is this issue going back to the Committee stage?

Approved at meeting held on 27 September 2022

- The bridge can't be narrowed – has a structural engineer given an opinion on this?
- The Change.org petition has been signed by 773 people. Have comments from Heldon CC and the wider public been submitted along with the petition?
- This doesn't just affect households – local rural businesses are being affected
- It affects both sides of the river
- Better barriers in the first place would have prevented the damage
- The Allarburn bridge is carrying far more traffic – has this been checked for safety?
- There is more traffic going through Elgin as a result of the closure

The following points were agreed in terms of taking the matter forward:

- How much would a new bridge cost and could funding be obtained from the Scottish Government?
- We need to collate all the information we have and submit it to the Council on behalf of the community
- The Council needs to keep us informed and should arrange a meeting with us
- Councillor Bridget Mustard will take all our points back to the Council

b) Clachmarras speeding: there is not a great deal that we can do and the resident who had appealed to us is satisfied with the action we have taken. This matter is now closed. The Council has been approached about the possibility of acquiring 'smiley faces' in Fogwatt itself. A survey would need to be carried out. Signs could be put on the existing lamp posts. Each unit would cost £3,500 and need an output of £75 per annum to check the calibration. The signs only have a projected lifetime of ten years.

c) Verges B9010 Allarburn Bridge: the verges have been cut but the trees have not. The trees and shrubs growing in the burn are the problem. The B9010 will become the only access between Dallas and Forres from 15 August till 21 October so this work needs to be carried out as a matter of urgency.

d) Millbuies: Sophie Ward has emailed to say that a plan has been drawn up. She would like to come to a Heldon CC meeting to tell us about it. It was agreed that she should be invited to the next meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Most correspondence had been circulated to all members but some might need further action.

a) It was agreed that we were happy with the fact that the Chairman had submitted a letter to the JCC stating that we are willing to sign the letter re the maternity facilities at Dr Gray's.

b) Outfit Moray offers First Aid training which provides a qualification card at completion.

c) C.P.S. Newsletter: Could Heldon CC be incorporated into the West Moray section?

d) Dallas – a report has been shared about a marauding Land Rover which has been scouting out the landscape. It is untaxed and probably uninsured. Details have been given to the police.

5. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer had submitted her report in advance. We have paid our Scotways membership and a few Wind Farm payments have been made. The deadline for the next Wind Farm round of

applications is 31 August. Some application forms have been sent out but none has so far been returned. A Finance meeting should be arranged for early September.

Roths 1	£30,391.71
Roths 2	73,551.51
HCC balance	1,502.36
Total	£105,445.58

6. PLANNING ISSUES

All planning details had been circulated. There were no issues. The plans for the Newton Nursery have already been submitted – planning permission will be required for the junction.

7. AOCB – to include area reports

- Concern was expressed about the somewhat casual and un-business-like way applications for Wind Farm funding were sometimes submitted. Written estimates and a proper business plan should be included. This information could be set out and included with the application forms.
- The Miltonduff to Dallas road has a problem with overhanging tops of trees which are only around 10 feet above the road rather than the required 17 feet. This is causing damage to wing mirrors and the tops of large vehicles. Letters have been sent to the Forestry Commission but this correspondence needs to come from the Council. As with the B9010 Dallas to Elgin road, the roadside burns were created to alleviate flooding but are now overgrown with self-seeded bushes and trees.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date of the next meetings:

Finance meeting – Tuesday 13 September 2022 at 7.30 pm. At Fogwatt Hall but venue to be confirmed.

Next scheduled HCC meeting – Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 7.30 pm. At Miltonduff School but venue to be confirmed.