**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2013, at 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

Present

Molly Doyle, Ian Campbell, Robin Sproull, Edward Redmond, Heather Redmond, James Seatter, and approx. fourteen members of the public.

Apologies

Donald Fraser, Cllr. Helen Carmichael, Cllr. Margaret Davidson, Cllr. Hamish Wood and Cllr. Drew Hendry

1. The Chair, Mrs. Doyle welcomed all those in attendance.
2. Marie Mooney & Alan Knox from Scottish Ambulance Service attended the meeting to discuss the current situation with regards to the Strathglass First Responders. Currently there are only three active First Responders in the area so the service is not operational. A scheme really needs 8-12 active members to be viable as two members would be on call at any one time. If additional volunteers cannot be found locally, it may be possible to set up some Public Access Defibrillators in all three villages with back-up from the Drumnadrochit First responders when possible. The Ambulance service would train local residents to use the Defibrillators with annual updates. The British Heart Foundation would supply the equipment. It was agreed that a Public Meeting would be held as soon as possible to discuss this further and decide on a way forward. Marie would indicate staff availability for such a meeting and provide posters to promote the event.
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Two amendments to the previous minutes need to be noted – item 8 the community benefit rates quoted are what is usually paid but should not be taken as guaranteed. Item 10 – The Fairburn Wind Farm does **NOT** impact on us directly. Subject to these amendments: 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: Highland Council (HC) have done some trimming of shrubbery to improve visibility of road signs but not yet enough. Some road repairs have also been carried out – Mac Coll Road, Glen Cannich, A831, road to Tomich. It was agreed to do a full review once again. HC to be contacted to request that they inform us when roads are due to be swept or repaired so that we can try to clear the roads of cars at that time especially around Mac Coll road.
* Nurse’s House: ongoing.
* SCC website: more progress made but still not right.
* Signage around the village: There is a new sign on the main road directing the Public to the Toilets in the Hall. Unfortunately still no sign for the Glass Recycling bins, despite reminders sent.
* Dog Fouling: Signs were sent to Molly as promised by Cllr. Carmichael. Despite being adhesive. Many did not stick well to the surfaces when they were applied. A bin for the Playfield area is expected. Recent article in the Inverness Courier shows that we are not the only community with this problem.
* Cemeteries: Still a problem, especially with weeds in paths. The access to Clachan Comar is quite a problem for visitors but not sure whose responsibility that is.
* HC Planning Process: will be covered at the meeting in November.
* Noticeboards: Planning permission is not required but signs near roads should be cleared with HC. Tomich Residents Association has no objections to an extra noticeboard.
* Reduced street lighting in Cannich at night: HC have trialled three options but only one is really feasible i.e. to switch off the lights from midnight to 6am. It is expensive to set up initially and HC wish to ensure that there is strong community backing for such a change. A survey is proposed to assess this for both Cannich and Tomich.
* Bonfires 5th November: Simon MacLaughlin agreed to take a lead on this. Thank you.
* Traffic light sensor down road to Drum: to be followed up.
* Winter Resilience: Unfortunately, a request simply for additional grit bins was not accepted so four volunteers were found with addresses near to the new bins. We await delivery.
* Muchrachd Bridge Replacement: work began on time and seems to be progressing well. We are surprised that the new bridge is being made in USA.
* Inverness Area Community Councils Forum: AGM, new Food Waste Collection for Inverness City. Any CC can request an item to be included on the agenda, e.g rural issues.
* Public Waste Bin: an extra bin is to be placed opposite the shop as the current provision is inadequate.
* Feral Cats: ongoing.
* Trees in square Mac Coll Road: to be followed up.
1. Soirbheas: Newsletter and Broadband questionnaire has been circulated to all households. Explanation of the discussions between Soirbheas and wpd can be seen on the website. If you do not have internet access, please contact Donna Green for a printout. Income is unlikely for at least six months.
2. Planning Applications: Two applications have been made for Run of River Hydro electric power schemes a) 6300m NE of Affric Lodge at Alt Na H-Imrich; b) 1540m SW of Affric Lodge at Alt Garbh. Planning application was approved for Neil Miller of 16 Tomich for replacement extension.
3. Police Beat Report. PC Scott Maclean gave the report. Nothing specific to Cannich since the last meeting. For the Beauly Beat there has been one road traffic collision, and various other driving offences including nine drivers speeding and two not wearing seat belts. Belladrum Music Festival accounted for a number of illegal drug seizures. No incidents of theft or poaching. The meeting was advised that a Road Traffic Fixed Penalty fine had increased to £100.

