**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20th January 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 Helen Carmichael, Cllr Margaret Davidson and Cllr Jean Davies.

**In Attendance:** Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) and twelve members of the public. PCs Mackenzie and Macdonald (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. Police Report: Only two items were noted in the Police Report. A sign in the Tomich area had been vandalised with the words ‘No you’re wrong’ spray painted on it and an injured walker was uplifted from Glen Affric by helicopter.
3. Soirbheas Update : Carol Masheter gave an update on activities and events being undertaken by Soirbheas. Points to note were: A Ward 13 Community Partnership has been established to move forward the project of looking at how fast broadband could be provided to communities which will not benefit from the fibre optic roll out. The Partnership group will scope what can be done, seek funding and support implementation. A meeting of the Partnership group was scheduled for January 26th at the THC offices and Carol undertook to circulate details. An Energy Savings Pack has been developed and is being taken round the primary schools with the aim of having children as champions for energy savings at home. The next two closing dates for Tier 2 funding applications are Monday 29th February 2016 and Monday 5th September 2016. The Chairman thanked Ms Masheter for her contribution.
4. Minutes and Matters Arising: The minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held on December 16th 2015 and the SCC meeting held the same evening were both unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

*Matters Arising:*

* Ian Campbell reported that the forms for the change of the bank signatories (which had been handed in to BoS Beauly before Christmas) had been misplaced by the bank. Following Mr Campbell’s enquiry, copies had been found at the bank and the Manager was expediting the change process.
* After some discussion it was agreed that the Community Council would take up the domain name ‘strathglasscc.org.uk’ to be used for Community Councillors’ e-mail addresses. It was noted that this would be available to the CC members who wanted it but the use would be optional.
* The new owners of the Glen Affric Hotel have provisionally accepted the invitation to attend and address the next Community Council meeting.
* Other matters arising from the previous meeting had all been actioned or were to be covered under a separate agenda item with the exception of the Secretary’s Honorarium and Expenses and the Chair’s Expenses which will be addressed at the next meeting.

1. Former Nurses’ House Cannich – Background for New Members: Kay Graham and Annette Sutherland went through some of the history and issues related to the former nurses’ house in Cannich and there were useful additional contributions from some members of the public. In summary, the Chair noted that there were potentially difficult issues regarding the current and future ownership of the house and the continuing requirement for a surgery in Cannich. It was agreed that the Community Council would hear what the representatives from the NHS have to say at the next SCC meeting before any future steps or actions can be defined. Molly Doyle, the previous SCC Chair had been closely involved in previous discussions with the NHS on this topic and Alan Hood undertook to speak to Molly to see if she was still holding any relevant or useful correspondence.
2. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Alan Hood reported that SCC’s available funds at 20th January were £493.06 and that he will be preparing the Grant paperwork to submit to Soirbheas in respect of the Pensioners’ Christmas Lunch. The Treasurer would speak to Sue Mann to see if there were any firm plans for the ring-fenced funds being held by SCC for the Cannich Recreation Park (£1,681.21). In context of the Recreation Park, Annette Sutherland noted that it was proving very popular since the refurbishment but there was a need to do something about speeding cars in the vicinity before there was an accident.
3. Planning Update: Alan Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass and no unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
4. Correspondence: The Secretary noted that routine correspondence appearing on the Community Council’s g-mail account was available to all the Community Council members (one via hard-copy where required) and would not be covered again. In response to a letter from SCC, the Principal Transport Officer at THC (David Summers) had advised that the recent transport questionnaire had been designed to solicit views on the level and appropriateness of current rural bus services and to seek ideas as to how a 15% cost reduction might be achieved. Although the date for responses had passed, SCC’s letter to THC would be included for consideration with other responses. Inverness City Arts Working Group was having a public consultation and display related to its River Connections Public Projects. This would be in the Eastgate Centre on January 23rd and then at the Museum and Art Gallery until 7th February.
5. Community Emergency Plan: Alan Hood advised that an extension to the close date for grant applications had been secured and an electrician was being sought to install the emergency generator connection.
6. Deer Management Group Liaison: Paul Stirling provided an update which was followed by some lengthy discussion of the issues and potential impacts on the local community. The draft Deer Management Plans are all available online and there will be a public meeting at Marydale Hall, Cannich on February 5th at 7:30 pm for review and discussion of the Glen Affric and Kintail and Strathfarrar Plans. It is expected that Dave Thomson MSP will attend and public participation is encouraged. All Deer Management Plans are scheduled to be finalised by February 20th.
7. Strathglass Out of School Care Initiative: Alan Hood advised that funding could be available and that SACC had submitted an expression of interest to the relevant funding body. The next project meeting would be in Cannich Village Hall at 7 pm on January 27th.
8. THC Consultation Papers: The Community Councillors who had read the consultation papers had no major issues to bring to the table. After discussion it was agreed that there would be no formal SCC response although individual members were encouraged to respond in their own right.
9. Proposed Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm Update: It was noted that there would be a further 28-day period of public consultation once Force 9 Energy has submitted its additional information. It was agreed that SCC as a Nominated Consultee should take a position but this should be deferred until Force 9’s new information was available. The closing date for the consultation period wasn’t yet known and the Secretary would request an extension for SCC should this prove necessary.
10. Tomich Notice Board: It was agreed that the Tomich notice board is in need of repair or replacement and SCC would, in principle, be willing to share the cost with Tomich Residents’ Association (TRA). The Secretary was asked to contact the TRA accordingly.
11. Mountain Rescue Trailer Storage: Secure but accessible storage is required for a largish trailer to be used by the two local MR teams. The SSE yard in Cannich was suggested and the Community Council would be happy to write to SSE in support of this idea if that was felt to be helpful.
12. Any Other Business: Annette Sutherland advised that Glenurquhart Care Centre’s (GCC) amenity housing project was moving ahead with the Albyn organisation now engaged. A Community Liaison Group was being established and Edward Redmond (public attendee and GCC Board member) advised that this was a planning requirement. Jan Rothe (public attendee) expressed concern about a tree that looked as if was going to fall across the road and Paul Stirling undertook to take a photograph of it to send to THC.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on March 2nd 2016 and declared the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

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Chair