

## **Strathtay Community Company (SCC)**

### **Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting Lesser Hall, Grandtully 12 May 7pm**

Attendees: Interim Board - Grant Cochrane (GC), Pat Cochrane, Roger Graham, Jean Adams (JA), Sally Crystal  
Ex Company Secretary – Mike Jackson (MJ)

Newly appointed Company Secretary - Douglas Graham (DG) of McCallum & McLeod

25 members of the company

Apologies: Jeff Thomas, Lesley Thomas, Ian Ramsay

#### **1. Interim Board report by Grant Cochrane**

GC welcomed all members to the first general meeting of the company and outlined the following:

1. Structure of SCC and confirmation that liability of the company is limited to £1 for each member should the company be wound up.

2. Community companies are being encouraged at national and local level as way of empowering communities by having people work together to make change happen in their community by having more power and influence over what matters to them.

3. Progress on Initial Activities

- Jean Adams very pleased with response from community and the number of members that have joined to date
- MJ coordinated community interest in land application. Macleod & MacCallum recently appointed as company secretary. Final stage of registration process completed on 9 May and we expect to know if we have been successful in registering our interest by 30 May.
- Important to stress that all we were doing at this stage was registering an interest in the land. If successful a right to buy could only be exercised if landowner took steps to sell the land. The community would be balloted on whether they wished to exercise a right to buy at that stage. If a ballot was in favour of exercising this right, the company would have 6 months to raise the necessary funds.
- Roger Graham got a response from the P&K council informing that conservation status appraisal has commenced with formal designation expected this year. Subsequent enquiries found that we should expect a draft appraisal in the summer. The interim directors have assisted P&K council conservation officer with historical information and old pictures of Strathtay and Grandtully.
- Sally Crystal has now set up the Strathtay Village website. Thanks were expressed to Mike Jackson, Ian Taylor, Judi Campbell and Margo Hanson in assisting with the website setup. Website address is [www.strathtayvillage.co.uk](http://www.strathtayvillage.co.uk)

4. GC emphasised the company purpose was to make a positive contribution to Strathtay Village.

5. GC also emphasised importance of sustainable development and that the company was not against new housing. Strathtay had a build quality worthy of conservation status and vital for sustainable development principles to be followed. There is a risk of developers not following these principles. Example given of developer who now owns Dunellan Field trying to fell tree corridor which is not only important to red squirrels but also important to the visual amenity of the village. Request had also been made to build a tunnel through the bluebell wood (request refused by landowner). Sustainable development is also about maintaining and improving the natural environment and conserving biodiversity which is very important to the identity of the village.

6. Recognition of the ties with Grandtully but that Strathtay Village did see itself as a community first and saw Grandtully as the neighbouring community, albeit with strong ties. The interim board did want to coopt someone from Grandtully on to the board to assist with progressing conservation status and to consider ideas for closer cooperation.

7. Confirmation that membership of the company is currently free. Largest expenses for the year ahead anticipated to be audit and company secretarial. Funding will be a matter for new board.

### **Informal Discussion**

One member noted his interest in dragonflies and their presence in the village together with some thoughts and wider ideas on community ownership . He made some notes which he gave to MJ after the meeting and it was agreed these would be considered at the next board meeting. The notes form an annex to these minutes.

Sally Crystal explained more about the purpose of the website and that the company had an email address which was [info@strathtayvillage.co.uk](mailto:info@strathtayvillage.co.uk) Members could send in wildlife photos or correspondence to the email address for inclusion in the website.

One member raised the importance for community companies to be able to generate an income. MJ agreed this was an important feature of Community Companies and until a community company owned assets the role of directors would be more limited. There was still many opportunities to benefit community however.

MJ said the articles meant a third of directors would retire next year and would be required to be replaced by 2 new directors. If anyone therefore had considered putting themselves forward this year, an opportunity would exist next year.

There followed some discussion on how the company could cooperate with the community council and how the constitution of community councils meant their role could be more limited and was often to express an opinion. Community Companies had a wider range of functions.

MJ mentioned that although Jeff Thomas had sent apologies, he had sent information on new funding opportunities for the category of biodiversity and landscape.

### **Election of Board of Directors**

GC confirmed there were 5 ordinary members that had put themselves forward and had been nominated as director. They were:

Jean Adams, Roger Graham, Sarah Guthrie, Mike Jackson and Jeff Thomas

DG confirmed there were currently 6 vacancies and confirmed that directors were duly approved given the response from members was acceptable.

JA thanked GC for chairing the meeting and covering relevant points so well.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm