**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2014, at 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

Present: Molly Doyle, Ian Campbell, Robin Sproull, Donald Fraser, James Seatter, Edward Redmond, Heather Redmond, Cllr. Helen Carmichael, Cllr. Drew Hendry and approx. nine members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Margaret Davidson and PC. Karen MacKenzie

1. The Chair, Mrs. Doyle welcomed all those in attendance.
2. Mr. Cluny Revel: Community Payback Officer. Formerly ‘Community Service’ now ‘Community Payback by Offenders – Unpaid Work Scheme’. This form of sentence may be used for offences such as breaches of the peace, unpaid fines, some types of fraud or violence. It is used as an alternative to a short-term prison sentence. The length of time to be worked ranges from about 20 – 300 hours, generally at a rate of about 7 hours per week i.e. one day. The sentence is to be completed in either 3 or 6 months. 100 hours generally equates to about a one year prison sentence. There are lots of rules which offenders need to comply with, they need to treat it like a job, depending on what problems they encounter they may get another chance or they may be referred back to the courts. It is used to try to prevent the adverse impact of prison on the wider family and to prevent an individual from losing their job, house and family. For other offenders it can be a way of learning a new skill and getting them into a long term job. It is much cheaper than prison: prison costs approx. £38,000pa per inmate, Community Payback costs approx. £8,000pa per offender. There is a current job going on within Cannich being done under this scheme. The recipient client pays for materials but labour and travelling costs are paid by the criminal justice system. The job done is not ‘professional’ but is well done under supervision. Projects done by offenders are those which would not be done any other way e.g. because the recipient cannot afford the work or it is for a charity or general community. Jobs must also be those which do not take work from other employers. Reoffending rates were not available but are felt to be reduced in comparison with prison. If the SCC has any ideas for work to be done please ask via the Inverness Office as per the leaflet.
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Ian Campbell proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by Edward Redmond and agreed by the committee.
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

* The Community Council website is now working. It is not pretty but you can access the agenda and minutes of meetings. The address is [www.community-council.org.uk/strathglass](http://www.community-council.org.uk/strathglass). Then select ‘Library’.
* Results of the Street Lighting Surveys for Cannich and Tomich.

Cannich: approx. 200 forms issued, 95 returned. Two were unsigned and 8 not on the Electoral Roll leaving 85 responses for analysis i.e. 42.5% return rate. 35 responses voted in favour (41%) and 50 voted against (59%) therefore the trial will not proceed in Cannich.

Tomich: approx. 80 forms issued, 21 returned with two excluded as not on the Electoral Roll leaving 19 for analysis (26% return rate). 14 responses were in favour (74%) and 5 voted against (26%) therefore the trial will be recommended to Andrew Matheson at Highland Council.

* Inverness West District Partnership (20th Dec): This is a quarterly meeting between Highland Council and NHS Highland open to the Public. Meetings are held at different venues e.g. Beauly, Merkinch, Drumnadrochit. For those interested in local provision of health and social care it is well worth attending. Items discussed last time included: health inequalities; community services; care home standards; home care; children’s services. Next meeting is on Friday 21st March.
* Public Access Defibrillators (PAD): Soirbheas was approached for funding these but they cannot consider spending money until they have some available. The Shinty Club have been given a PAD but it needs to be housed in a suitable location. Once that is done (near the Playing Fields) it would be available for all to use if needed. Once it is available for use we can contact the Ambulance Service to organise training for use.

1. Soirbheas: Performance rates for the Corrimony Wind Farm are on the Soirbheas website. An application has been made to the Climate Challenge Fund to follow-up the home energy surveys. The new Community Development Officer has been appointed, to work four days a week not full time as hoped. To start on 1st February so will have a month to shadow Donna. There have been several changes to the Board recently. The Broadband Survey showed that Tomich and Struy both have appalling download speeds so assistance will be sought from Community Broadband Scotland. Cannich speeds are too high for such assistance.

The situation with Soirbheas and wpd remains a difficulty as Soirbheas was set up covering two Community Council areas so a development affecting only one area may end up funding projects outwith that area. Soirbheas does not take a position on whether a project should go ahead or not but if it does go ahead it can channel the funding to the two local communities. At the moment no other organisation is set up to do this.

1. Consultation on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill: This bill of some 80 odd pages covers things such as Community Right to Buy; Community participation in processes to improve outcomes of service delivery; increasing transparency about common good; defective and dangerous buildings; community planning; allotments etc. Whilst there is much in the Bill which we could make use of once it is enacted, it is difficult to formulate a meaningful response to the wording itself. It would be easier to understand if examples of how the various issues have affected communities in the past or are anticipated to affect them. Responses are required by 24th January.

