



# **BROADFORD & STRATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

28 October 2024

Elgol Village Hall 7.30PM

Members Present: Rhona Coogan (chair), Skye Deans, David O'Donnell, Nick Ferguson, Hamish Fraser, Hermione Lamond, Paul Matthews, Alistair McPherson

Apologies – Den Connell, BSCC representative

Others present: John Finlayson (Cllr), Simon Johnson (Project Manager, SSEN Transmission), Graham Sinclair (Assistant Project Manager, SSEN Transmission), Members of the Public

Meeting opened with a welcome from the Chairperson, who expressed thanks to the Elgol community for facilitating this evening's meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

### **Approve Minutes of last meeting: 16 Sept 2024**

Proposed by Paul and seconded by Alistair.

### **Matters Arising**

Paul has been in touch with the HC dog warden, and they are to get back to him.

Paul has yet to gain access to generic email account, he will follow up.

### **Elgol road / Signage**

Concerns raised that there are no white lines on newly tarred section of the Elgol road, which makes driving difficult and dangerous, especially when reversing into the passing places. White lines are also helpful on the flood-prone sections.

Cllr JF - the whole island is suffering from a lack of white lines. Capital allocation is less than half a million and to bring roads up to standard would be around £30 million. THC to invest in some machinery to avoid sub-contracting, which is expensive. Islands Infrastructure Fund could be investigated for the Elgol road.

Following recent incident with a vehicle being submerged in flood water on the road, request for flooding signs at points on the Elgol road. A section of the road is being undermined, and it needs investigating. This is not on the program of works. John suggests contacting the Roads Operational Manager, Mac Sutherland, to ask for a site visit. Hermione to email John re this.

General discussion: the main issue is that our roads are not designed for the amount of traffic now using them. The ditches are not properly maintained. General agreement that if a tourist tax is implemented the funds raised on Skye should be retained to help with maintenance in this area. Degrading roads will add to depopulation of rural areas. Community has a right to travel safely when paying taxes like other parts of the country.

### **Helipad**

Three sites near the hospital were listed for sale on the open market but the closing date has now been extended to allow for potential acquisition for a new helipad site.

### **Workers Camp**

Welcome to Simon and Graham from SSEN Transmission, who join the meeting. They are project manager and assistant project manager of the OHL. Simon explains that the OHL upgrade has been planned for 10 years. It is the weakest section of the network and has only one circuit. The voltage of the line will remain at 132V, though it will be double circuit. SSEN must provide connections to those that request them.

Will there be opportunity for young people to find employment / start apprenticeships to retain them in the area? Yes, application is via the SSEN website. There are not enough workers in the area, which is why they will require the workers' camp. The planning application for the workers camp will be submitted in the coming weeks.

SSEN have announced they are to build 400 new houses in Highland as part of the Pathway to 2030 programme, a 20bn investment to upgrade the transmission network.

Concerns raised that the new Broadford substation will cause noise disruption to nearby houses, the hospital and the campsite. Simon assures that it will not.

We are awaiting the decision on the OHL route through Kylerhea.

Question – does SSEN have a community benefit fund for Broadford? No, just the specific SSEN Transmission Regional Fund, which requires an application.

Simon recommends corresponding with Maren Ebeling to set up Community Liaison Group (CLG) to discuss matters relating to the workers camp directly. Rhona to follow up.

### **Bank Account**

No login info has been received by the new signatories. Hermione to see if previous login details still work and can be passed onto other signatories.

### **Meeting dates 2025**

Third Monday of the month going forward in 2025.

Provisional dates: 20 Jan, 17 Feb, 17 March, 21 April, 19 May, 16 June.

### **AOCB**

SICC SCIO update – although their funding application to the Island Infrastructure Fund was not successful, they wish to thank all volunteers, trustees, The Highland Council, ward Councillor John Finlayson and MSP for their help towards the application. They are hopeful to secure funding going forward. The membership drive continues, especially young people who will be using the facilities going forward. Broadford Village Hall committee to call a meeting with members to discuss the transfer of the hall.

Wreath bought for Memorial Day. Alistair to place at the Memorial Monument. David requests receipt for reimbursement.

Brief discussion about the Broadford Christmas decorations, to be put on next meeting's agenda.

### **Questions or contributions from members of the public present**

Concerns that there will be no Environmental Impact Assessment on the workers camp site.

The Elgol school wall, which was damaged, is to be fixed.

Meeting closed.

Date of next meeting: 18 November 2024