**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2015, at 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

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

In Attendance: PS Craig Stuart Apologies: Cllrs. Hamish Wood & Helen Carmichael.

Molly Doyle, welcomed all those in attendance.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting (14th January): Donald Fraser proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by Edward Redmond and approved by the council.
2. Matters Arising from the Minutes:
* Community Newsletter: The First edition of the ‘Glass Eye’ has now been published and many delivered around then SCC area. Volunteers to assist with delivery would be most welcome. Many thanks to Julia Wait for all her time and hard work. 300 copies have been printed for a total cost of £310 shared between SCC & SACC.
* Community Telescope & Observatory/Bike Ramp. No further information has been received for either project and the timescales to put a bid to Soirbheas in this financial year are not possible. We shall await further requests from either project if they choose to do so.
* Old Toilet Block Cannich: nothing further as yet.
* Damaged Noticeboard at Struy: Repair is not possible. As the bus shelter has been re-located to opposite The Struy Inn, it would appear to be a useful location for the noticeboard. Cllr. Davidson confirmed that Highland Council (HC) owned the bus shelter. It was agreed to enquire about the feasibility of such a plan.
* Independent Examiner: Donna Green has agreed to do this for us again this year.
1. Public Access Defibrillators: Have been in touch with Lucky2BHere and Pam Gowie the trainer. She works full time for NHS Highland so training has to be of an evening. The Hall is booked for Thursday 23rd April for training. Flyers have been distributed with the ‘Glass Eye’. They are happy to train every resident of SCC, above primary school age. **Your support is vital**.
2. Planning Applications: No new planning applications have been made since our last meeting. Two applications have been approved: Nursery Accommodation for Cannich Bridge Primary School; and alterations and refurbishment of Athnamulloch Bothy.
3. Police Beat Report: PS Stuart reported one minor RTC, no offences committed. He also reported that Police Scotland hope to recruit to the vacant posts at Fort Augustus. Although SCC is served from Muir of Ord, officers from Fort Augustus may cover the area from time to time.
4. Local Empowerment: SCC have written to TEC Services to thank them for the excellent service we have received with regards to pot holes, Fasnakyle Cemetery fencing, blocked drains and the gritting of footpaths. We are hopeful of receiving small, portable, wheeled distributors for sand/grit to make the gritting of the footpaths easier for the local volunteers.
5. Ward Forum 16th February: This included presentations by **Police Scotland** covering their Ward Plans – reviewing past performance and plans for the future. Similarly for the **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service** – Cannich Retained Fire Service is currently struggling to operate with five members when ideally they need ten. The good news is that a new Fire Appliance is due to be delivered to Cannich soon. The final presentation was by SSE and discussed the **Winter Weather Responses. SSE Power Distribution** are very keen to minimise any adverse effects of any power outages. They offer a Priority Services Register for vulnerable people so that they can prepare in advance of bad weather when a power outage may be expected. They offer a proforma to develop a Community Emergency plan as well as a Household Emergency Plan, as well as magnets with Emergency Telephone numbers and much more. It was agreed to invite them to attend a future meeting to discuss further.

Yesterday we received an e-mail from SSEPD outlining their Resilient Community Fund.

1. Treasurer’s Report: The grants from Soirbheas for the Hanging Baskets/Plantings and also the Pensioner’s Christmas Lunch have now been spent and settled. SCC paid £155 towards the printing costs of the ‘Glass Eye’. The Hall has been booked for the Emergency Life Support Training which is expected to cost £48.75. Hopefully some donations will mean that SCC does not have to pay this in full. This leaves the SCC with £466.51.

It was agreed to pay Molly Doyle £50 for Chair’s expenses.

It was agreed to pay Heather Redmond £120 for secretarial expenses and £250 as honorarium.

These expenses were proposed by Donald Fraser and seconded by Robin Sproull, in full agreement of the members.

This leaves the SCC with £46.51 uncommitted funds.

1. Correspondence:
* FCS Affric Partnership meeting of 21st January: progress is being made on a new website; a walking loop at Dog Falls that does not cross the road; Duathlon; Open Day to launch the Affric/Kintail Way. A local nursery and job is being investigated so that Trees for Life can grow trees from local seeds for FCS re-planting. If anyone knows of storm damage trees which are still blocking access routes, please get in touch with FCS. Accounts for the Car Parking charges are to follow.
* Letter from Force 9 Energy 15th Jan re Cnoc an Eas wind farm: currently considering possible changes to the design of the project. Further public exhibitions are planned around the time that the planning application is submitted which is likely to be in the spring.
* SCC website contact on 20th Jan. from a Commercial Business making Information Panels.
* E-mail from HC on 21st Jan. notifying us of the re-schedules site visit to Beinn Mhor wind farm on 23rd Feb.
* SCC website contact on 22nd Jan. from Charleston Academy seeking financial support for shinty. SCC declined to support this.
* E-mail from Mr. Campbell 25th Jan. disputing the decision taken at the SCC meeting in January.
* E-mail from HC Waste Management Officer 26th Jan. advising that paper and can banks will be phased out of the HC network of Recycling Points during Feb. & Mar.
* Copy of letter from wpd to HC of 30th Jan. expressing concern at further extension to planning determination.
* E-mail from IACCF 3rd Feb. with Minutes of last meeting and Agenda for next meeting.
* E-mail of 5th Feb. with details of ‘Planning Democracy’ conference in Glasgow on 25th April.
* Letter from Mr. Campbell 9th Feb. responding to a ‘placard’ on local notice boards.
* E-mail of 11th Feb. inviting people to a stakeholder event in Inverness on 18th Feb. on how further devolution from Westminster should work.
* E-mail from HC on 11th Feb. ‘Participatory Action Research Short Course’; 3 dates in March/April in Fort William to help get ideas into practice to improve health & wellbeing in your community.
* E-mail from HC on 11th Feb. Seminar about the North Highland Train Lines in Dingwall on 2nd March.
* E-mail from HC on 13th Feb. Pass it on Week 7-17th March: reducing waste by various means.
* E-mail from HC on 16th Feb. Creative Scotland and touring company. Details forwarded to SACC.
* E-mail from HC on 20th Feb. City Forum 26th March by Police Scotland. Poster on notice board.
* E-mail from wpd earlier today explaining that they have appealed to the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals as the site visit was cancelled again this week. Cllr. Davidson explained that this means the planning application will now be determined by a Reporter in Falkirk and that decision will be final. The process may take several months.
1. A.O.C.B.
* Mr. Redmond gave an update on the Glenurquhart Care Project and a proposal to work with Loch Ness Homes to build and own some sheltered and/or respite housing. It was agreed that SCC would write in support of this project.
* Cllr. Davidson advised that a new Policy on Onshore Wind Farms was expected in the near future. She was recommending that an officer from HC would come and present the key points, possibly as a Ward Forum rather than each CC just getting an e-mail to consider.
* Mr. F. Spencer-Nairn raised the matter of Deer Management specifically in Glenstrathfarrar. It was agreed that Mr. Spencer-Nairn would attend the next meeting to discuss this more fully and agree a method of keeping the SCC informed in future.
1. Questions or Contributions from the Public present.
* A member of the public reported some antisocial behaviour experienced locally. The SCC was saddened to hear of such behaviour. Cllr. Davidson advised reporting the incident(s) to the Police.
1. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 1st April Wednesday 13th May Wednesday 24th June HLR 27th Feb.2015