**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29th June 2016 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

**Present:** Nigel Ellis (Chair), Ian Campbell, Kay Graham (arrived 7:40 pm), Alan Hood, Annette Sutherland

**Apologies:** Paul Stirling, Cllr Margaret Davidson.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Jean Davis and nine members of the public.Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) 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. He reminded the Community Councillors of their obligations regarding the declaration of potential conflicts of interest. No interests were declared.
2. Police Report: PC Maclean reported two incidents. There had been a minor public disorder incident at the Tomich Hotel which was being followed up by his colleagues in Croydon, Surrey and the pay machine at the FCS car park at Dog Falls had been professionally broken into with the loss of an estimated £200. Alan Hood asked about the possibilities for having a police dog display at the Cannich Gala Day and PC Maclean undertook to look into this although he advised that he thought it would be difficult to arrange. He added that a police involvement at the Gala Day should be possible if that was felt to be useful.
3. Minutes; The minutes of the SCC meeting held on May 25 2016 were proposed for adoption, unanimously agreed and signed by Mr Ellis. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on May 25 2016 were also proposed for adoption, unanimously agreed and signed by Mr Ellis.
4. Soirbheas Update:Carol Masheter advised that a Community Interest Company would be established as a vehicle for applying for funding for the Ward 13 Community Broadband initiative. She noted that time was getting tight with Phase 1 scheduled to be finished by the end of December but without clarification of the ‘grey’ postcodes, a CBS project or application could not currently be progressed. If a community was interested in owning assets and operating a network, then a CBS solution would be appropriate. If not, there were likely to be other options in the future although it was not yet clear what those might be. Where superfast broadband was available it was noted that some people who were not taking the service had reported a degrading in their existing service and Ms Masheter said she would be interested to hear of any examples of this in the local area. Soirbheas would be running a free Social Media Introduction workshop on August 23rd in Drumnadrochit. The results of Soirbheas’s local transport needs survey were being evaluated to identify where supplementary services such as car-pooling or ‘Samaritan’ services could supplement existing transport services. There was a brief discussion about community project funding and it was agreed that some specific projects would need to be identified in order to take this matter forward.
5. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on May 25th:

* Upper Beauly Forest Plan - The Forestry Commission (FCS) liaison meeting scheduled for June 3rd had been cancelled and no new meeting date had yet been set.
* A response to the SSE Community Resilience Questionnaire was thought to be no longer required.
* The Secretary had contacted the owners of the Glen Affric Hotel asking them to contact THC to initiate the action to remove the abandoned car and van from the front of the hotel.
* THC had advised that no further action was required regarding the trees on land neighbouring the Fasnakyle Burial Ground.
* ‘Please Keep Your Dogs Out’ signs had been made for the Cannich Recreation Park and these would be mounted on the gates in the near future.
* No satisfactory answer had been received from THC regarding the availability of more focussed planning reports (i.e. Strathglass only or Ward 13 only) and it was agreed that Mr Hood would continue to trawl local information from the existing Weekly Lists.
* The remaining signs had been removed from the disused toilet block in Cannich.

1. On-Going Activity Updates:

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* Alan Hood advised that a meeting to move this forward had been held and that the Plan was now 75% complete. He asked if there was a Resilience Officer in THC and Cllr Davis undertook to find out and advise. Following the announcement that a new ‘SHEPD North of Scotland Resilient Communities Fund’ had been opened, Mr Hood stated that SACC would look at the possibility of raising a further funding application.

*Cannich Out of School Care Project:* There was no progress to report.

*Dog Fouling Problem in Cannich:* Six of the Cannich Primary School posters were selected to be put up at strategic points in the village. The standard of all the posters was very good and the Community Councillors acknowledged the efforts of all the children and staff at the school.

*Proposed relocation of Cannich Surgery:* Mr Hood reported that the logistical and financial considerations for moving the surgery to Cannich Hall had been agreed between the NHS and SACC and that the appropriate legal documents were being prepared. The NHS representatives had suggested a further meeting with SCC to discuss how to publicise the move and to consider the possible options for the future ownership and use of the former nurse’s house. It was agreed that a separate meeting should be arranged for this purpose.

*Draft Affric and Kintail Management Plan:* There was nothing new to report and the Affric and Kintail DMG appeared to be moving forward with the draft plan. In context of Deer Management Plans more generally, Kay Graham advised she had heard that SNH may ask for fines to be imposed on groups or landowners who fail to meet planned deer reduction targets.

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

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Mr Hood advised that there had been one payment of £17.18 for e-mail and website services since the last meeting and that three payments totalling £135.13 were pending. This meant that SCC’s available funds were £336.83.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary asked for various items of correspondence to be noted, including:

* A letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland regarding its reports and final recommendations for the number of councillors and electoral ward boundaries in each of Scotland’s local authorities. It was noted that no changes were proposed in this area.
* E-mails regarding a proposed meeting between CC forum members and THC’s Leader to discuss how to make the IACCF a forum that has a purpose and can provide a proper conduit between THC and the CCs and the public.
* An e-mail regarding the launch of a new ‘Community Choices Fund’. It was noted that this could be a potential funding source for the proposed Cannich Out of School Care Project.
* An e-mail from the Chair of GUCC regarding the volume of construction traffic using the A831. It was noted that there were several active projects contributing to this and the Secretary undertook to liaise further with the Chair of GUCC. Lorries to and from the stone crusher at Fasnakyle were at times travelling in convoys of three or four and this was to be discouraged.

1. Planning Update: Mr Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass and no unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
2. Disused Toilet Block in Cannich: It was generally agreed that the disused toilet block needs to go

and the possibility for members of the community to undertake the demolition work was discussed. Cllr Davis undertook to find out whether THC would sanction this. Cllr Davis also undertook to find out if the electricity and water services to the block had been disconnected.

1. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Draft Strategic Plan: This was discussed and it was generally agreed that the Draft Plan made good sense but that it was largely stating what was obvious and politically correct. It was noted that Retained Firefighters (REs) represented 40% of the overall staff and 12% of the overall cost. Given these statistics and the difficulties experienced locally in recruiting REs it was suggested that SFRS should consider improving the package being offered to REs. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to SFRS accordingly.
2. Any Other Business: Annette Sutherland advised that she had attended a meeting of the GU Care Centre Stakeholder Group to review the status of the proposed amenity housing development in Drumnadrochit. This project was moving forward very quickly and a Community Liaison Group was being formed. Ms Jan Rothe (public attendee) advised that the Pharmacy in Drumnadrochit was planning a delivery service (subject to demand) and this was welcomed by the Community Councillors.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next scheduled SCC meeting would be on Wednesday August 31st 2016 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

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