**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Jean Davis and Cllr Hamish Wood.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Helen Carmichael, Cllr Margaret Davidson and eight members of the public. PC Maclean (Beauly Police Office) attended for part only.

1. Nigel Ellis took the Chair, noted that all the Community Councillors were present, welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open.
2. Minutes and Matters Arising: The minutes of the meeting held on March 2nd 2016 were proposed for adoption, seconded, unanimously agreed and signed by Mr Ellis.

*Matters Arising:*

* It was suggested that a liaison meeting with the Forestry Commission (FCS) may be useful to help the Community Councillors gain a better understanding of the Upper Beauly Forest Plan before they responded to it. Councillor Davidson undertook to broker a meeting with FCS.
* Councillors Carmichael and Davidson advised that it was most unlikely that THC would fund a new bus shelter in Tomich and it was suggested that the matter should be put back to the TRA. Councillor Carmichael undertook to find out how much a similar bus shelter in a neighbouring community had cost.
* Alan Hood advised that the emergency generator connection had been installed at Cannich Hall and that a meeting would be scheduled to move the Community Emergency and Resilience Plan forward.
* It was reported that the Cannich Out of School Care project was waiting for feedback from SSE and Soirbheas regarding the funding applications that had been made.
* The ‘dog fouling poster’ initiative with Cannich Primary School was underway and Annette Sutherland volunteered to attend the school assembly on Friday April 15th to address the children.
* Alan Hood reported that senior managers from the NHS had visited Cannich Hall on March 22nd in order to assess the possibility of moving the Cannich surgery there. The visit had been very positive from both the practical and financial perspectives and the NHS was drafting Heads of Agreement with SACC to move the matter forward. It was noted that this offered the twin benefits of a sustainable surgery facility in Cannich and a regular income stream for SACC. There was then some general discussion around the potential for community ownership of the former nurse’s house. It was pointed out that any proposal would require a meaningful Business Plan before it could move forward and that any potential use that would compete with the village hall for income streams would be undesirable.
* The Secretary had received a response from THC advising that work on the Kerrow Road should start in June and be completed by October when the road would reopen. Councillor Davidson confirmed that the funding for this had been allocated and that the pre-required access/land-purchase matter should be quickly resolved.
1. Police Report: PC Maclean advised that there were no issues to report. He reminded the meeting that there was still a missing person situation centred on Drumnadrochit. He also asked everybody to note that legislation regarding air-gun ownership was expected to come into force in the summer and urged anybody holding an air-gun that they didn’t use to take advantage of the amnesty period and hand it in for disposal.
2. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Alan Hood advised that SCC held £435 in available funds.
3. Correspondence: The Secretary asked that the following items of correspondence be noted:
* A ‘Community Resilience’ questionnaire from SSE. Alan Hood would respond for SCC.
* A ‘River Connections Project’ questionnaire from THC. SCC submitted no response.
* Notification of GUCC’s most recent objection to the proposed Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm.
* ‘North Focus’, the police newsletter had been received.
* The West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan had been received for review and comment. It was agreed that this had no direct relevance to Strathglass and SCC would not submit any comments.
* The Highlands Communities Housing Trust newsletter had been received.
* An e-mail from Soirbheas responding to the SCC Secretary’s request for some specific financial information stated that the Soirbheas Board saw little value in making such a bespoke report. It was generally agreed that the information requested had, from the community perspective, been pertinent and meaningful and should be fairly simple to extract. The response from Soirbheas was considered to be disappointing. It was agreed that this should be pursued with the Soirbheas Board.
* A member of the community had e-mailed Charles Stephen (Ward Manager, THC) pointing out the continuing eye-sore of the scrap car and van in front of the Glen Affric Hotel and the poor condition of the Cannich bus shelter. THC had agreed to follow up regarding the bus shelter and the Secretary was asked to contact the Hotel owners regarding the car and van.
* Notification was received of a Highland Third Sector Interface transport survey and event. It was noted that the closing date for the survey was April 22nd. No specific action was agreed.
1. Planning Update: Mr Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass and no unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
2. Draft Accounts for the Year Ended March 31st 2016: The draft accounts were reviewed and approved subject to one wording correction related to Planters and Hanging Baskets. The Accounts will now be submitted for Independent Examination.
3. Draft Affric and Kintail Deer Management Plan: There was a lengthy discussion about the content of the draft plan and it was agreed that the Secretary should draft a response to the Affric and Kintail DMG, thanking them for involving SCC in the consultation process and asking them to give full consideration to local concerns regarding the potential adverse impact on employment and tourism that could arise from the significant aspirational reduction in the deer population shown in the plan.
4. Proposed Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm: It was noted that, as of April 12th, 284 objections to the proposed development had been posted on the THC website versus 12 letters of support. Of these, twenty or so objections were from residents in Strathglass versus one letter of support. The Secretary advised that 13 local residents had sent him e-mails requesting SCC to lodge an objection but this was not considered to be a sufficient number to be taken as an indicator of any strong community-wide view. It was noted that Glenurquhart, Kilmorack and Kiltarlity Community Councils had all lodged strong objections and, after some discussion, it was proposed that SCC should support the neighbouring Community Councils by lodging an objection. This was seconded and approved.
5. Policing Questionnaire: This was discussed and a response agreed.
6. Struy Forest Long Term Plan: After discussion it was agreed that SCC would submit no comments.
7. Any Other Business: Edward Redmond (public attendee and Chair, Glenurquhart Care Centre) advised that GCC had acquired land adjacent to the Care Centre in Drumnadrochit to be used for the erection of twelve houses that would be designed for care and respite needs. These would be available for people in Strathglass as well as Glenurquhart.

Annette Sutherland voiced concerns about cracks in the wall of the Fasnakyle Cemetery and about the generally poor condition of the graveyard. Councillor Davidson advised that Hugh Gardner at THC was the person to contact and the Secretary was asked to get in touch with Mr Gardner.

A member of the public asked when the anti-windfarm banners on the Struy road would be taken down and the Secretary undertook to make enquiries about this.

It was agreed that a budget of £100 be allocated for replanting the Cannich planters. Alan Hood and other volunteers would be buying the materials and doing the work.

The Secretary proposed that SCC Financial and Secretarial records should be kept for seven years but that all general correspondence should be shredded or otherwise disposed after three years. This was seconded and agreed.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday May 25th 2016 immediately following the SCC AGM which would be re-scheduled to be held at 7:30 pm that evening rather than in June. He declared the meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

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Chair