



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 16th July 2013 at 7.30pm
in the Rosehall Village Hall**

Present: Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Russell Smith (RS), Norman MacDonald (NM), Lily Byron (LB), John White (JW), Ron Boothroyd (RB)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Apologies: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Sandy Chalmers, Vice Chair (SC), Brian Coghill (BC), Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above) /Police report. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, Treasurer Russell Taylor assumed the Chair for this meeting. There was no police representative present.

Item 2. Minutes of June meeting/matters arising (not on agenda). The Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record; proposed by Russell Taylor, seconded Lily Byron. **(1) Membership.** There are currently three Associate members and two co-opted members in addition to the elected members. One elected member place remains vacant following Kay Smart's resignation. Owing to their infrequent attendances and submission of apologies, it was agreed to write to elected member Claire Bruce and co-opted member Angus MacDonald stating it would be helpful if they could indicate their availability for future meetings. **MG Action.** **(2) Windfarms.** JW queried from the June Minutes whether or not the Glencassley proposal will be going to Public Local Inquiry. MG to check. **MG Action.**

Item 3. Regular updates:

- (i) **Planning & licensing.** (RS). Nothing relevant has come to RS this month. LB & JW discussed the Planning Department notice which has appeared at the gate of the Rosehall Estate listing several developments for which Planning Permission has apparently been applied. No such notification has been received by RS who will check if it is going through due process. **RS Action.**
- (ii) **TEC Services.** (SC) The cycle wheeling ramp project at the Invershin viaduct is on hold pending discussions with Highland Council. Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is attempting to seek a solution in order that the ramp can be fitted without further delay. JW stated that work on the Kyleside Walk would be made difficult due to the need to barrow in all materials. No further information available on this or other issues such as the village seat and the footpath beside Bell Ingram. SC to be asked to follow up on all items. **SC Action.**
- (iii) **Financial report.** (RT) Russell passed round the current bank statement showing a balance in the Treasurer's account of ££6,598.97 with outstanding cheques for £712. The Highland Council grant, this year reduced by approximately £100 to £1125.89, was received in the account on 4th July. The Youth Club has not yet cashed its cheque with regard to the village floral decorations this year. PC had agreed to speak to Hayley Bangs with regard to next year's flower tubs; discuss next month. **PC Action.**
- (iv) **Spinningdale.** (SW) Nothing in SW's absence.
- (v) **Police Matters.** (NM) See Item 1.

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- (vi) **Environmental/health.** No-one has this responsibility at present. Discussion revealed that no-one is happy with the level of recycling or the bin collection programme being carried out by Highland Council though it was felt that nothing can be done about it.
- (vii) **Youth.** No-one has this responsibility at present. LB praised the summer cafe being run in the Bonar Bridge Hall giving work experience to youngsters while providing the facility for locals and visitors.
- (viii) **Education/schools.** (LB) Nil of note. Schools currently on summer holidays.
- (ix) **KOSDT.** A recent report was received which covered a wide range of items currently undertaken by the Trust including working with the Bradbury Centre, Invercharron Games committee, ARCH, Climate Change Fund, THC Ranger Service, HIE, Balnagown re Shin Falls, and several other projects. Funding in place towards the current Project Manager post but nothing mentioned about the future of the Development Officer post.
- (x) **Rosehall.** (JW/LB) LB mentioned discussion with Helen Houston at KoSDT which may lead to progress with local transport issues. JW advised of insurance claim difficulties being experienced following wheel damage due potholes on the Glencassley Road. HC's insurers refusing to proceed as they state that the offending pothole had not been reported. JW asked that Secretary check previous Minutes for details of the number of times he has reported the condition of the road. He recommends that any potholes noticed by the public should be reported immediately to save others having claims rejected. **MG Action.**
- (xi) **Invershin.** Nothing in SC's absence.
- (xii) **HC Councillor's report.** Council is in recess.
- (xiii) **Broadband in Rosehall.** (RB) Letters received in reply to CC from Ron Gibson, MSP, Mary Scanlon, MSP and John Thurso, MP. The following is an extract from the communication from Mary Scanlon's office:

It is still our aim to significantly improve broadband speeds for everyone if at all possible. As part of our contract with BT we have an allocation of £2.5m to find new ways of improving broadband speeds. This will either be through the introduction of new techniques or procedures (for example the use of wireless links to cabinets instead of fibre) or through new means of delivering broadband services. These services are still under development but we are hopeful that they will provide a means of improving broadband more widely within the timeframe of the current project.

Mr Boothroyd asked specifically about the fibre network and proposed leg in east Sutherland. The fibre will run from Tain to Lairg and then to Golspie. There is a main handover point in Tain and it is proposed to locate small switches in Lairg and Golspie. Rosehall would link to Lairg.

For communities who are keen to improve broadband services more immediately, the Scottish Government has also established Community Broadband Scotland to provide advice and guidance on developing local broadband projects. The CBS website is at www.communitybroadbandscotland.org.uk

RB also attended a consultation in Tain chaired by the Royal Society of Scotland seeking information as to how communities/businesses access and use the Internet. One example is an Internet radio station based in Alness which finds itself severely hampered when trying to cover outside broadcasts due to the poor/non-existent Broadband speeds encountered throughout the area. A digital participation questionnaire is circulated by the Royal Society and further copies and information are available on their website at <http://digiscot.net> as well as through Facebook and Twitter. It was agreed to invite Tara Morrison to attend the August meeting to discuss her Broadband survey. **MG Action.**

Item 4. Carbisdale Castle. Reports are circulating that the Castle has been 'stripped' of its contents leading to concerns about the whereabouts of the art work which was held there. Enquires should be made of SYHA. **MG Action.**

Item 5. Local collection for retiring butchers. It is understood that a local resident has undertaken to place collection boxes in some of the local shops. The CC will write letters of appreciation to both John Matheson and Jock Macleod to mark their thirty-eight years in the business. **MG Action.**

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Item 6. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea fund applications. One current application, from Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust for £100 towards costs of attending the upcoming conference of the Development Trusts Association Scotland. This was approved. Phil Tomalin and applicants will be notified accordingly. **MG Action.**

Item 7. Changes to Memorandum of Understanding – Foundation Scotland, ‘Achany’ Panel. Amendments proposed to the administration of the fund, which will see each of the three community councils being awarded a notional one-third of the fund each year as a pilot scheme to run for three years, were approved. Foundation Scotland will be advised. **MG Action.**

Item 8. Windfarms. Nothing relevant this month.

Item 9. Community Council notice board. RT confirmed the matter is in hand and it is hoped that the board will be in place soon.

Item 10. Correspondence. Nil of note.

Item 11. Any other competent business. None raised.

Item 11. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th August 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Invershin Hall. Sandy to book the room **SC Action.**

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.