**Strathglass Community Council** (SCC)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12th August 2015, 7.30pm, Cannich Village Hall**

Present: Molly Doyle, James Seatter, Edward Redmond, Heather Redmond, Robin Sproull, Cllr. Helen Carmichael and approx. eleven members of the public.

In Attendance: Carol Masheter (Soirbheas); Dr. Sam Harrison (The Shieling Project, Struy)

Apologies: Donald Fraser (Carrie), Cllrs.Margaret Davidson, and member of Police Scotland

Molly Doyle, welcomed all those in attendance.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting (24th June): Edward Redmond proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by Robin Sproull and approved by the council.
2. Minutes of the AGM (24th June): These would usually be approved at the next AGM but as we face Community Council elections and may not be in office next year, HC advice is to approve them now with a note included giving the reason. James Seatter proposed the adoption of the minutes of the AGM, seconded by Edward Redmond and approved by the council.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

* Damaged Noticeboard at Struy/new Bus Shelter: HC had the Struy bus shelter on its list for renewal and the new style would include an integral noticeboard which the SCC can use. As of 29th June, the order for the new shelter had been placed with an expected delivery time of six to ten weeks.
* Public Access Defibrillators: An electrician has been contacted and has visited Tomich to assess the requirements of the job. Have not been able to obtain a quote as yet.
* Newsletter: Due to circumstances beyond our control, the next edition of the newsletter has been delayed.
* Nominations to become a Community Councillor need to be received by HC between Tues 22nd September Friday 2nd October.
* The problem of the Trees at Fasnakyle Cemetery was reported to HC on 3rd July. No reply as yet.
* Kerrow Road closure: update from Cllr. Davidson – the bridge is very unsafe, signage has been amended to help local businesses. Funding has been approved for the repairs/replacement and it is now at the design stage. It is anticipated that the work will be done this financial year, maybe before Christmas.

1. Police Beat Report: PC Maclean called away but report sent through – 2 RTC’s; 2 issues of overdue hill walkers in Glen Affric area, all returning safe and well; no alcohol or antisocial behaviour incidents reported; 2 chainsaws taken from shed in Tomich, enquiries ongoing.

Mention was made of a theft from a garden in Cannich, the person affected was advised to report this to the Police.

1. Planning Applications: one new planning application: installation of a run of the river hydro scheme at Glassburn House, Strathglass.

The SCC has also been notified that the planning application for the Cnoc an Eas Wind Farm in Glen Urquhart comprising 13 turbines has been lodged with HC. The SCC agreed to make no formal response. A full copy of the submission has been received by SCC.

1. Tomich Street Light Trial: HC had advised that a review would be carried out after 12 months, now nearer 18 months. They are to work out what the financial and carbon savings have been and this will be fed back to residents with another survey to decide future action.
2. Local Empowerment: four main areas reported since last meeting. 1) Potholes on road from Struy to Mauld bridge (now repaired) and shrubbery on bridge edges. 2) Grass verges on all roads especially single track roads – letter received from HC explaining that the criteria for verge cutting are: road sign visibility, junction visibility and selected bends with evidence of previous accidents. 3) Pot holes and road edges on A831 Cannich to Ivy Cottage (Beauly direction). 4) Green light at Cannich Bridge leaving village.

Request to FCS to improve road from Tomich to Plodda has been actioned very recently.

1. Community Emergency Plan: Alan Hood and Heather Redmond attended a half-day workshop run by SSE in July. As a result Alan has put in a bid for a variety of things the main one being to enable the Hall to be linked to an emergency generator should it be required. Our thanks to Alan for doing all this work. During the workshop we began to write our plan and SSE offered to type it up, it is still with them.
2. Soirbheas: Carol Masheter presented some of the results from the six months research conducted into the needs of the very young & families, young people, elderly and vulnerable people in our communities. Some common themes of lack of transport, communication difficulties, as well as lack of childcare in Cannich and keeping safe on-line. A ‘Club and Volunteer’ night is planned for 6th October and work is continuing on a 5-year delivery plan.
3. Dr. Sam Harrison from The Shieling Project in Struy attended to update the community on this project. Currently they are providing day trips for school children but are working towards week-long stays. They are also providing a training course for teachers and will be holding an Archaeology dig in September.
4. Treasurer’s Report: Grant of £131 received from Soirbheas for planters in Cannich and Struy, £76.43 spent so far. The only other payment made has been £48 for the Hall for meetings. Uncommitted funds stand at £159.76. Grant from HC still awaited.

It was agreed to put in a grant bid for the Pensioner’s Christmas lunch.

1. Correspondence:

* E-mail 25th June: application required by 8th July to SSE to address fuel poverty.
* Website enquiry 26th June: seeking volunteer Community Champions against mental health discrimination, asked for posters but person then on holiday.
* Inverness Courier 26th June: additional items for waste recycling: aerosol cans, cardboard food and drink cartons, envelopes.
* E-mail 26th June from HC with Police Scotland: Leaflets ‘Bogus Tradesmen’ available.
* E-mail 9th July from FCS: update from liaison group – completion of making safe the Plodda walks following storms in Jan.; Plodda access road improvements to be made; harvesting in Upper Guisachan to commence shortly; mounding machines in Glen Cannich to start first phase of montane woodlands restoration.
* E-mail 9th July from HC: Highpoints – new online magazine for HC: [www.highland.gov.uk/highpoints](http://www.highland.gov.uk/highpoints). This edition includes a picture and article following our successful nomination of the ‘scaffy men’ for a Quality Award last year.
* E-mail 9th July from DPEA: Beinn Mhor Wind Farm – the appeal has been dismissed and planning permission refused.
* E-mail 27th July: survey of changes to Police Counter Services. Completed in time for 4th July.
* Letter 29th July from Local Govt. Boundary Commission for Scotland. Fifth Review: no changes to Aird & Loch Ness Boundary proposed nor changes to the number of Councillors.
* Letter 7th August from wpd confirming DPEA decision of 9th July.
* E-mails from Jenny Stirling 9-11th August asking why wpd were not attending meeting
* E-mail 11th August from Jackie Whitaker asking if SCC was involved in a complaint about their fence.
* E-mail 12th August from HC: Community Councils and Data Protection. To be investigated further.

1. A.O.C.B.: Congratulations to Margaret Davidson on becoming Leader of HC and to Helen Carmichael on becoming Provost. Elections will take place on 8th October to replace Drew Hendry.
2. Questions or Contributions from the Public present. Nothing raised
3. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 16th September

Wednesday 28th October

Wednesday 9th December – for the new Community Council to elect Office Bearers and hold its first meeting

HLR 25th August 2015