

Draft Minutes for approval



## CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm in Invershin Village Hall

**Present:** Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Ron Boothroyd, Vice Chair (RB), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Norman MacDonald (NM)

**Also present:** Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF), Colin Gilmour (CG), Billy Lobban (BL), and Michael Baird (MB) at 8.20pm.

**Police Scotland:** Sgt Ian Sutherland (IS)

**Apologies:** Russell Smith (RS), Brian Coghill (BC)

**Secretary:** Mary Goulder (MG)

**Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report.** Chair Pete Campbell opened the meeting inviting Sgt Sutherland to make his report. Since 1<sup>st</sup> March twenty-nine calls were received from this area. One, from the Gledfield area, was from an elderly lady concerned that she was being targeted in an incident of 'doorstep crime'. Although this incident turned out to be legitimate, the public and the elderly in particular, are advised to be extra cautious when dealing with unsolicited callers and always to contact the police if there are concerns. One theft of a solar panel was reported in the Bonar area and one incident of vehicle vandalism occurred in Rosehall. Six fixed penalties for speeding were issued. PC placed great stress on the grave dangers to life and limb caused by speeding vehicles on the Balblair straight, highlighting a recent serious incident. He requested that a high level of police presence should be directed to this stretch of road. Danger is evident at all times of the day and night, with weekend bikers causing a particular hazard around 4pm on Sundays. IS will pass these complaints to Inspector Gus Stewart, Road Policing Inspector in Dingwall and ask him to contact PC direct. IS gave notice that the new Divisional Controller will be Superintendent Philip Macrae. Concern was expressed by CCs once again about the loss of local officers and therefore the dearth of local knowledge available to the force. With thanks from the members, IS left at 7.45pm.

**Item 2. Minutes of March meeting/matters arising (if not on agenda).** The minutes of the March meeting were approved as a true and accurate record; proposed: Norman MacDonald, seconded: Russell Taylor. (1) Sandy Chalmers memorial plaque. PC is dealing with this. (2) Litter on Ardgay-Bonar straight. GF will speak to John Clark, Community Works Officer this week. He also advised that THC is trying to source insurance funding to repair the Tuiteam Bridge. Local Councillors are hoping to tap into the City & Regional Fund to have more cash spent in the region.

**Item 3. Regular updates:**

- (i) **Planning & licensing.** (RS) Details of relevant applications have been circulated by RS. No issues raised.
- (ii) **TEC Services.** While expressing thanks to John Clark for getting the pavement repairs in Bonar Bridge underway, it was noted that so far the tarmac does not join the bitumen, leaving gaps which will lead to water damage. GF will discuss with John Clark. Although not in this area, a large hole was reported in the Strathroy bridge wall on the Struie. The work carried out to correct damage by landslides on the Struie was commended as an excellent job. **GF Action.** GF advised that some of THC revenue budget will be devolved in August via Community Services. CCs should check this out on THC website (GF to provide link via MG) and prepare

a prioritised list of required works. **GF/All Action.**

- (iii) Financial report.** (RT) RT passed round copies of the report which shows a balance of £2,286.53 in the Treasurer's account and £8,066 in the Rock-by-Sea account. It has been noted that use of the Rosehall Transport Scheme has declined.
- (iii) Police Matters.** (NM) Nothing to add to Item 1 above.
- (v) Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** Work is expected to start soon on the Falls of Shin project with a fixed contract in place. Advertising will be undertaken to find a Project Manager. Interviews taking place today for the Administrative Assistant post left vacant by the departure of Calum Couston at the end of his placement. He has been a tremendous asset to the Trust. The energy related projects have now come to an end; the Ardgay Regeneration Scheme is ongoing. The Development Officer is working with parties in Rosehall interested in re-opening the village shop. A prospective new Postmaster has been identified for the Bonar Bridge Post Office.
- (vi) Rosehall.** (JW) The derelict caravan on the verge on the Altas road, previously reported to John Clark, is becoming more unsightly and potentially dangerous as it falls into further disrepair. CG will supply GF will OS co-ordinates of the precise location. The land on which the wreck sits is THC property as it is on the actual roadside verge. **GF Action.**
- (vii) Invershin.** (PC) Work is being carried out on the Inveran Bridge.
- (viii) Highland Councillor's report.** (GF) Nothing to add to information elsewhere in the Minutes.
- (ix) Broadband in Rosehall.** (RB) CBS project has stalled as Scottish Government has released further funds to BT to extend the roll-out of Superfast Broadband. KOSDT now awaits the result of the BT post code survey in around 2-3 months' time.
- (x) SSE Loch Buidhe update.** (RS) In RS's absence, MB advised that the concrete blocks being made in Ardgay will be moved to the Loch Buidhe site during the summer. Verges have been re-seeded; white lining remains to be done at the end of construction. RS had circulated emails indicating that SSE have conducted litter picking in recent weeks.

**Item 4. Windfarms.** GF confirmed there will be no decisions on major developments until after the election in May.

**Item 5. Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit/Rock by Sea Fund applications. BTWF.**

Application by Creich, Croick and Kincardine District Day Care Association (Bradbury Centre) for support with costs in running a street party in June to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Queen, received an award of £512.85. Kyle of Sutherland Hub was awarded £3,000 towards ongoing costs of the project. The CC looks forward to seeing the development beginning to take shape. Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust was awarded £2,000 towards creating an Enterprise Assistant post for the coming year. **Rock by Sea.** Bonar Bridge Indoor Bowling Club was awarded £250 to help with costs of team clothing. **MG/RT Action.** NM has checked with local Head Teachers who would like the school children to be presented with the medal commemorating the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Creich will cover the full costs, initially, for all four local schools, a total of £243.02 after which Ardgay CC could make a pro rata contribution. **NM/RT Action.**

**Item 6. Website.** (RB) Initial upgrading has been carried out including the posting of Minutes from the past four years. Further upgrading will be done. RB will prepare a list of ideas for the site to be discussed in full at next meeting. The fee for the domain name is due for payment. **Agenda item/RB/MG Action.** GF will ascertain the length of time Minutes/CC documents must be kept and advise next month. **GF Action.**

**Item 7. Correspondence. (1) Foundation Scotland meeting.** PC has arranged a meeting with Tom

Black with regard to the Endowment Fund, for 18<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm in the KOSDT offices. NM and RT hope to attend. **(2) Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.** Contact information update will be returned. **MG Action.**

**Item 8. Any other competent business.** PC had to leave the meeting at this time, RB assumed the Chair. (1) Bank of Scotland, Bonar Bridge. MB advised that the Financial Ombudsman will take no further action on this issue. MB must now decide by 28<sup>th</sup> April whether to take the campaign to the Financial Conduct Authority. As yet no meeting has been arranged by the MP with the various interested parties. MB will keep the CC informed. **MB Action.**

(2) BACS facility. RT advised that the BACS facility to allow for online banking payments is now in place. While it is appreciated that this could reduce some of the actual footfall in the bank premises, due to the minimal hours of service this will allow faster payments to be transacted. It was noted that the Royal Bank of Scotland mobile bank is now visiting only every second week, and that the Clydesdale Bank branch in Tain is due to close shortly.

**Item 9. Date, time and place of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm in the Rosehall Village Hall. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed 9.15pm