**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

**Present:** Nigel Ellis (Chair), Ian Campbell, Kay Graham, Alan Hood, Paul Stirling, Annette Sutherland

**Apologies:** None received.

**In Attendance:** Thirty two members of the public. Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) and Blair Fraser (Glen Affric Hotel, Cannich) attended for part only. Donellen Mackenzie (District Manager NHS Highland), Ros Philip (Primary Care Manager NHS Highland) and Helen Emery (Property Manager NHS Highland) joined the meeting at approximately 8:20 pm.

1. Nigel Ellis took the Chair, noted that all the Community Councillors were present, welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open. He reminded the Community Councillors of their responsibility regarding potential conflicts of interest. No conflicts were declared.
2. Minutes and Matters Arising: The minutes of the meeting held on January 20th 2016 were proposed for adoption, seconded, unanimously agreed and signed by Mr Ellis.

*Matters Arising:*

* Bank signatory changes had been finalised.
* The e-mail address ‘strathglasscc.org.uk’ was now available for each of the Community Councillors and was being used by the Chair and the Secretary.
* The requirement to talk to the previous Chair (Molly Doyle) regarding correspondence related to the former nurse’s house in Cannich had been superseded by events.
* Mr Hood advised that the Cannich Recreation Park Steering Group would be opening its own bank account and that the funds held for the CRPSG by SCC would be transferred once it was opened.
* The Chair and Secretary attended the public presentation of the draft Deer Management Plans on February 5th and had written to the Glen Strathfarrar DM Group acknowledging the opportunity given for SCC and members of the community to participate in the process. The draft DMP for Glen Affric and Kintail was received on February 29th and SCC has until April 14th to submit comments on this.
* The response to SCC’s offer to the TRA to share funding for repairing or replacing the Tomich notice board was that it was the Council’s notice board and that it may be better to dispense with the existing notice board and provide a bus shelter instead. The TRA suggested that a wooden bus shelter would be in keeping with the village and could be used to house a notice board inside. The SCC Secretary asked where this bus shelter would be located and whether or not it was likely to be contentious but no response has been received from the TRA to date and the matter is not currently moving forward.
* Other matters arising were effectively closed or addressed elsewhere.
1. Police Report: The only item noted in the Police Report was a non-suspicious fire at Affric Lodge on January 21st. The police were involved but it was confirmed as a non-criminal matter.
2. Glen Affric Hotel update: Blair Fraser representing the new owners advised that work to clean and clear the hotel should start very soon. The initial plan would be to open a café, a restaurant and a visitor centre but no firm time-frame for opening had been set. However, it was unlikely that it would happen this year. Asked whether there was a plan to resurrect the hotel bedrooms, Mr Fraser advised that no decision had been made in this regard. Mr Fraser confirmed that the Glen Affric Bar had been sold separately and his understanding was that plans had been submitted for converting this into a micro-brewery. The Chairman thanked Mr Fraser for his contribution.

It was suggested that the purchaser of the bar should be invited to give an update to the Community Council but noted that this may be difficult to arrange as he spends much of his time overseas.

1. Soirbheas Update: Carol Masheter gave an update on activities and events being undertaken by Soirbheas. She advised that the Ward 13 community broadband project was moving ahead but approval from BT was being awaited. The community broadband provision would be wireless and the basic service would be likely to cost users £25 per month. There could also be a connection fee. Ms Masheter noted that the latest newsletter had been issued via e-mail and mail copies would be following. The Chairman thanked Ms Masheter for her contribution.
2. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Alan Hood advised that SCC held £476 in available funds. It was proposed and agreed that Mr Hood, as Treasurer, should be provided with internet access to the SCC bank account and Mr Hood was asked to liaise with BoS to get this facility established.

It was agreed that the annual payment of £120 to the Secretary to cover stationery and other expenses would be continued. The Chair and Secretary advised that the Chair’s expense allowance of £50 per annum and the Secretary’s Honorarium of £250 per annum would be waived until otherwise agreed and that the funds should rather be used for the benefit of the Strathglass community.

1. Correspondence: The Secretary asked that the following items of correspondence be noted:
* ABO Wind had confirmed that the proposed wind farm at Erchless would not go ahead.
* The Highland Cross 2016 will take place on Saturday June 18th.
* A letter had been received from the Scotland Office stressing the need for debate about further devolution of powers within Scotland.
* The Information Commissioner has launched new data protection self-assessment tools for SMEs that are available online.
* An e-mail had been received from THC advising an overall cut of approximately 10% in Community Council funding. The precise impact for SCC was not yet known.
* The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust had requested an update for SCC contact details as SCC is a member.
* Tower Mint Ltd was offering a medal for schools and councils to commemorate the Queen’s 90th birthday. £1.99 each for orders of 50+. Orders for 10-49 carry a £10 admin charge. It was agreed that SCC would not be placing an order.
* A letter and CD had been received from the Forestry Commission advising amendments to the Forest Enterprise Design Plan for the Upper Beauly Forest which encompasses much of our Community Council area. This was currently being circulated around the CC members.
* The Deloitte Ride Across Britain event will head our way on Saturday 17th September when the route goes from Fort William through Inverness via the A82 then to Beauly and through Dingwall to Kyle of Sutherland. Some disruption can be expected.
1. Planning Update: There had been no new planning applications since the last meeting. Planning consent had been granted for a pair of semi-detached houses opposite The Slaters Arms in Cannich.
2. Community Emergency and Resilience Plan: An electrician had been found to install the generator connection at Cannich Hall.
3. Strathglass Out of School Child Care Initiative: Mr Hood advised that a business plan had been prepared and grant applications submitted. The facility would be for Primary ages initially but this could be extended if sufficient demand was there to make Pre-school a viable option. The business plan showed three employees and a running cost of £180,000 for the first five years.
4. Proposed Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm Update: The Secretary advised that the Supplementary Environmental Information had been submitted by the developer and received by SCC by courier on February 27th. There would be a further 28-day public consultation period and an extension to April 14th for SCC to make any comments had been requested and agreed.
5. Dog Fouling Problem in Cannich: The Secretary advised that this was on the agenda because several people had mentioned it as a problem and somebody had suggested on the Cannich Village Facebook page that the matter should be brought to the Community Council’s attention. He noted that it was a community issue rather than a CC issue and that it would not, in his view, be solved until the guilty dog-owners were named and taken to task through the appropriate official channels. After discussion it was agreed that the Secretary would contact Cannich School to initiate a poster campaign and it was noted that free ‘poo-bags’ were available from the Cannich shop so there was no excuse for poo to be left lying in the village.
6. Former Nurse’s House in Cannich: Donellen Mackenzie advised the meeting that the former nurse’s house was in a state of serious disrepair and that infection control at the surgery had become a matter for significant concern. In fact, the surgery was no longer considered fit for purpose and there were serious health and safety concerns related to the poor condition of the house. The NHS wished to divest itself of the house but was committed to maintaining a surgery facility in Cannich. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the priority was to find a new location for the surgery before addressing the issue of the house. The meeting was advised that the house is owned by the Scottish Ministers and held in trust for them by the NHS. Any sale would have to be made at market value and the proceeds would go to the Scottish Government. In summary it was agreed that the NHS representatives would look at the possibility of establishing a surgery facility at Cannich Hall and to this end they would liaise with Alan Hood in his capacity as Chair of SACC. The NHS had commissioned a report by Graham & Sibbald on the condition of the house and would check to see if a copy of this could be made available to SCC. The Chairman thanked the NHS representatives for their participation.
7. Any Other Business: Ian Mure (public attendee) asked if SCC would write to the Forestry Commission to see if they were planning to make more use of barges for transporting logs to take logging traffic off the roads. It was agreed that this should be raised at the next FCS liaison meeting. Mr Mure also asked when the Kerrow road was scheduled to be repaired and reopened as it had been closed for more than a year. It was agreed that SCC would write to THC to request an update.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on April 13th 2016 and declared the meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

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Chair