**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 31st August 2016 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

**Present:** Nigel Ellis (Chair), Kay Graham (arrived 7:40 pm), Alan Hood, Paul Stirling, Annette Sutherland.

**Apologies:** Ian Campbell, Cllr Helen Carmichael, Cllr Hamish Wood and Carol Masheter (Soirbheas).

**In Attendance:** Cllr Margaret Davidson,Cllr Jean Davis and six members of the public.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.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the SCC meeting held on June 29 2016 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Matters Arising from the SCC Meeting on June 29th:
* Upper Beauly Forest Plan – Mr Stirling advised that there was nothing new to add at present but an update should be available for the next Community Council meeting.
* Dog Fouling in Cannich – The posters selected from those produced by the Cannich Primary School students were in place. The ‘Please Keep Your Dogs Out’ posters at the Recreation Park require replacement and it was noted that springs are required to keep the gates closed.
* IACC Forum – SCC was not represented at the IACC Forum members meeting with The Highland Council’s Leader in July but the minutes had been received and it was noted that the Forum’s Chairman had resigned following that meeting.
* Construction Traffic Movements – Following a complaint by SCC, THC’s Planning Department issued a ‘Stop’ Order in respect of the stone crushing activities at Fasnakyle pending consideration of the retrospective Planning Application submitted by the owner of the borrow-pit. Councillor Davidson advised that damage to road edges would be required to be repaired by the contractors involved.
* Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Draft Strategic Plan – It was noted that a letter of thanks had been received from SFRS acknowledging SCC’s input.
1. Police Report: PC Maclean reported that a haulage company had been approached regarding complaints about speeding vehicles and that the company’s transport manager was addressing the issue. A canoe had overturned on the River Glass but the canoeists were well equipped and there were no casualties. PC Maclean asked if upcoming SCC meeting dates could be e-mailed to the Beauly Police Office.
2. Soirbheas Update:Carol Masheter had sent her apologies and no update was available for the meeting.
3. On Going Activity Updates

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* Alan Hood advised that there was nothing further to report. Cllr Davis undertook to follow up on SCC’s previous request regarding the identity of the person responsible for community resilience within THC.

*Cannich Out of School Care Project:* Arrangements were underway to try to re-form the original committee and re-activate this project.

*Proposed relocation of Cannich Surgery:* Mr Hood reported that the NHS Infection Control Department had visited the Hall and that a meeting was scheduled for September 7th to discuss changes to the room. The legal agreement had been prepared by the NHS covering the proposed use of the Hall and a separate SCC meeting would be scheduled with NHS representatives to discuss the relocation of the surgery and the future of the Former Nurses’ House in more detail.

*Disused Toilet Block in Cannich:* Cllr Davis reported that THC assumed that services to the toilet block had been cut off and undertook to make enquiries within THC regarding how SCC could arrange or facilitate the removal of the structure. In this regard Debbie Sutton would be the contact within THC and Nigel Ellis would be the contact point for SCC.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Alan Hood reported that three payments had been made since the previous meeting and that THC’s funding for 2016-2017 had been received in the amount of £866.69. The Bank balance was £2,884.73, of which £1,681.21 was held for the Cannich Recreation Park Committee. One payment of £35.00 was pending so SCC’s available funds totalled £1,168.52. Mr Hood undertook to contact the Recreation Park Committee to see if they could pay for springs for the gates and more robust ‘Dogs Out’ signs out of their own funds.
2. Correspondence: The Chairman reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and asked for the following particular points and actions to be noted:
* Donald Fraser (Carrie) and/or David Balharry should be contacted regarding possible tendering for FES contracts.
* A copy of the letter from Highland Cross should be sent to each of Cicely Ross and Lillian Gordon with a note thanking them for their assistance and support for the 2016 event.
* Donations or fund-raising activities should be considered in connection with on-going costs associated with the community defibrillators.
* Highland Small Communities Housing Trust could be helpful when it comes to considering the future of the Former Nurses’ House in Cannich. Ronnie Macrae is the contact at HSCHT.
* STAG was trying to set up a meeting with the local MSP regarding the Cnoc An Eas wind farm.
* E-mail correspondence between SCC, GUCC and Soirbheas regarding community benefit payments from micro-hydro developments should be discussed at SCC’s October meeting.
1. Planning Update: Mr Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass and no unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted. The planning request for the stone-crushing activities at Fasnakyle was pending.
2. Waste Collection Services: It was agreed that THC (contact Alan McKinnie) should be asked to replace the green bin that had been outside the disused toilet block in Cannich. The Chairman reported that several residents had asked about securing a collection service for garden waste and Councillor Davidson advised that a previous bin-lorry collection scheme for garden waste had been discontinued and that the lack of money was the problem. It was nonetheless agreed to write to THC’s Head of Waste requesting a ‘brown bin’ service. It was noted that Soirbheas could possibly be asked for funds for the provision of compost bins.
3. Proposed Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm: After discussion regarding the new information submitted to the DPEA by the developer (available to view at the Post Office and in the Hall foyer) it was agreed that SCC would lodge a further objection and may consider requesting a Public Hearing.
4. Forestry Matters: Councillor Davidson advised that some significant changes were likely to be made to FCS’s tree felling plans in the area driven, in part, by the presence of tree disease. She suggested that Colin Leslie should be asked to provide representation at a future SCC meeting to discuss the impact of proposed changes, traffic movements, etc. Car parking receipts from Glen Affric were supposed to be spent locally on footpaths, etc with the public deciding on locations. Councillor Davidson was following up with FCS to secure proper financial statements and suggested that community ideas for where the money should be spent should be on SCC’s next agenda.
5. Any Other Business: Edward Redmond (Chair, Glenurquhart Care Centre) gave an update on GCC’s house building project in Drumnadrochit and there was a discussion on how to raise awareness of (and interest in) the project locally. Councillor Davidson advised that a Drop-In session on community ownership would probably be arranged locally with representatives from FCS, SSE and THC attending. THC would send out flyers about this when appropriate and it would be helpful if SCC could consider which areas of land (if any) that the community might like to own. It was noted that THC was stopping its supply of free poo-bags to the Cannich shop due to budget constraints. Security of the Glen Affric Hotel and the continuing presence of the wrecked car at the front of the hotel were discussed and it was agreed that pressure should be kept on the new owners. A member of the public reported that a birch tree was overhanging the road between Cannich and Tomich but it was unclear as to whether this was the same tree that had previously been reported to THC so a more accurate location was required. On behalf of SACC, Mr Hood reported that the Gala Day had been a success and thanked everybody who had contributed.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next scheduled SCC meeting would be on Wednesday October 12th 2016 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

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