**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2015, at 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

Present: Molly Doyle, Donald Fraser, James Seatter, Edward Redmond, Heather Redmond, Cllr. Drew Hendry and approx. seven members of the public.

In Attendance: Mr. Frank Spencer-Nairn, PC Scott Maclean

Apologies: Robin Sproull, Cllrs. Margaret Davidson, Hamish Wood & Helen Carmichael.

Molly Doyle, welcomed all those in attendance especially considering the weather conditions.

1. Mr. Frank Spencer-Nairn outlined the history and role of the **Inverness and Loch Ness Tourism Business** **Improvement District** (Uniqueness Tourism BID) of which he is a Board member. It is a semi Statutory body with some similarities to the old Area Tourist Boards. This is the first Tourism BID in Scotland. The local Tourism BID came into existence following a ballot a year ago and will remain for at least another four years when another ballot will be held. It represents over 370 tourism businesses in the area to deliver: increased visitor numbers; increased length of stay; increased visitor spend; improved sustainability of tourism businesses; new jobs; and improved visitor experience. This is to be done by more effective marketing and competition with other tourism destinations. The Tourism BID will fund and deliver projects and activities at the core of tourism. All tourism businesses are automatically members and fees apply, voluntary membership is also available. It is very IT focussed and a new website is due in March 2015. Examples of activities so far: networking lunches; 2015 is the Year of Food and Drink; World Orienteering Championships; Affric-Kintail Way. Partnership working is the aim e.g. SCC, Heritage Groups. Opportunities exist for training, transport and access to broadband. Molly thanked Frank for his presentation and hoped he would return in the future to keep us updated on progress.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (3rd December): Donald Fraser proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by James Seatter and approved by the council.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:
* Community Newsletter: Possible contributors have been contacted requesting articles by Sunday 25th January and the first Edition is hoped to be available by 15th February. Quotes for printing are reasonable. Jan Rothe mentioned that she had an old copy of a previous Strathglass Newsletter and one of the school’s newsletters.
* Community telescope & Observatory. We can only make one (successful) application to Soirbheas Tier 2 funding in each financial year. The closing date for the last round this year is at the end of March. It was agreed to contact Sue Mann with regards to the Bike Ramp and Julia Wait with regards to the Observatory to see whether we can support one or the other this year, rather than waste an opportunity.
* Old Toilet Block Cannich: Cllr. Hendry offered to chase this up.
* Damaged Noticeboard at Struy: Mr. John Gordon has agreed to get a quote to replace this.
1. Planning Applications: Three new planning applications: renewal (Nov. 2010) of Mrs. E. Balharry application to build a house in the grounds of The Croft, Tomich; HC erection of Nursery Accommodation at Cannich Bridge Primary school; Craskie Estate, Glen Cannich for 8 camping pods, amenity block, car park and upgrading of bridge. One application granted: SSE to install 11,000volt overhead line on land 100m south of Tomich Cottage Tomich.
2. Police Beat Report: PC Maclean reported one complaint of theft of heating oil from Tomich. The issue of speeding through Struy may be more a matter of perception than fact. Times of potential incidents would be a help so that monitoring could be at those times e.g. people going to or returning from work.
3. Treasurer’s Report: SCC has funded the planting projects over the summer to the value of £112.35 and the Soirbheas grant has been finalised. Funding of £300 from Soirbheas for the Pensioners Christmas lunch has been received. Uncommitted funds available for SCC amounts to £670.41.
* Appointment of Treasurer: It was agreed that Heather Redmond would act as Treasurer until the Community Council elections later this year.
* Appointment of Independent Examiner: It was agreed to ask Donna Green if she would perform this duty for the SCC.
1. Correspondence:
* 4th Dec. Cnoc an Eas Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report received.
* LEADER no grant allocation has been made as yet and the programme is not expected to be open until summer 2015. Cllr. Hendry advised to go ahead and make plans for bids and not to wait until the funding is settled.
* 9th Dec. e-mail from Ian Campbell re- disputed letters. It was agreed by SCC members to take no further action on this matter.
* 9th Dec. e-mail from HC: Consultation on the Future of land Reform in Scotland published by Scot. Govt 2nd Dec 2014. Approx. 50 page document with approx. 20 page consultation.
* 18th Dec. e-mail from HC: Digital Engagement workshop 30th Jan. in Edinburgh.
* 19th Dec. e-mail Newsletter from Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust.
* 5th Jan. e-mail from HC: Communities panel survey on HC website. It was agreed that Heather respond to this as she was the only SCC member who had accessed the website.
* 7th Jan. e-mail from HC requesting Contact Details for Consulting on Planning Applications. It was agreed that this is Robin Sproull.
* 8th Jan. e-mail from HC informing us of the planned site visit to the Beinn Mhor Wind farm site on Monday 19th Jan prior to the Planning Committee Meeting on Tuesday 20th Jan.
1. A.O.C.B.
* Several members present requested that the SCC write to thank the SSE for their prompt repairs and the Welfare van in the village during the recent power outage. This was agreed unanimously. Cllr. Hendry advised that all the emergency services responded well and worked together well. However, there is work going on to try to prevent such an event in the future. Cllr. Hendry offered to forward the letter to the appropriate bodies.
1. Questions or Contributions from the Public present.
2. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 25th February Wednesday 1st April

Wednesday 13th May Wednesday 24th June

HLR 28th Jan 2015