**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 17th October 2013, at 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

Present

Molly Doyle, Ian Campbell, Robin Sproull, Edward Redmond, Heather Redmond, James Seatter, Cllr. Margaret Davidson and approx. eleven members of the public.

Apologies

Donald Fraser, Cllr. Helen Carmichael, Cllr. Drew Hendry and PC. Karen MacKenzie

1. The Chair, Mrs. Doyle welcomed all those in attendance.
2. Julie & Yvonne, volunteers from the Cats Protection League gave an update on their work to neuter the large number of feral cats around Cannich Village. Louise at the Glen Affric Hotel had been helpful and so far 34 cats had been neutered with two kittens taken for re-homing. They have spent over £1400 on vets bills alone. They have also offered free neutering to any local pet cats. The local cat population seems to be free of feline AIDS and leukaemia. Some cats may be able to be re-homed to farms as mousers. Further information can be obtained by e-mail: cats.inverness@gmail.com, from the website: [www.inverness.cats.org.uk](http://www.inverness.cats.org.uk), or by telephoning 07815 910861
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Two amendments to the previous minutes need to be noted : item 4 (Dog Fouling) replace full stop after ‘adhesive’ with a comma. Item 8 add “ Equally the SCC would object to the planning application if greater than 50% of the voting responses are against.” Subject to these amendments: Edward Redmond proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by Ian Campbell and agreed by the committee.
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:
* First Responders: It was agreed to try to hold the Public Meeting in the main hall on Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm subject to confirmation with SACC availability.
* Road Repairs: Highland Council (HC) acknowledge the priority of vegetation encroachment on the A831 between Cannich & Struy but their priority is to ensure that the Passing Places and signs are visible. All residents and members of the Community Council are requested to report particular problem areas to Heather Redmond and we shall update the list of works required with HC.
* SCC website: no further progress as yet. Have also had an e-mail from HC as they are updating the CC webpages on HC website. A request has been made that minutes and agendas be available through this as well.
* Signage around the village: ongoing
* Reduced street lighting in Cannich at night: A survey is proposed to assess this for both Cannich and Tomich.

The survey from HC was discussed with a few additions. Forms to be hand delivered asap and to return locations still to be confirmed. Returns to be requested by end of November.

* Bonfire 2nd November: Bonfire only this year on the land between the grit store and Crimond, near the redundant pylon. Fund raising to provide fireworks next year will be considered. Posters are due to be put up. The bonfire is to be built on Sunday 27th October so all donations gratefully received.
* Traffic light sensor down road to Drum: ongoing.
* Muchrachd Bridge Replacement: ongoing
* FCS Liaison Meeting: Car parking charges are now proposed for two sites only i.e. River Affric and Dog Falls where there are also Public Toilets. A special rate for local residents is still under consideration. It may be possible that the charges would be voluntary for a year or so as this often gets a very good response. A review after a year is planned.
* Trees at Glen Affric Hotel have been trimmed.
* The burnt out cottage near Fasnakyle: Mrs. Groves of Fasnakyle Estates had wished to demolish the cottage but as they hope to rebuild in the future they have been advised to retain it as is to assist with a future planning application.
1. Soirbheas: There was nothing new and substantive to be reported. Paul Stirling asked for the latest production figures from the Corrimony Wind-farm and it was explained that the Soirbheas Directors were constrained by a Confidentiality Agreement from giving out detailed information relating to Corrimony Energy without express prior approval from the Girvan family who own and run the company. The offer to seek that approval was made. Mr. Stirling expressed his view that this was an unacceptable situation when taxpayers’ monies had been used in the development of the wind-farm. It was noted that Soirbheas’ financial position was reported on at Board meetings and minutes were available on the website.
2. Planning Applications: Two new applications – erection of house on land at SW of mid Chrochail Cannich; also retention of a temporary track in Kerrow wood associated with the Beauly-Denny line.

Applications approved – meteo mast for Beinn Mhor wind-farm proposal; also retention of temporary track at Easter Chrochail for Mauld Estate associated with the Beauly-Denny line.

1. Police Beat Report. PC Karen MacKenzie had sent through a report in her absence. Ten road traffic collisions have been dealt with in the last period of report, no persons charged. One driver has been charged with speeding and one vehicle seized due to having no valid insurance. No reports of antisocial behaviour in our area, and no incidents of theft or poaching. The 101 telephone contact service is being monitored and no issues have been registered. One resident reported at the meeting they had an acceptable response from this number. If anyone does have problems please report it with specific date and time of call. “It has recently been highlighted that Police and other emergency services are consistently battling the issue of locating properties in our rural areas due to poor or absent signage. The issue increases the response time which is vital to these services. **Clear property identification would assist in a timely response to calls.”**

Continuing problems with livestock on the roads should be reported via the 101 telephone number.

1. Beinn Mhor (Tomich) Wind Farm proposal: Keith Bale was in attendance at the meeting and confirmed that the meteo mast was now in position with no light. Red lights would be on top of the turbines if this was a planning requirement. Everyone was reminded of the Exhibition in the Cannich Hall on Thursday 24th October 3.30pm until 8.00pm.
2. Green Highland Renewables: A meeting was held on Wednesday 25th Sept. with GHR, SCC, SACC, TRA to discuss the Community Options for the three Run-of-river Hydro Schemes in the Glen Affric Area: Allt na h’Imrich; Abhainn Gleann nam Fiadh; Allt Garbh. Once established and about a year has passed to allow for some regeneration, there will be very little visible or audible impact. Planning application has been lodged.
3. Treasurer’s Report: Very little activity since the last report; £5 spent for a hire of a room to discuss the proposed Cannich bonfire. Free funds still available approx.. £1100.
4. Correspondence:
* RSPB Corrimony Management Plan Objectives for 2013 to 2018 are available to view.
* Applications have been received at HC for new plantings of broadleaf and conifer woodlands at Eagle Brae (comments by 14th Oct) and Culligran SSSI (comments by 21st Oct).
* Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (IMFLDP)is now available electronically, a hard copy should be received early in November. Comments can be made via the website in the six week consultation period.
* A large spruce tree near Aigas Power Station needs to be removed. Plans are to do this the week commencing 28th October. Two proposals are given: 1) close the road completely for two days during daylight & off-peak hours; or 2) shorter closures up to 15minutes at a time but for 4 days. Option 2 was preferred by SCC.
* Next Inverness Area Community Council Forum to be held at the Town House at 7pm on Tuesday 19th November. Agenda includes: the future of Community Councils, IMFLDP, Pharmacy Provision, Traffic Wardens.
1. A.O.C.B.
* The old power lines are being removed along the Eskadale Road. The lines near the Chalet Park are to come down on Sunday 20th Oct.
* A rumour has been heard that a further Wind Farm is proposed on land east of Beinn Mhor. Nothing concrete as yet.
* It was agreed to make a donation to the Cat’s Protection League.
1. Dates and times of future meetings :

Thursday 28th November Thursday 9th January 2014 Thursday 20th February