A resident reported difficulty in getting calls to 101 to be answered. All local Police contact numbers are routed via 101 or 999 now.

1. Beinn Mhor (Tomich) Wind Farm proposal: Although the SCC will object or approve this proposal as a result of the planned ballot, this would just be a single objection/approval. It is important that individuals who feel strongly about the matter also object or approve the scheme when appropriate.

Matthew Oosterwijk had written to the SCC with some questions regarding the proposed ballot: it is intended to ballot with options For or Against only; HC population estimate for the SCC area is 546 people with 107 aged 0 – 15 years; HC do not have population statistics for individual communities; voters in the ballot will be those entered onto the Electoral Role; voting would be one member, one vote only with no weighting for location etc.; the ballot would be conducted once the planning application is submitted i.e. when we know what we are voting for or against. The SCC would respond to the planning application in favour if greater than 50% of the voting responses are in favour.

1. Treasurer’s Report: The written report was available at the meeting. Since the last meeting, SCC has received it annual grant from HC - £961.57. The LEADERS grant of £56,214.25 for the Recreation Park refurbishment has also been received. With known planned expenditure taken into account, SCC has approx.. £1,100 available.
2. Correspondence:
* Ward Forum- Police & Fire Services: to be held on Tuesday 17th Sept. at the Phipps Hall 7.00pm start.
* Moriston Wind Farm Newsletter received.
* FCS Liaison meeting to take place on Monday 23rd September. Edward Redmond will represent SCC.
* Eagle Brae Grand opening: Robin Sproull attended this event. The cabins have been finished to a very high standard.
* Marine Scotland Consultation 2013: local Public Event at Eden Court on Monday 23rd Sept. Drop in Session 1-5pm; Presentation/Q&A 6-8pm.
* HC Daffodil bulbs: 400 for £50. This was felt to be too many for a few tubs. If other communities wish to apply they are welcome.
* Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust Open Day & AGM on Friday 27th Sept. Thistle Hotel, I’ness.
* HC Quality Awards for a HC service, team or member of staff. Nominations to be in by 27th Sept.
* Enterprise Ready fund aims to help maintain, develop and grow Scotland’s enterprising Third sector. Information & Briefing Event Tues. 10th Sept. at Mercure Inverness Hotel.
* Highland Third Sector Conference Thurs. 10th Oct at Eden Court.
* Energy Saving Trust communities event Thurs. 26th Sept at Centre for Health Science at Raigmore Hospital.
* HC Licensing Board Overprovision Consultation – does not apply to our ward.
* Community Council Scheme Evaluation conducted by HC after 12 months from introduction. 77 out of 152 community councils responded, fairly evenly spread over the HC area. Not much of significance changed apart from future nominees for election may be required to provide a candidate statement.
1. A.O.C.B.
* P&J included a recent article about the proposed wind farm in Tomich. The Inverness version was more extensive than the Highland & Islands version.
* A request was made that the trees at the Glen Affric Hotel be trimmed where they overhang the path up Glen Cannich.
* Concerns were expressed about the state of the burnt out cottage near Fasnakyle/Tomich road junction.
* Letter of congratulations to be sent to Laura Fraser and the Strathglass Ladies Shinty Team who won the Marine Harvest Cup.
1. Dates and times of future meetings :

Thursday 17th October Thursday 28th November Thursday 9th January 2014