**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2017 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 Helen Carmichael, Cllr Margaret Davidson and Cllr Jean Davis.

**In Attendance:** Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) – part only, PC Scott Maclean (Beauly Police Office) – part only, David Balharry (Rewilding Scotland) and seven 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 January 11 2017 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Police Report: PC Maclean advised that since December 1 2016 there had been two minor road traffic collisions in the area with no serious injuries and no-one held to blame. There were no other incidents to report. PC Maclean confirmed that the police could take no action regarding either the abandoned car in front of the Glen Affric Hotel or the fact that children had been seen going in and out of the hotel. In the event of an accident the police would be called in and the hotel and car owners could be liable. It was suggested and agreed that the Secretary should write to the hotel owners accordingly.
4. Soirbheas Update:An apprentice grant scheme was being introduced by Soirbheas to support local businesses employing an apprentice. This was targeted at development up to SVQ Level 3 and would provide 3 years of support funding. Tier 2 grants were now being considered four times per year and the next deadline was April 3rd. Fifteen Health Walk leaders had been trained including one person from Cannich. Regular walks were starting in Drumnadrochit and it was still hoped to start a Strathglass group. Upcoming events included a Tattie Sale Day in Glenurquhart Public Hall on Saturday March 11th and a Club and Volunteer Fair at the Craigmonie Centre on Tuesday March 21st.
5. Proposed Rewilding Initiative:David Balharry (Director, Rewilding Scotland) advised that, following the public presentations that had been held in Cannich Hall, a small informal group of like-minded people had met to discuss and consider how a rewilding initiative could be taken forward in the Strathglass area. The specific area being considered was approximately 46,000 acres of Government owned land currently managed for the Government by the Forestry Commission. Mr Balharry said that Rewilding UK was looking at four possible areas for rewilding in the UK but this one offered a lot of strengths. A number of questions and concerns were raised and it was noted that any rewilding would be a very long term project. Grant funding could be sought for a feasibility study and a feasibility study undertaken but ultimately any decision to move forward with a rewilding project would be a decision for the whole community. