**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2015 at 7:40 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

**Present:** Ian Campbell, Nigel Ellis (Chair), Kay Graham, Alan Hood, Paul Stirling (arrived at 7:50 pm).

**Apologies:** None

**In Attendance:** Cllr Jean Davies and twelve members of the public.

1. Nigel Ellis took the Chair, noted that there was a quorum, welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open. He noted that no Conflicts of Interest had been declared.
2. Co-opted Members: Ian Campbell proposed that Annette Sutherland should be invited to join the Community Council as a Co-opted Member. This was seconded by Kay Graham and unanimously approved. Ms Sutherland, who was in attendance, accepted the invitation and was duly appointed as a Co-opted Member of SCC. Following a short discussion regarding the potential and/or need for the appointment of a further Co-opted Member it was agreed that no action should be taken in this regard at this time.
3. Roles and Responsibilities of Members: After due discussion and consideration the following responsibilities were assigned.

Bank Signatories – Nigel Ellis (Chair), Ian Campbell (Secretary) and Alan Hood (Treasurer) with any two to sign jointly. Mr Campbell volunteered to download the necessary Change of Mandate Forms and follow through to get the necessary changes made.

Website Maintenance – Ian Campbell

SCC e-mail account – All

Forestry Liaison Group – Paul Stirling

Deer Management Group – Paul Stirling

Planning Application Monitor – Alan Hood

Community Council Forum – It was agreed that attendance at the Community Council Forum would be decided on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

Other Community Groups – Annette Sutherland agreed to represent SCC at Glenurquhart Care Centre Stakeholder meetings. It was agreed that SCC attendance at Soirbheas Board meetings was desirable but it was not considered necessary to seek SCC representation on the Soirbheas Board.

The Secretary was asked to investigate the possibilities for each SCC member to have their own ‘SCC’ e-mail address to avoid having to use their personal e-mail addresses for SCC correspondence.

1. Handover Actions and Responsibilities: The Chair noted that these had been covered under the previous agenda item. The former Secretary, Heather Redmond, advised that the defibrillator matter was completed but the matter of the Tomich street light trial was still to be closed. The most recent ballot had been in favour of having normal lighting restored and Ms Redmond undertook to advise Highland Council accordingly. Ms Redmond also advised that Donellen Mackenzie of the NHS would like to attend the next SCC meeting to talk about the former Nurse’s House in Cannich and it was agreed that Ms Redmond would contact Ms MacKenzie to invite her to the next SCC meeting.
2. Meeting Schedule for 2016: The meeting schedule for 2016 was agreed as follows:

 Wednesday January 20th Wednesday June 29th

 Wednesday March 2nd Wednesday August 31st

 Wednesday April 13th Wednesday October 12th

 Wednesday May 25th Wednesday November 23rd

All meetings to be held at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall unless otherwise advised.

The AGM will be held immediately following the regular SCC meeting on June 29th 2016.

1. Finance and Treasury Issues: The outgoing Treasurer, Heather Redmond, advised that available funds of approximately £580 were being handed over and that the funding for the Pensioners’ Christmas Lunch was a pending issue. After some discussion the CC members agreed to review the Secretary’s Honorarium and Expenses and the Chair’s expenses at the next meeting.
2. Correspondence: It was noted that the closing date for comments on the Highland Wide Development Plan, the Draft Offshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance and the Local Housing Strategy had been extended to January 29th 2016. These consultation documents can be accessed at consult.highland.gov.uk. It was agreed that members should review the documents and be prepared to discuss SCC’s response at the next meeting.
3. Community Resilience/Emergency Plan: SSE has issued a draft Plan and this has to be developed and honed into a final version. Alan Hood has already been involved in the development of the plan and it was agreed that he would represent SCC as a member of the development team going forward.
4. Other Business:
5. Annette Sutherland asked if there was still time for SCC to comment on a questionnaire that had been put out (a couple of months ago?) regarding bus services to and from the area. It was unclear as whether this was a Highland Council or Bus Company initiative and whether or not the closing date had passed. The Secretary undertook to find out who had initiated the questionnaire and to put in a letter from SCC stressing the need to, at a minimum, maintain all existing services to and from Strathglass.
6. It was asked whether SCC had been represented at the recent meeting in Drumnadrochit related to the on-going flooding problem affecting the Cannich road (A831) on the outskirts of Drum’. It had not and the Secretary was asked to write to the appropriate authority emphasising the need for a quick and permanent solution.
7. Donald Fraser (Carrie) gave a brief update regarding deer management activities and issues. He advised that Forestry Commission Services and others were pushing for a significant decrease in deer numbers citing tree preservation and tree re-generation needs and the damage being done to the trees by deer. This was a matter of major concern to Estate owners and managers who depend on managed shooting as a significant source of income. It was also pointed out by another attendee that any major reduction in the deer population was likely to have an adverse impact on other local tourist related businesses and not just the Estates. Paul Stirling undertook to discuss the issues in more detail with Mr Fraser and to report accordingly at the next SCC meeting.
8. Alan Hood suggested that the SCC meetings could provide a good forum for the new owners of the Glen Affric Hotel to engage with the community and to let people know of their plans and aspirations for the site. It was agreed that the Secretary should contact the Selling Agents to see if the new owners were interested in taking up this offer.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on January 20th 2016 and declared the meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

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Chair