**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2016 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

**Present:** Nigel Ellis (Chair), Ian Campbell, Kay Graham, Paul Stirling.

**Apologies:** Alan Hood, Annette Sutherland, Cllr Helen Carmichael, Cllr Jean Davis and Carol Masheter.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Margaret Davidson (arrived at 7:40 pm). Sgt Karen MacKenzie and PC Scott Maclean (Beauly Police Office) attended for part only.

1. Nigel Ellis took the Chair, noted that there was a quorum, welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the SCC meeting held on August 31 2016 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on August 31st:

* Upper Beauly Forest Plan – Mr Stirling advised that there were no significant felling plans in Strathglass in the current year. However, some 20,000 tons were planned to be taken from the Guisachan/Beinn Mhor/East Kerrow areas next year equating to 800 logger lorry loads to be moved via Tomich and/or Cannich and/or Kerrow Brae (1,600 lorry movements). FCS had been looking into the possibilities for purchasing a machine to mulch on site at a location still to be determined and operating noise would have to be a consideration. Mr Stirling has asked to see one of these machines in operation and undertook to arrange for a representative from FCS to give a briefing to SCC once there was a clear felling and traffic plan to present.
* Cannich Recreation Park Gates (Signs and Springs) – Waiting for an update from Alan Hood.
* Waste Collection Services – The green bin outside the old Cannich toilet block had been replaced. THC can offer no garden waste collection service.
* Community Land Ownership Drop-in Session at Cannich Hall on October 18th – Kay Graham undertook to post a notification on the Cannich Village Facebook Page.
* Other matters arising had all been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.

1. Police Report: PC Maclean reported that there had been two minor road traffic accidents in the area but there were no injuries and no charges were being brought. There had been a straight forward injured person rescue from Mullardoch. PC Maclean asked for members of the community to report suspicious-looking strangers or unusual activities now that the nights were drawing in and to ensure that out-buildings were properly secured. The on-going problems with the traffic lights at the bridge in Cannich were raised and it was pointed out that this was a matter for THC rather than the police. Speeding traffic through Cannich village had been reported and the police would follow up on this.
2. Soirbheas Update:There was noSoirbheas representative at the meeting and no update was received.
3. On Going Activity Updates

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* A meeting with SSE would be arranged in November to review the ‘final’ plan and it was confirmed that Charles Stephen was THC’s resilience contact point.

*Cannich Out of School Care Project:* No progress was reported.

*Proposed relocation of Cannich Surgery:* The lease between SACC and NHS has been arranged and the new flooring for the surgery room would be fitted in October. A meeting for SCC and NHS was being arranged for early November. There was considerable discussion regarding the need for this meeting but given that Mr Hood was representing SCC in the discussions with NHS and it was he who had requested the meeting it was agreed that it should go ahead. It was noted that the public access defibrillator at the old surgery would need to be moved and agreed that the NHS should be asked to meet all associated costs.

*Disused Toilet Block in Cannich:* No progress was reported.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: The Chairman reported that the bank balance was £2,849.73, of which £1,681.21 was held for CRPC so available funds were still £1,168.52.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and asked for the following particular points and actions to be noted:

* It was agreed that SCC would pay the £150 cost of replacing the pads on the public access defibrillators in Cannich, Struy and Tomich. The Secretary was asked to liaise with Lucky2bHere regarding the logistics of making this happen.
* The Rural Inverness Communities Convention would be held in Smithton on November 8th and Cllr Davidson urged SCC to ensure that it was represented there.
* It was agreed that SCC would participate in the Ward 13 Participatory Budgeting Event and the Secretary was asked to notify the Ward Manager accordingly.
* After discussion regarding BT’s plans to remove pay-phones in the Highlands it was agreed that SCC should make a case for retaining the pay-phones in Cannich and Struy and the Secretary was asked to action this. It was noted that the pay-phone in Tomich was not one of those targeted for removal.
* Comments on the RSPB Corrimony Long Term Forest Plan were required by October 28th and it was agreed that any comments should be forwarded to the Secretary by October 23rd so that he could collate and submit SCC’s response.
* THC’s Winter Resilience Programme had been kicked off. SCC’s participation had to be confirmed and the list of volunteers, required equipment and required materials had to be updated. The Secretary would co-ordinate this.

1. Planning Update: The Chairman presented Mr Hood’s report on recent planning activities in Strathglass. No unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted. The planning request for the stone-crushing activities at Fasnakyle had been approved.
2. SCC Meeting Schedule 2017: Two draft schedules were considered and it was unanimously agreed to adopt the one that provided for nine meetings in the year plus the AGM. All the meetings would be held on a Wednesday starting at 7:30 pm. A copy of the schedule is attached to these minutes.
3. Proposed Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm: The Chairman advised that no Reporter had been appointed yet, and that Cnoc An Eas would not be co-joined with Druim Ba for appeal purposes. The public meeting on October 10th with Kate Forbes MSP was disappointing with sympathy being expressed by Ms Forbes for the local community’s views but no substantive support being offered by her.
4. Community Benefit from Micro Hydro Projects: There was a lengthy and robust discussion regarding whether the community benefit from micro-hydro projects in the SCC/GUCC area should be for SCC and GUCC separately or SCC and GUCC jointly. It was noted that the benefit from the Glen Affric projects was going to be Strathglass specific via the SCIO that was established for the purpose but the benefit from Shenval would be channelled via Soirbheas and shared. It was agreed that this matter should be parked until another project came forward.
5. Funds from FCS Parking Levies: A path for disabled people at Dog Falls was suggested as one possible use for these funds but it was agreed to defer discussion until the amount of money available was known. Cllr Davidson undertook to chase FCS in this regard.
6. Any Other Business: The Strathfarrar Deer Management Group AGM was scheduled for October 21st and Mr Stirling will give an update at the next SCC meeting. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the use of SCC’s available funds. The Chairman noted that the grant from THC was specifically for the administrative costs of running the Community Council. It was his view that the funds should be used or held exclusively for that purpose until near the end of the grant year. If there were surplus funds at that time the members could consider other appropriate uses for the funds. As the current grant was only received in August this was not the time to be discussing other uses, however worthy the cause. It was, nonetheless, agreed that SCC would contribute £200 towards the 2016 Cannich Children’s Christmas Party. Soirbheas should be approached regarding funding for the Senior Citizens’ Christmas Lunch. A member of the public raised the issue of water pooling on the road at Fasnakyle Power Station presenting a potential ice hazard and the very poor condition of the Cannich to Beauly road verges and passing places was noted. The Secretary was asked to write to the THC Roads Department on all the road related issues. The very poor condition of the road to Plodda Falls was mentioned and Cllr Davidson advised that this was scheduled for re-grading. Edward Redmond (Chair, Glenurquhart Care Project) urged SCC to stay closely engaged with GCP’s supported-living house building project.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next scheduled SCC meeting would be on Wednesday November 23rd 2016 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:20 pm.

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**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Meeting Schedule for 2017**

* Wednesday January 11th
* Wednesday February 15th
* Wednesday March 29th
* Wednesday May 10th
* Wednesday June 21st  + AGM
* Wednesday August 2nd
* Wednesday September 13th
* Wednesday October 25th
* Wednesday December 6th

Meetings will be held in Cannich Village Hall and start at 7:30 pm unless otherwise advised.