**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December 2014, at 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

Present: Donald Fraser, Robin Sproull, James Seatter, Edward Redmond, Heather Redmond, Cllr. Helen Carmichael and approx. seventeen members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Margaret Davidson, Molly Doyle.

In the absence of Molly Doyle, Robin Sproull, Vice Chair welcomed all those in attendance and chaired the meeting.

1. Robin Sproull opened the meeting by reporting that Joyce Stirling had tendered her resignation from the Community Council for personal reasons. This was reluctantly accepted and thanks expressed for her contribution.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (29th October): Edward Redmond proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by James Seatter and approved by the council.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

* Public Access Defibrillators (PAD): No feedback from ‘lucky2behere’. We need to find an electrician to do the installations.
* Protection of Mac Coll Road square: Still awaiting a response as to the way forward.
* Community Newsletter: This is progressing with contacts being made for potential sponsorship and contribution of articles as well as plan for publication dates.
* Grit bin opposite the Cannich village shop has been replaced.
* SCC responded to HC Budget Consultation before the closing date.
* Community telescope nothing further to report as yet.
* IACCF meeting of 18th Nov.: main speakers cancelled so SCC did not attend. Next meeting 17th Feb. 2015.
* Old Toilet Block Cannich: potential for change of use, awaiting reply from Highland Council.
* Damaged Noticeboard at Struy, confirmed as SCC property. It was agreed to ask John Gordon to look at this. Cllr. Carmichael, advised that the Ward Discretionary Fund may be able to cover the costs.
* SSE has been contacted about the Chapel woods but no reply as yet.
* World Orienteering Championships are taking place in the Glen Affric area in August 2015. Ian Mure has more information available if you wish to contact him direct.
* Fibre Optic Broadband: Reply received from HIE “Rollout in the Beauly, Muir of Ord and Kiltarlity exchange areas is underway with cabinets going live in early 2015. Cannich, Struy and Glenurquhart exchange areas will see coverage in the second half of 2015. Please note that not every premises in these areas will be upgraded and that the rollout may be in several phases. The timetable I have given above is when the initial phase of work begins and not when all premises are live.”

1. Planning Applications: One new planning application: SSE applied to install 11,000volt overhead line on land 100m south of Tomich Cottage Tomich. No applications were granted or refused since last meeting.
2. Police Beat Report: One Road Traffic Collision reported in Strathglass area. Speed checks have been conducted outside the school, three drivers were warned regarding minor infringements, no fixed penalties were issued. No other reports made. The community is reminded that as of 1minute past midnight on Friday 5th December, the blood alcohol limit for driving reduces from 80mg/100ml to 50mg/100ml. Police Sgt. Stuart wished to stress that there is NO safe drink drive limit. If you drink, please do not drive.
3. Treasurer’s Report: One cheque issued since our last meeting, £62.50 for Hall hire for Christmas lunch. Available funds £832.61. The Community Council will need to fund approx.. £100 worth of plants for the hanging baskets and planters around the villages as some items were bought before the grant was formally approved by Soirbheas.
4. Local Empowerment: water running down the road in Glen Cannich reported on 5th Nov. Ditches have been cleared since.
5. Update on Beauly Cares and Mens Shed: The Mens Shed in Beauly officially began on Friday 28th Nov. in the old Shinty Pavilion. Meetings are every Friday morning 10am. No fees, just £1 for coffee! Open to SCC residents. First project is to make the premises wind and watertight.

Beauly Cares: received a cheque for £51,000 at a presentation last week. This will purchase a minibus provided by Highland Cross. Cllr. Carmichael thanked all those who help with the Highland Cross year after year.

1. Correspondence:

* The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice: sent survey via Highland Council 11th Nov. to be completed by 19th Dec. It was agreed not to complete this.
* Reaching High: Health & Social Care event at HC Friday 16th Jan. 2015 10.30am to 2.30pm.
* Various e-mails between Jenny Stirling and myself requesting copies of letters.
* Various e-mails and letters between Ian Campbell, myself and Molly Doyle regarding the reading of the anonymous letter at the last meeting.
* 7th Nov. Letter & poster from Mary Scanlon MSP: surgery in Beauly 21st Nov.
* 11th Nov. Letter from Force 9 Energy: Introducing Cnoc an Eas wind farm project above Loch Meiklie and Public Exhibition Dates including Cannich Wed. 26th Nov.
* 14th Nov. Copy of letter from GAFSN to The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman outlining their complaints against SCC and HC. An article in the Inverness Courier 2nd Dec. would indicate that the Ombudsman is not taking the matter any further.
* 25th Nov. e-mail from HC Independent Members Group with a copy of the Press Release on the subject of HC Budget.
* 1st Dec. e-mail from wpd, no-one available to attend meeting this evening but they report that they have undertaken a tree survey of the access route and the report is available on the HC planning portal. The planning application is now expected to be determined on 20th January 2015.

1. A.O.C.B.

* Pensioner’s Christmas Lunch in the Hall on Wednesday 17th Dec. 12.30pm
* Highlands & Islands Tourism Awards 2014. Best Holiday Accommodation Category was won by Mike & Pawana Spencer-Nairn for Eagle Brae. Congratulations.
* SCC Nomination for HC Quality Award was won by our Wheelie Bin Team who were presented with the award at a reception in the Town House in early Nov. Congratulations to them as well.
* Donald Fraser (Carrie) thanked the community for their support for the recent Shinty Sale of Work which raised approx.. £1700.

1. Questions or Contributions from the Public present.

* Mr. Frank Spencer-Nairn gave a brief report on the new Tourism BID which has existed locally for about six months. He will attend the January meeting to give a fuller explanation.
* Question raised about studs which have appeared on some trees in the Tomich area. SCC have no knowledge of them and would suggest contacting the land owner.

1. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 14th January 2015 Wednesday 25th February

Wednesday 1st April Wednesday 13th May

Wednesday 24th June

Wishing all of Strathglass a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

HLR 16th Dec.2014