This did lead to a request that the square in Mac Coll Road be protected from future development.

1. Community Council Pilot Project: Cllr. Drew Hendry outlined a proposal he has discussed with members of the Community Council recently which will in fact fit in very well with the previous item. He is proposing that SCC be one of two pilot CC’s to develop detailed Community Action Plans which can then be more efficiently resourced. This has grown out of the roads survey work done about two years ago but is not limited to roads. We will have a GPS recording device made available to photograph problems identified with time & date and location automatically transferred to HC. A Director of Community Services will be in post later this month to facilitate the pilot. Work identified can then be graded by HC with SCC input and timescales for completion can be given. Other areas for consideration include: Local employability; Tourism issues; Care needs; Children’s requirements etc. The Community Plan can then feed into wider HC plans. SCC can put in as much effort as we wish and will be supported by HC.

SCC members have met twice to discuss possible priorities so we have some ideas ready to take forward with the new postholder.

1. Planning Applications: Erect extension and reconstruct Scotts cottage at Fasnakyle (application in principle); Erection of extension, alterations & new garage at Bothy Cottage Fasnakyle; Guisachan Estate have applied to retain some access tracks built for the Beauly-Denny line; Guisachan Estates have applied for a run-of-river hydro scheme south of Tomich Cottage; application for a house plot 40m west of Strathglass View Cannich.
2. Police Beat Report: The report had been e-mailed to SCC in case the officers were called away and were unable to attend the meeting as was the case. 44 Road Traffic related matters have been attended to within the Beauly beat; no reports of antisocial behaviour in the SCC area; No incidents of alcohol abuse but there were seizures of personal amounts of cannabis and cocaine in the Rural Beat area; no complaints of poaching or theft in the SCC area. Thefts were reported in Beauly and from outbuildings in the Rural Beat area. No further complaints of animals wandering on the roads. There have, since the last meeting, been reports of active “Scams” in our area. Contact is made by telephone or letter, often purporting to be from B.T. or Microsoft stating that you have a security issue with the computer. They request card payment for the work they claim they will do. The “Scam” has been a letter requiring payment for an alleged outstanding loan. There is also the common “You have won the money prize, please supply initial payment to release it”. They tend to ask for Ukash payments which should raise your suspicions immediately. Please bring these matters to the attention of any elderly relatives as they are often the most vulnerable.
3. Beinn Mhor (Tomich) Wind Farm proposal: nothing further to report.

Banners against the windfarms proposed in the area are displayed in the glen. One, near Struy bridge is distracting as drivers approach the bridge. Concerns were expressed that this could contribute to a traffic incident. Cllr. Hendry agreed to report our concerns.

1. Treasurer’s Report: Approx. £700 remains uncommitted, following payments of £100 each to the Cannich Bridge Primary School and Cannich Children’s Christmas party, a further £50 paid to the Senior Citizen’s Christmas lunch and £16 for Hall Rental for the First responders meeting in November.
2. Correspondence:

* The 2011 Census Profile for the various Highland Council Community Council Areas is now available on the HC website and compares the statistics for SCC, HC and Scotland for such factors as: age ranges; household size; car/van availability; health status; identity & language; economic activity and education.
* The forthcoming Rural Parliament (RP) for Scotland will have its inaugural meeting in November 2014. We are invited to register an interest. This was agreed. The RP will meet every two years and will be a forum for those who live & work in rural Scotland to discuss & debate issues of common concern.
* Advice note to Councillors on how they should deal with representations in advance of planning meetings.

1. A.O.C.B.

* Residents of Tomich were recently subjected to flood threats and wish to thank HC for their prompt response. Cllr. Carmichael will pass this on and the SCC will send a letter at the request of the residents.
* The drain at the bottom of Mac Coll Road where floods happen regularly is to be rebuilt soon.
* Cllr. Carmichael gave an update on the progress of the Beauly and District Care Project which has been successful in obtaining funding from Highland Cross to purchase a mini bus. The weekly lunch club is very successful and they are looking to develop a ‘Men’s Shed’. The Highland Swing Band will be at the Phipps Hall in February for a fund raising event.
* Notice was given of a protest meeting to be held on Sunday 12th Jan at 2pm at Aigas Field Centre to discuss the abo wind farm development in Strathglass as well as other similar developments in the area.

1. Dates and times of future meetings :

Thursday 20th February Thursday 3rd April

Thursday 15th May Thursday 26th June & AGM