**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25th June 2014, at approx. 7.45pm, Cannich Village Hall**

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

Apologies: Cllr. Hamish Wood

The Chair, Mrs. Doyle welcomed all those in attendance.

1. The meeting was informed of the recent death of Valerie Pocock who had been Secretary to the SCC in the past. A period of respectful silence followed to reflect on her life. Our condolences will be sent.
2. Heiko Kling of wpd attended in place of Keith Bale to update the SCC on the planning application for the Beinn Mhor Wind Farm and to introduce Ms. Robin Duval who is the new Community Engagement Manager for wpd. Consultation now closed. SNH have not objected. Aviation lights to be infra-red. It is hoped to set up a transport liaison group after the summer involving wpd, GUCC, SCC, HC Roads Dept and Police.
3. Minutes of Previous Meetings: Donald Fraser proposed the adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 14th May, seconded by Robin Sproull and approved by the council. James Seatter proposed the adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 11th June, seconded by Robin Sproull and approved by the council.
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

* Public Access Defibrillators (PAD): It was agreed to run a coffee morning to raise funds**.**
* Protection of Mac Coll Road square: Ballot to be carried out soon.

1. Co-option of Mrs. Joyce Stirling approved as part of the AGM.
2. Soirbheas: The AGM will be held on tomorrow at 7.30pm at Balnain, all members invited.
3. Planning Applications: New application: Neil Armstrong to erect house and garage on land E of Mid Crochail Cannich. Renewed applications: Raymond Wallace to erect 1½ storey house on land NE of Lodge Cottage Fasnakyle; Andrew Castell to erect self-contained 1 bedroom dwelling and garage at The Old Stables Tomich; Christine Noble to erect house on land 40m W of Hill House Kerrow. No applications granted.
4. Police Beat Report: No report. We have an updated list of Police personnel for our ward.
5. Strathglass Community Fund: Letter of support for the hydro developments to be sent to GHR was agreed unanimously by the council.
6. Local Empowerment: Very little in the way of fault reporting recently. Two Community Councillors attended a recent Budget Forum run by Highland Council who need to save £64 million over the next four years. Only 15% of HC funding comes from Council Taxes. There are opportunities for communities to take over some tasks such as clearing paths of snow, clearing ditches, cutting verges and cutting grass in cemeteries. The Community Challenge Fund may be a suitable source of funding to assist with this. Community needs to be committed, before talking to HC. Potential for local jobs.
7. FCS Deer Control Contract: Two public meetings have been held but only three men have all qualifications required and they cannot all commit to full-time support for a local contract. Cllr. Davidson suggested a Public meeting be held in the autumn with FCS and others to look at wider community ownership of land and community involvement in managing it.
8. Beinn Mhor Wind Farm proposal: Some discussion about the precise wording used on the SCC response to the Planning Application for Beinn Mhor Wind Farm. Cllrs. Carmichael and Davidson offered to take advice from the Planning Department and liaise with SCC. This was agreed by the council.

* E-mail from Jonathon Broome, owner of Mealbane Cottage, Tomich but resident in Edinburgh, received 2nd June. A further e-mail received on 18th June where he states that the results of the ballot ‘means that what he had to say in earlier letter has become academic in the context of the decision making on this particular planning application’. The SCC need no longer give consideration to what he said in earlier letter.

1. A letter from Mr. Campbell to Mr. Redmond dated 18th May 2014 indicated that he and some others felt that Mr. Redmond had offended them when he referred to letters from members of the community complaining about the GAFSN campaign. Although Mr. Redmond did not mention any names, some people, including Mr. Campbell felt offended for which Mr. Redmond apologised.
2. Treasurer’s Report: No receipts since last meeting. A payment of £30.00 was made for the meeting room hire related to the Wind Farm Planning Application. The SCC has committed £600.00 to partially fund the Ballot so has £94.20 uncommitted.

The SCC has successfully applied for grants from Soirbheas: £300 for the Christmas Lunch for the Elderly and £424.15 for the planting and hanging baskets in the three villages.

1. Correspondence:

Cold call Control Zone Project: aims to empower people to say ‘No’ to doorstep traders. Would need to fund it ourselves. Not seen as a problem locally, so no further action.

FCS Harvesting at Knockfin: notice has been on Tomich noticeboard.

Letter from Ian Campbell 23rd May: ongoing dispute about meeting and minutes from 3rd April.

Fifth review of Local Govt. Electoral Arrangements: Consultation on proposal to amend numbers of Councillors in each Council area ends 21st August. Highland would lose 8 Councillors under these proposals. It was agreed to respond requesting that geography and large road distances in rural areas be considered as much as population density for urban councils.

Community Challenge Fund: already referred to.

Letter received 10th June, signed by over 20 members of the community: in support of the Community Council.

e-mail 11th June from Soirbheas/Scottish Govt.: re Emergency Food Fund. Does not seem to apply to SCC.

e-mail 12th June Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill launched that day.

e-mail 16th June from M. Oosterwijk: complaint about SCC response on HC Planning website

e-mail 20th June from M. Oosterwijk: complaint about my response on 20th June to the above.

Website problem resolved within 24 hours of my reporting it.

e-mail 18th June from M. Oosterwijk: complaint that no minutes of 11th June meeting available.

e-mail 20th June from M. Oosterwijk: complaint that I had not replied to e-mail of 18th June.

e-mail 20th June from M. Oosterwijk: complaint about my reply of 20th June.

Update on Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan, 18th June. Can be viewed on HC website.

Request from HC for updated Community Councillors contact details: for internal HC use only and really only need details for Office Bearers. HLR to supply information.

Free Photographic exhibition 1st to 4th August at Drumnadrochit Hotel 10am until 7pm “On Your Doorstep: Glen Affric”.

1. A.O.C.B.

It was agreed that the SCC give £50.00 on the retirement of Mrs. Eleanor Glennie from Cannich Bridge Primary School.

Cannich Recreation Park: are asking for the SCC to apply to Soirbheas on their behalf for funding for a couple of BMX obstacles. They also plan to build a simple dirt track on the extra land leased to them. This application would fall into Tier 2 for Soirbheas, for which an organisation can only make one application per year. It was agreed to defer approval for this project until other projects, if any, are considered

Soirbheas wish to prepare a baseline of Community Assets: so that they can monitor the impact of their funding support over the next 5 – 10 years. Playpark owned by HC with SCC having leased a small additional strip from SSE; Hall now owned by SACC; Playing Fields, leased from SSE; social housing – to be clarified.

Some of the trees in the SSE woodland in Cannich appear to be unsafe. SCC to contact the relevant people.

Cllr. Davidson updated the SCC with news that the Amanda Graham has been made the permanent Head Teacher and new teachers have been appointed for the new school year.

Cllr. Carmichael thanked the residents who assisted with the Highland Cross on 21st June. Beauly & District Care Project will be a recipient from the funds raised this year. A mini bus will be provided to aid the Lunch Club run each Monday, and for shopping trips etc. A Men’s Shed project is being considered.

1. Questions or Contributions from the Public present. Nothing further.
2. Dates and times of future meetings :

As on the Agenda until Hall Bookings confirmed. Next meeting Wednesday 6th August 2014