**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2015, at 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

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

In Attendance: PC Scott MacLean; Mo Bates, George MacDonald, Shona Horn all from SSE.

Apologies: none received

Molly Doyle, welcomed all those in attendance.

1. A presentation was given by those attending from Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD). This outlined their role and gave an overview of the storms experienced in January 2015. SSE are keen to work with communities to prepare a Community Emergency Plan which would cover any emergency, not just electricity related. SHEPD has set up a Resilient Communities Fund with grants available for projects or equipment to help a community in an emergency situation. The Scottish Govt. has set out an 80 page Community Plan but SSE have reduced this considerably. They have also prepared a two page Household Emergency Plan for guidance. It was agreed to form a small working party to work on a Strathglass Community Emergency Plan. Whilst SSE are aware of and regularly monitor HV lines, if residents are aware of potential problems with LV lines e.g. trees nearby, please let them know.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (25th February): Donald Fraser proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by Edward Redmond and approved by the council.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

* Community Newsletter: Second edition now being prepared, so if you have any items to submit, please get in touch with Alan Hood.
* Old Toilet Block Cannich: still ongoing.
* Damaged Noticeboard at Struy: still ongoing
* Public Access Defibrillators: thank you to all those who attended for training on 23rd April. A cheque for £4,400 was handed over and we received three defibrillators. Arrangements are being made for their installation.

1. Deer Management Plan for Glen Strathfarrar and Affric & Kintail: New Deer Management plans are being prepared and will be in place in March 2016 when the previous plans expire. It was agreed that Donald Fraser (Carrie) would keep the SCC informed on these matters.
2. Planning Applications: Three new applications: conversion of part of agricultural building to create office at Black Parks Tomich, Cannich; conversion of existing PO and adjoining rooms to form PO with farm and coffee shop in Tomich, Cannich; erection of log cabin for staff accommodation (for Brad Collins of Cannich PO and Stores) on land 25m east of Slaters Arms, Cannich. Decisions made: 1 ¾ storey house at Higher Crochail Cannich – granted; renewal of application for a house and garage near Crunaglack, Struy – granted.
3. Police Beat Report: PC MacLean gave the latest report: speed checks in Cannich resulted in three drivers being warned regarding their speed; two hill walkers rescued from Loch Mullardoch area by Dundonnell Mountain Rescue; one FCS staff member rescued from Glen Affric when he did not return to his car when expected. A ‘No Wind Farm’ banner had been moved but there was no theft or damage. One PC is due to join Fort Augustus Police Office on 15th June, the other post has been re-advertised with a closing date of 12th May. “Beat Doorstep Crime” booklets available.
4. Treasurer’s Report: Chair’s Expenses of £50 paid; Secretary’s Honorarium of £250 and expenses allowance of £120 have been paid. Donations of £4013.70 towards the Defibrillators and training have been received, expenses of £22.75 and donation of £4,400 have been paid. Uncommitted funds available to the SCC amount to £207.76

Grant Applications: It is not intended that Soirbheas would make repeat allocations to applicants. It was agreed to make further enquiries as funding for plants and hanging baskets would need to sourced soon. Please be advised that any purchases made prior to any funding being agreed would be unlikely to be honoured by any grant provider. It was agreed to discuss with the TRA whether they should make their own funding applications for hanging baskets.

1. Glenurquhart Care Project Stakeholder Group. This group will meet every few months to try to establish the needs of older people as many older people do not see themselves as old or in need of help. It is possible that some housing may be built near the GCP in Drumnadrochit as amenity housing for older people and also for respite care so that unpaid carers can get a break.
2. Award winning Local People and Businesses: the SCC wish to acknowledge and congratulate the following: Ronan Melens (15) from Struy and Charleston Academy won the Inverness Culloden Rotary Club Masterchef event; Amanda Leask won Crufts National award with her rehomed dog from Thailand; and Michael and Pawana Spencer-Nairn for Eagle Brae winning the Best Holiday Accommodation at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards 2014.
3. Planning for Onshore Wind Energy in Highland: Consultation paper. Joint Ward Forum at Invermoriston Wed. 13th May. Deadline for comments has been moved back to 22nd May. Please forward comments to Secretary asap for an SCC response to be submitted.
4. Correspondence:

* IACCF minutes of February meeting. Next meeting 19th May.
* New Fire Appliance presented in Cannich on 9th March.
* Inverness West District partnership meeting held on 20th March.
* BT are offering unwanted Telephone Boxes to be ‘adopted’ by local people.
* Official opening of Affric Kintail Way held in Hall on 17th April.
* Further Public meetings about Cnoc an Eas Wind Farm, Glenurquhart held 25th & 26th March.
* E-mail 16th March. Stagecoach have introduced a weekly (Saturday) bus service from the city to Torvean Kilvean Cemetery.
* Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust – looking for land for affordable homes. Decision to be made ‘soon’ and e-mail sent 18th March, so probably too late for now, but this crops up sporadically.
* E-mail 30th March. Highland LEADER update: it is hoped that the programme will open for expressions of interest in late summer.
* E-mail 1st April. FCS sent updates on work over the Easter period.
* E-mail 2nd April. Mr. Campbell and GAFSN
* E-mail 2nd April. IACCF copy of communications with Fergus Ewing on the Option 6 contoversy.
* E-mail 10th April. HC Development Plans Newsletter.
* E-mail 20th April. Co-Hydrover Developments Ltd re- FCS micro hydro scheme in Glen Cannich (Allt A Ghlais Choire).
* E-mail 24th April. Wpd – Beinn Mhor application at appeal. HC expected to submit further information by 6th May and then wpd have opportunity to respond. SCC suggested no point in attending our meeting today.
* Notice of Public meeting at Balnain on 4th May regarding Cnoc an Eas windfarm.
* E-mail 29th April. National Confidential Forum seeking to enable people who spent time in institutional care as children to come forward and share their experiences.
* E-mail 4th May. Soirbheas holding a ‘Birthday Party’ to celebrate one year of providing grants to the communitites.

1. A.O.C.B.

* Toilets at the Hall are open from 7am until 7pm, but sometimes people only try the door near the keypad which remains locked and they do not realise the other door is open.

1. Questions or Contributions from the Public present.

* Tomich road has significant problems with potholes, ditches clogged with tree debris etc. These issues will be reported to HC via the Local Empowerment system.

1. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 24th June and AGM HLR 12th May 2015