

**Strathnairn Development Company (SDC)
Board Meeting 03 April 2025**

Present: Mike Danson (MD), Raghnaid Sandilands (RS) (minutes), Megan Bee (MB), Paul Robinson (PR), Elna Harvey (EH), Isla MacLeod (IM)

Apologies: none

Location: hall / zoom, 7.30pm

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies, proxies and quorum

We are quorate.

2. Minutes - Approved as circulated.

3. Matters arising

Gala insurance - work in progress. PR has contacted relevant company.

Regarding means of internal and public communications ~ Mailchimp and other platforms

Discussion on Advantages/requirements: Fully encrypted as an extra thing, email lots of people, templates, can see if emails received.

Uncertainties: spam folder, Dmarc set up - what is needed now - is to send everyone an email and we will receive feedback. This will tell us know who has received our emails as spam or not.

Reflecting on some of the email discussion raised at AGM – communicated to members that we ask them to check spam folders on poster / Facebook. Some posters put up

Last e-mail 60% opened it. Not a bad rate. Some people don't open. A certain portion will go directly to junk folders.

We have repeatedly asked if people would let us know if there is someone they know of not receiving the emails could they contact us. A number in the community would rather spread criticism than do this simple service to fellow residents.

'Contact us' button on website - email fixed now. This link had been broken by behind the scenes tech issues.

Notion - new communication platform that might suit us - free - IM proposed to make a draft page and we meet up to see if we can use it as a platform to communicate. Pages that we update during the meeting - can upload minutes. Task lists. Deadlines etc.

Reflection on AGM - much discussion on various points raised in the Q & A re; SCIO status, gym research, report wording around about cafe.

MD felt the SCIO point is not correct and can communicate this with person who raised query.

Gym research - person asking for additional research was directed at AGM to speak to David Lumsden who had been helping on this research before the hub steering group was disbanded.

Action points:

MD to speak to Maggie Meiklejohn.

IM to make a draft Notion page for us to see.

PR to speak to Doug Meiklejohn.

4. Letters from Community Council.

Lorna MacConnachie - sent SDC letter to arrange 3 bodies to meet. Our discussion from before stands. We are hopeful that the invite to mediation is accepted by SCBF.

Raised at AGM and made clear at AGM that we need mediation before we can move forward.

This had broad agreement in the AGM amongst members that this process was the best course forward to resolve some long standing issues.

Action point

Letter to communicate mediation follows a definite format, which is not decided by us, a recognized process to follow. Governance, communication.

We cannot hope to successfully attract a CDO candidate until current landscape is addressed between the parties. To have successful recruitment, issues around communication and governance need improvement.

Phil Mackintosh contacted us by letter regarding election process, we explained at AGM why we were not holding an election at this time.

New members - Bec Raynes approved as a member.

5. Annual report

Edits requested from Doug Meiklejohn. We will review the details of his points again. Query re; Strathairn Connect and its origins and consider adjusting.

MD feels the report is correct and not time specific but we will seek a conversation with DM to ask for any possible adjustments.

Action points:

PR to speak to DM.

PR to send report to OSCR.

6. Office bearers:

Chair - PR nominate MD, all agree

Secretary - RS nominated by IM, all agree

Treasurer - MD nominate PR, all agree

Consider vice chair at next meeting.

7. Sub-committee work plan

Active travel - PR report on meeting on Monday with members of that group.

Devised a list of questions to put to Colin Ross.

People interested in possibility of putting a cycle path across country to connect the 2 woods.

People interested in meeting with windfarm groups.

Kids club – MB has had contact from Highlife and is yet to contact Maggie Meiklejohn. Will get this moving soon.

Events:

Film - EH in contact with Grazina about getting a movie screened. If we supply dates she will see if she has screening gear. EH will find a weekend evening.

Idea to ask if local curry business can come and cater.

Gala - Farr Hall May/ June might not be available. To be aware of this for events.

Gaelic week - tutor to return and offer event at another juncture. Can think how best to make use of kind offer.

Housing - members who are very interested in housing. We should start by approaching Community Housing Trust, Inverness. Point was made clearly at AGM that housing was the biggest priority in the CAP. A sub committee for housing is felt to be a good next step.

Local Place Plan - MD on webinar with Highland Development Planning Group. Local Place Plan does allow you to get things on to the broader development plan which is for the next 10 years. Makes it easier in some respects because local plans will have been recognized in the broader place plan. They extended the deadline. Local Place Plan would have been CDO's role.

8. Date of Next Meeting - TBC Are you resident in the Strathnairn Community Council area? Then you are eligible for membership of SDC. [Apply for membership today!](#)