

Strathnairn Development Company (SDC) Board Meeting 25 May 2025

1. **Welcome and apologies (19:30-19:35) - Present - Mike Danson (MD), Megan Bee (MB), Elna Harvey (EH), Raghnaid Sandilands (RS) minutes, Paul Robinson (PR)** Isla MacLeod sends apologies.
2. **Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting 1st May 2025** To approve last 2 sets of minutes via e-mail. MD to circulate.
3. **Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda**
 1. Pump track - Update from MD - one of potential funders brought forward deadline to last Friday. Natalie applied to Cruden Foundation. Next deadline is Friday is to CLLD. It's ready to go. We need to say we are following the fair work policy as per the guidance for a public sector fund. Letter of approval from Farr Hall committee received. The more flexible track design, that allows for being moved in the future, is felt to be an advantage. Summary re current application: would be for funding for CDO to then apply for core funding for working up of skate park area, and also importantly community housing. Natalie is also looking at other funds and speaking with Highlands and Island Enterprise.
 2. After-school Strathnairn Kids Club – MB reported stalled at present, in part through not knowing when the Hall will be ready and November is a rough gauge only. MB points also to funding, and being able to get ball rolling with Highlife. Asking for pointers as to where to go next. Parent Council meeting chair asked about progress. Parent Council alive to the fact that the stall is also because SCBF have not moved forward towards mediation as those at the AGM, in the room, had hoped would happen. Community expectations were high at that meeting and some of the Parent Council were present. Parent Council chair offered strong support for the SDC position. The cogs on this progressing and children being able to access the funds should be well-oiled, but where they are it seems very rusted. All SDC trustees keen for the Parent Council to send a letter of support, asking for progress on moving to mediation, and to request a written reply from SCBF. **MB to prompt Parent Council to pursue if they wish to do so.**
 3. SNCC - Minutes and emails discussed by all. MD spoke on some follow-up emails from Lorna McConnachie and Phil McIntosh. Mediation process explained again as it is standard and understood as a process as run by professionals. Agreement that three chairs should not be meeting before mediation. If MB and SCBF feel they want to commit pointers or preferred topics to a page and share then that is a more workable option. Local place plans MD attended a Scotland wide group – Scottish Rural Action. Reported that the first thing they said was a local place plan is not a CAP. It is a big project, about land use and management. A local place plan would have been the work of a CDO. They are very different things with different aims.
 4. Mediation - Big issues that require support, that need a plan to fix. All agree that we send a reply from SDC collectively responding to MB and his board, copy in community council and set out a series of broad open questions. Beginning with re-clarification that mediation is between 2 parties. Official advice from the professional

body and there is a due process to follow. We discussed the questions and MD to draft for approval.

5. New applications and recruitment of members- no new members

4. Treasurer's Report PR will circulate report by Thursday by email.

5. Sub-committees updates

1. Farr Gala (PR) Ruth asking if we want a stall. PR said yes. Looking for SDC to help fund the insurance. PR confirming the details. Gazebos being lent. Asking regularly if they need help. Steering group is being taken over by the ideal team of people now up and running. As promised by SDC and in the CAP, we have done well to kickstart the gala and make it more than a school gala, being very active in running it for 2 past years. Getting it up and going and stepping back when required was the original hope.
 2. Film Farr (EH) - contacted the hall a month ago and no reply as yet. Summer is too tricky - autumn in another hall looks like the best option. Errogie church hall offered as a nice sized option.
 3. Active travel (PR) - Big project - from school to Socaich bends - the major land owner has in principle possibly to put a path on their land. Question is over some details as to how to join up some of the portions of the path. Water main at the junction is another issue that is live with Scottish Water and Highland Council. An active travel path might have to have another solution. Some issue with trees. PR across the on-going discussions with all stakeholders. Many meetings and discussions to get this far.
 4. Communications - Website and social media - DMARC set up for our own use. Will iron out the process of mailchimp. MD and PR will share info and liaise. PR has been posting our report to CC to our website once the CC meeting is over. SDC on community website now.
- 9. AOCB – agreed to apply to BnG for Gaelic development officer, collaborating with SHA and neighbouring communities. Would incur no costs for Strathnairn.**
- 10. DONM 1.7.25**

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