**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2016 at 7:40 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Jean Davis, Cllr Hamish Wood and Carol Masheter (Soirbheas).

**In Attendance:** Eight members of the public.

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 April 13th 2016 were proposed for adoption, seconded, unanimously agreed and signed by Mr Ellis.

*Matters Arising from the meeting on April 13th:*

* The next liaison meeting with the Forestry Commission (FCS) had been arranged for June 3rd. Paul Stirling would attend for SCC.
* Alan Hood would respond to the SSE Community Resilience Questionnaire following the next meeting of the Community Resilience Group in Cannich.
* SCC’s request to Soirbheas for financial information was deferred to agenda item 4 (below).
* The owners of the Glen Affric Hotel had been contacted regarding the abandoned car and van in front of the hotel but these had not been moved. It was agreed that the Secretary would contact THC to see if further action could be taken to expedite removal.
* SCC’s objection to the proposed Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm had been submitted. It was noted that the THC Planners had rejected the application although the Applicant could still lodge an appeal.
* SCC’s response to the Policing questionnaire had been submitted. Seventy responses had been received and the results were being collated.
* THC’s Hugh Grant had inspected the Fasnakyle Cemetery and some remedial actions were underway to improve the maintenance level at the cemetery. Mr Grant had advised that overhanging trees from the neighbouring property were causing some problems. The meeting was informed that the neighbouring property was owned by Mr Kwint and the Secretary was asked to pass that information to Mr Grant.
1. Police Report: The Secretary advised that the Police Report had not been received and there was no Police representative at the meeting so this item was deferred to the next meeting.
2. Soirbheas Update: The Secretary summarised the background to a meeting that had been held between members of the Soirbheas Board and members of GUCC and SCC on May 16th. He noted that, since Soirbheas was set up in 2009, the renewables landscape had changed significantly. The number of potential renewables schemes that could impact Glen Urquhart and/or Strathglass had increased substantially and Scottish Government Guidance issued in September 2015 had altered the planning status of agreements reached between community bodies and developers regarding community benefit and community participation in proposed developments. The meeting had been requested by GUCC to discuss the ongoing relationship between Soirbheas and the CCs and information sharing and reporting (including financial reports) between the three bodies with the objective of becoming more joined up going forward. Minutes had not yet been issued.

Operationally Soirbheas has added a new page on its website to provide information and updates on the Ward 13 Community Broadband Partnership and the funding opportunities on its website had been updated. The next deadline for Tier 2 grants (£500 - £10,000) would be Monday September 5th.

1. On-Going activity Updates:

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* A meeting to move this forward was to be arranged.

*Cannich Out of School Care Project:* The funding application to SSE had been unsuccessful and other possible funding sources were being sought including the Highland LEADERS fund. Without securing funding for the start-up years the project could not proceed.

*Dog Fouling Problem in Cannich:* Annette Sutherland reported that all the school children’s posters would be finished within the next week. Six would be selected for display in the village and all would be displayed at the school’s Craft Fair. It was agreed that SCC would acknowledge the children’s efforts by providing a supply of sweets for the school’s upcoming bus trip. The Secretary undertook to prepare ‘No dogs allowed’ signs for the Recreation Park gates. A member of the public suggested that a supply of poo-bags and disposal instructions should be available at the Chalet Park and the Camping and Caravan Park for visitors with dogs and this was endorsed by the members.

*Proposed relocation of Cannich Surgery:* Mr Hood reported that the NHS Fire Team had visited the Hall and raised no issues and that the matter was currently with NHS to move forward. He had recently asked for a progress report from NHS and would follow up to keep the matter moving. A member of the public raised a concern about the lighting level in the room and it was noted that the NHS would be responsible for providing auxiliary lighting should this be required.

*Draft Affric and Kintail Management Plan:* Paul Stirling reported that this was still in draft. He had attended a meeting of the Deer Management Group where the draft plan was discussed and there were on-going concerns about the disparity between the very low deer population density targets in Affric and Kintail and the higher density targets in neighbouring Deer Management Areas and how this disparity could be managed. SCC’s concerns regarding the potential adverse impact of the low density targets on employment and tourism in Strathglass had been formally submitted to the DMG.

*Struy Long Term Forest Plan:* This should be discussed at the upcoming Forestry Liaison meeting.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Mr Hood advised that there had been no transactions since the last meeting and that SCC’s available funds were still £435. With the current year’s funding to be received in the next few months Mr Campbell suggested that the members should be discussing and agreeing at their next meeting some priorities for using those funds. Mr Hood suggested that SCC should perhaps be doing more to help organisations in the community to source grants. After some discussion it was agreed that this was something to be done in conjunction with Soirbheas and that it should be a matter for the next meeting.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary asked for various items of correspondence to be noted, including:
* An Email from the Community Councils Forum suggesting that CCs should have an active participation in establishing priorities for THC budget spend and cuts.
* Notification of the 2016 M&S Community Energy Fund. Application deadline is May 31st.
* Advice that Highland LEADER programme is open. Details at [www.highlandleader.com](http://www.highlandleader.com)
* University of Highlands and Islands 2015 Research Review.
* Alcohol Focus Scotland has a brochure to assist members of the public in being able to raise concerns in relation to Alcohol Licensing to the appropriate officers in a timeous manner and have these concerns addressed. This is available from enquiries@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk
* NHS Grampian has launched its ‘Reach Out’ campaign to help address loneliness.
* THC will launch its ‘Commission on Highland Democracy’ on June 20th.
* May 30 to June 5 is Dementia Awareness Week in Scotland – <http://daw.dementiascotland.org>
1. Planning Update: Mr Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass and no unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted. The Chair questioned the process for sourcing the planning information and, after discussion, it was agreed that the Secretary should contact THC’s Planning Department to try to get the information directly from THC rather than trawling for it.
2. Disused Toilet Block in Cannich: Mr Ellis had been asked what was happening to the disused toilet block by a member of the public. The meeting was advised that a previous local interest in acquiring the block had lapsed. It was agreed that the matter would be better discussed when one or more of the Ward Councillors was present and the matter was deferred to a future meeting. Mr Hood undertook to remove the remaining signs from the block to avoid confusing visitors to the village.
3. Any Other Business: Mr Hood had been approached by one of the organisers of the upcoming Cannich-based orienteering event to see if SCC would object to cars being parked at the A831 end of the Kerrow Road. It was noted that there is only a short distance available for parking between the junction with the A831 and the damaged culvert but that SCC had no specific objection. A very large influx of cars to the area was to be expected on the weekend of June 4th/5th. A suggestion from Mr Hood that future SCC meetings should be held in each of Tomich and Struy was well received and tabled for further discussion. It was noted that there is no Struy representative among the current members and it was agreed that if somebody from Struy would like to join the CC they could do so as a co-opted member.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday June 29th 2016 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Chair