**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8th August 2013, at 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

Present

Molly Doyle, Donald Fraser, Robin Sproull, Edward Redmond, Heather Redmond, James Seatter, Cllr. Helen Carmichael, Cllr. Margaret Davidson and approx. eighteen members of the public.

Apologies

Ian Campbell, Cllr. Hamish Wood

1. The Chair, Mrs. Doyle welcomed all those in attendance.
2. Mr. Cluny Revel was unable to attend this meeting.
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Robin Sproull proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by Edward Redmond and agreed by the committee.
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

* Road Repairs: Requests were made that the road verges be cut as the growth of vegetation seriously reduces visibility especially on the single track and winding roads e.g. Cannich to Beauly and Glen Cannich roads. Road signs such as speed limits (Fasnakyle side of Cannich village) and passing place signs are obscured by tree growth. A tree branch hits the bus as it approaches the village of Tomich. Cllr. Davidson agreed to report these issues to the relevant department.
* Nurse’s House: Cllr. Davidson offered to report continuing concerns to the Health Board.
* SCC website: No further action.
* Signage around the village: The signs to the Police Station have been removed – thank you. Richmond Clements has added our request for signs to the Glass Recycling Bins to his list of actions. Concerns were expressed at the high speeds of some cars in and around Mac Coll Road. This is particularly frightening in view of the newly revamped Playpark and its use by children. Cllr. Davidson agreed to discuss this at Highland Council (HC).
* Dog Fouling: Cllr. Carmichael agreed to chase up the extra signs she had asked to be sent to Molly. Heather to chase up the transfer of the waste bin to near the playing fields. Thanks were expressed to the Dog wardens for their very prompt response to the ‘poo bag crisis’ during the recent Golden Retriever event in the glen.
* Cemeteries: Cllr. Davidson reported that the state of HC cemeteries was being audited at the moment, with most rural ones being in a poor state (Kilmorack was reported to be in a good state of tidiness) whilst the town ones were quite good. Cllr. Davidson would report the local situation to HC.
* HC Planning Process: no reply as yet. Heather to follow up.
* Noticeboards: Nigel Fraser is happy to assist with boards in both Struy and Tomich. He suggested contacting the Tomich Residents Association for their views (members present at the SCC approved the idea). Cllr. Davidson advised checking with HC whether Planning Permission is required.
* Deer Contract: the local bid was unsuccessful as they had not previously held a contract with FCS. The process seemed weighted in favour of the existing contractors. The Deer management Group is continuing to explore this matter as they felt that a principle is at stake.
* Reduced street lighting in Cannich at night: apologies from Heather - no action yet. Cllr. Davidson advised on the HC contact to ask and suggested that HC was looking for volunteer sites for this.
* Wood chip: Lisa Marchi was contacted after the last meeting but nothing further was heard.
* Bonfires 5th November: Cannich ones have previously been held on the moss near the Recreation Park. Residents wishing to help with this please let a member of the SCC know.
* Traffic light sensor down road to Drum: to be followed up.

1. Soirbheas: Ian Campbell passed on this report: ‘The Community Development Officer (Donna Green) now has an office in Cannich Hall on Tuesday each week from 10am until 4pm. A Newsletter is in preparation. There has been no update on the timing of the commencement of funds flow from Corrimony to Soirbheas so this still looks to be next year.’
2. Planning Applications: only one application since last meeting – Mauld Estate wish to retain the temporary access track for estate use. No other applications approved or rejected.
3. Police Beat Report. None received.
4. Beinn Mhor (Tomich) Wind Farm proposal: Keith Bale of wpd was present to take questions.

* Concerns expressed about the discussions taking place between wpd and Soirbheas. SCC to contact Soirbheas to clarify this point. Wpd stated that they were discussing the possibility of Community Benefit as well as a Community Turbine with Soirbheas. There was confusion about whether Soirbheas was speaking on behalf of the Strathglass Community.
* Cllr. Davidson confirmed that the current rate of £5000 per megawatt per year would be payable as Community Benefit in addition to any Community Turbine should the proposal go ahead.
* It was confirmed that bird diverters would be included at the top of the meteo-mast.

SCC have learned that we can purchase a copy of the Electoral Roll for our area for the purposes of a ballot. Assistance with independent scrutiny of returns is not yet confirmed due to organisational changes.

1. Treasurer’s Report: Since the last report only one transaction has been made – a payment of £108 for the Hall bookings for the next 9 meetings. The grant from HC has not been received yet.
2. Correspondence:

* Winter Resilience: grit bins were suggested for Comar Gardens, Tomich and near the bus shelter in Cannich. No specific volunteers came forward. An e-mail received on 15th August, advised that all requests need to be submitted by the end of August.
* Muchrachd Bridge Replacement: Work is due to begin on Monday 12th (or 19th) August and is scheduled to take 16 weeks. Completion is planned for Christmas 2013. The existing bridge will remain open throughout the work. Deliveries over a few days of steel components by large articulated lorries is expected around mid – October.
* Inverness Area Community Councils Forum: Molly Doyle was nominated to be our representative on this group. If she is not able to attend, any SCC member (one only) in attendance could vote if the need arose. The next meeting and AGM is to be held on Tuesday 20th August. Details have been forwarded to SCC members.
* Consultation – Towards a Litter-free Scotland: this was noted. Individuals may wish to respond by 27 September. Further information can be found on the Scottish Government website.
* Police Scotland letter – Review of Traffic Warden Provision & Public Service and Opening Hours at Police Offices: a notification that a review is to be undertaken.
* Ward Forum- Police & Fire Services: to be held on Tuesday 10th Sept. in Gorthleck and Tuesday 17th Sept. at the Phipps Hall in Beauly 6.30 for 7.00pm start. Posters are at various noticeboards.
* Fairburn Wind Farm Extension: Letter from Ferintosh CC asking for our views. Letter to be sent saying that we have no specific views on the matter as it does impact on us directly.
* Highland Road safety Seminar now to be held on 22nd November. It is aimed at HC local members, nominations close on 18th October. Information has been forwarded to all members of SCC

1. A.O.C.B.

* Concerns were expressed that the public waste bins near the shop are sometimes overflowing with the new fortnightly collection combined with the tourist season. Cllr. Carmichael advised contacting HC when this occurred to request clearance. She would also request either an additional bin or a larger one to be considered for the area.
* Thanks were expressed to Alan Hood and his team of helpers for the planters placed on the bridge approaches to the Village. He has a small surplus left which he will use for plants next year. The SCC has some money left over from the hanging basket funds which Molly offered to Alan for spring bulbs etc for the planters.
* Concerns were raised at the increasing number of feral cats in the village. The SCC were asked to contact the Cat Protection League, SNH, and SSPCA for advice or assistance in reducing the numbers. Interbreeding with wild cats would be unhelpful.
* Concerns were raised at the lack of replacement of the trees removed from the square in Mac Coll Road.

1. Dates and times of future meetings :

Thursday 12th September Thursday 17th October

Thursday 28th November Thursday 9th January 2014