**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

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

**In Attendance:** Carol Masheter ( Soirbheas), PC Billy MacDonald (Beauly Police Office – part only) and eight 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 reminded the members of the public in attendance that their input or comments should be made via the Chair and reminded the Community Councillors of the requirement for them to declare any conflicts of interest. No conflicts were declared.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the SCC meeting held on October 12 2016 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis. It was noted that Mr Edward Redmond had urged all members of the Strathglass community to stay closely engaged with GCP’s supported living house building project and not just SCC as had been recorded in those minutes. The Secretary advised that two omissions from the minutes of the August 31 2016 meeting had been noted after they had been approved. Amended minutes were proposed for adoption, unanimously agreed and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on October 12th:
* Upper Beauly Forest Plan – Mr Stirling advised that FCS had not yet purchased a mulching machine. It was anticipated that a representative from FCS would attend one of the next two SCC meetings to give an update on planned felling operations.
* Cannich Recreation Park Gates (Signs and Springs) – Mr Hood advised that the Rec’ Park Steering Group (CRPSG) had agreed to pay for the signs and springs. Mr Ellis said that the cost would quite modest and that he could procure and fit the items if required. Mr Hood was asked to get a ‘go-ahead’ from CRSPG.
* The Chair and Secretary had represented SCC at the Rural Inverness Communities Convention on November 8th and Mr Hood had also been in attendance representing SACC.
* Funds from FCS Parking Levies – The amount of available monies were now known to be close to £20k butthe parameters for qualifying projects had not been defined. After discussion it was agreed that SCC should nonetheless invite ideas for possible projects from members of the community and Mr Stirling undertook to get definition regarding the parameters for qualifying projects at the next FCS liaison meeting.
* The grant of £375 for the funding of the Pensioner’s Xmas Lunch had been approved by Soirbheas. The final grant would be based on actual receipted expenditures up to that amount. It was agreed that fund raising for future Xmas Lunches should start much earlier in the year.
* Letter to Roads Department – The dangerous tree near Fasnakyle needed to be better defined.
* Other matters arising had all been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.
1. Police Report: PC MacDonald advised that speed checks had been made in Cannich village but no charges had resulted. Further checks were planned. A car had been vandalised with an axe in Struy and the police were investigating the incident. No other issues were reported
2. Soirbheas Update:Carol Masheter advised that some Tier 1 grant monies were still available and that decisions regarding Tier 2 applications were to be made shortly. It was planned that Tier 2 grant applications would be considered on a quarterly cycle going forward rather than half yearly. The Soirbheas Board was seeking a new Board member to represent Strathglass. Anybody interested should contact Alan James, the Soirbheas Chair. The Community Broadband initiative was not moving forward and a ‘Plan B’ was being sought. Soirbheas was working towards making funding available to support a local apprentice programme. The ‘Health Walk’ programme sponsored in Drumnadrochit had been well received and attended and Ms Masheter suggested that consideration be given to a similar programme in Cannich. One day training for walking group organisers was being offered free of charge in Drumnadrochit on February 7th.
3. On Going Activity Updates

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* A meeting had been arranged for December 8th for finalising the Plan.

*Cannich Out of School Care Project:* No progress had been made and this was no longer considered to be an active project. It was agreed that any future opportunity to resurrect it should be pursued.

*Proposed relocation of Cannich Surgery:* The equipment for the new surgery room had been ordered and as soon as it was received the move could be announced and executed. It was agreed that the public access defibrillator should be relocated to the side wall of the Cannich Shop (under the covered seating area) and that Mr Hood would advise the NHS accordingly.

*Disused Toilet Block in Cannich:* Mr Ellis advised that THC had confirmed that the services to the toilet block had been disconnected but that THC had no budget (and didn’t anticipate having any budget) to demolish it. THC would, however, provide SCC with a cost estimate for demolition. Subsequent discussion concerning potential community action was inconclusive.

*Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm:* The Secretary advised that a Reporter had been appointed and that the target date for a decision on the developer’s appeal had moved from December 2016 to May 2017. The Reporter’s review would include public hearings. A pre-examination meeting was planned at the Craigmonie Centre in Drum’ December 14th to discuss procedural issues. SCC had confirmed to the Reporter that it would not be speaking at the public hearings but that it supported the evidence that would be presented by GUCC and STAG.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: The Treasurer reported that an additional £30 had been received from THC and, after paying for the defibrillator pads and making the agreed contribution to the Cannich Childrens’ Christmas Party, the available funds were £848.52.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and asked for the following particular points and actions to be noted:
* A member of the community had notified the Secretary that a tyre on her husband’s car was damaged beyond repair by a sharp stone (or stones) on the road where the two new houses are being built in Cannich (opposite the Slater’s Arms’ car park). The builders on site at the time denied any liability. Drivers on this road should take note.
* After discussion it was agreed that feedback on THC’s Equality Outcomes Consultation and THC’s Local Democracy in the Highlands survey should be made on an individual basis rather than trying to offer a unified SCC position. A response from SCC could be interpreted as a community-wide view which was not considered to be appropriate without a community-wide consultation.
1. Planning Update: Mr Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass. No unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
2. Funds from FCS Parking Levies: This had been discussed under Agenda item 3 – Matters Arising.
3. Rewilding Scotland: The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary had all attended Rewilding Scotland’s public meeting and presentation in Cannich Hall on November 2nd. The Secretary gave a brief overview of the meeting and presentation and this was followed by a general discussion regarding the perceived merits and demerits of Rewilding Scotland’s ‘Vision’ and what it might mean for the community. It was agreed that the Secretary should invite Rewilding Scotland’s Director, David Balharry, to come to the next SCC meeting to explain to the Community Councillors how he sees the proposed project moving forward and what he sees as SCC’s role in the process.
4. Any Other Business: The Secretary reported on an informal discussion that he had had with Alan McDonnell of Trees for Life regarding potential community use of the Athnamulloch Bothy and other areas where Trees for Life and the community could potentially work more closely together. Some useful suggestions were put forward and the Secretary was asked to report back to Mr McDonnell accordingly. The potential for a community purchase of the former Nurses house in Cannich was discussed and it was agreed that the Community Councillors should solicit ideas from members of the community regarding potential uses for the house. The Secretary undertook to follow-up with the NHS regarding permission to provide the survey report on the house to the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust as a precursor to a discussion with HSCHT regarding possible ownership structures. Edward Redmond advised that he would be stepping down from the Board of the Glenurquhart Care Project and advised that that would leave no Strathglass representation on the GCP Board. Potential Board members from Strathglass should be encouraged to put their names forward. It was noted that the abandoned car was still sitting in front of the Glen Affric hotel and the Secretary was asked to contact THC to see if removal could be expedited.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday January 11 2017 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

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