**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 20th February 2014, at 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

Present: Molly Doyle, Ian Campbell, Robin Sproull, Donald Fraser, Edward Redmond, Heather Redmond, Cllr. Margaret Davidson and approx. ten members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Helen Carmichael & Cllr. Drew Hendry and Mrs. Mary Forbes

1. The Chair, Mrs. Doyle welcomed all those in attendance.
2. Mr. Keith Bale of wpd advised the meeting that wpd have submitted a proposal of application notice for Beinn Mhor wind farm to Highland Council on 15th January 2014. The planning application for the wind farm cannot be submitted less than 12 weeks from this date i.e. the earliest would be 9th April and more likely to be at the end of April. A Public Exhibition will be held on Wednesday 12th March 3.30pm to 7.30pm in Cannich Village Hall. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with Soirbheas.
3. Mr. Scott Hay, Local Senior Officer for Highland of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, attended the meeting at the request of SCC following the receipt of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Highland 2014 – 2017. The consultation period officially closed on 14th February but comments and feedback are still welcome. Once the Local Plan has been approved by Highland Council, an Annual Plan will be produced. The Cannich Fire Service is holding an Open Day on Saturday 1st March from 10am until 2pm. Please come along and learn more about the service as more volunteers are needed for the local service to be at the ideal strength of 10 members. There is no upper age limit for volunteers. Fitness levels are the same as for full-time officers. Basic First Aid training is also given. Reassurance was given that Retained Fire Services are not to be closed and no compulsory redundancies are expected.
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Edward Redmond proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by Robin Sproull and agreed by the committee.
5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:
* Public Access Defibrillators (PAD): The PAD which the Shinty Club has was supplied by the charity ‘Lucky2BHere’. An article was also in the Inverness Courier on 14th February. It has been suggested that the SCC approach this charity for another three PAD’s. The Charity was set up in 2007 after Ross Cowie survived a cardiac arrest because an ambulance with life saving equipment was nearby. They do not charge for providing all the PAD equipment, cabinet, or training but do ask for donations. (The Shinty Club has a match this Saturday and will be fund raising for this charity then.) There is some funding already raised for local health care which can be passed to this charity if we are successful in our bid. The Community has to identify suitable locations – suggestions were: the Nurse’s House in Cannich, Struy Inn, Post Office in Tomich but we have to get approval from the owners for this use. The Community also has to identify a minimum of ten people for training and annual refresher training; two contacts are needed to ensure that the PAD’s remain ready for use at all times; local signage and publicity of the PAD’s would also be required. The SCC agreed to make further enquiries about this proposal.
* Street Light Trial Tomich: Highland Council (HC) had intended to give us about two weeks notice of the start of this trial but due to unforeseen circumstances this did not happen and the trial began on 28th January. The trial should operate for a year and then they will review any comments/feedback from the Tomich residents.
* Thanks for assistance with flooding near Tomich were sent to HC as requested and they responded by informing us that they were due clear debris from the culvert that day (22nd Jan.)
* A SCC response to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill was sent to the Scottish Government.
* Protection of Mac Coll Road square. HC have advised that the landowner needs to make the application to the Queen Elizabeth Fields Challenge. This will be progressed.
1. Soirbheas: nothing specific to report, the agenda for the meeting of 13th February noted the resignation of Ian Campbell as Director and Treasurer, with Donna Green taking on both these roles. Her former role as Community Development Officer has been taken on by Carol Masheter.
2. Planning Applications: Application made for a garage and flat to be built at the Stables at Guisachan; New house near Dunedin and rebuilding of Scott’s Cottage at Fasnakyle have been approved in principle. Retention of access tracks to the Beauly-Denny line from Kerrow & Guisachan has been requested. Many similar requests have been granted but this one is receiving many objections. The submission for a house behind Strathglass View has been withdrawn.
3. Police Beat Report: no report received. Later learned that Karen MacKenzie had been off ill.
4. Beinn Mhor (Tomich) Wind Farm proposal:
* SCC has been registered with HC as a Statutory Consultee
* Copies of some letters sent to wpd, Highland Councillors etc have been received by SCC
* ‘Glen Affric Friends Say No’ protest group very active locally
* Wpd have submitted a ‘Proposal of Application for Beinn Mhor wind farm’ to HC on 15th Jan. 2014
* Wpd are to hold a Public Exhibition in Cannich Hall on 12th March
* SCC have purchased a copy of the Edited Electoral Register – covering the SCC area
* Ballot and Information sheet have been drafted
* Quite a lot of time has been spent considering how best to operate a ballot
* Very heated discussions took place as to if or when to conduct a ballot in view of the Public meeting on 12th March and Protest meeting on 16th March. Consideration for using Community Energy Scotland to handle the ballot returns was not acceptable to some members of the protest group.
* The ‘No Campaign’ has signed up over 100 local voting residents in about three weeks of action.
* We were advised that HC would give most weight to individual, locally addressed letters of objection (or support) or a properly run ballot. A list of names or a petition would carry least weight with the planning committee. There is no point in writing to HC to object until the planning application has been lodged.
* There was no prompt show of hands in favour of conducting a ballot although SCC has said for many months that this is what we would do to assess the true level of public opinion.
* It was agreed that if the ‘No Campaign’ could collect the names of 200 Strathglass residents as evidence that the majority of local opinion was against the proposed development, no ballot would be required.
1. Green Highland Renewables: nothing further to report.
2. Community Council Pilot Project: nothing further to report.
3. Treasurer’s Report: The only transaction since the last meeting was to spend £15 for the Edited Electoral Register.
4. Correspondence:
* Ribbon of Wildness Trilogy: we have been contacted regarding three books about Scotland and the wild areas.
* FCS: since our last meeting, the car parking charges have been reported in the press, although no specific start date was mentioned. The number of sites for charging have been reduced from four to two. A further meeting of the partnership group is planned for March.
* The SCC has been consulted on ‘Scotland’s third National Planning Framework & Scottish Planning Policy’. The latest information is that these have now been laid before the Scottish Parliament (14th Jan) and are subject to 60 day Parliamentary scrutiny.
* SSE sustainable Development Fund – the poster was displayed, applications closed on 15th Feb.
* Notification from FCS about work to be carried out to repair flood damage etc. in Gleann na Ciche and the track from Glen Affric to Athnamulloch before mid-march.
* IACCF: minutes of meeting 19th Nov. and Agenda for 25th Feb. SCC to send apologies.
* SAC Consulting: offer support for communities with regards to renewable energy projects.
* Local Energy Scotland: similar to the above.
* Plunkett Scotland: two organisations have merged. They offer help to rural communities to run services for themselves e.g. Community Shop, or Community Pub etc.
* Scouts & Girl Guides: Inverness Gang show at Eden Court in April. Posters have been put up.
* David Stewart MSP speaking at Glenmoriston Town House Hotel …… tonight!
* Scottish Water: Public meeting at the Town House on Wed. 12th March to discuss its performance and future plans. From 5.30pm
1. A.O.C.B.
* Mr. Revel of Community Payback is keen for any requests for work to be done to be made to him.
* The Seagull Trust is to send posters out to us soon.
1. The leaking Grit bin opposite the Village shop has been reported to HC.
2. Dates and times of future meetings :

Thursday 3rd April Thursday 15th May Thursday 26th June & AGM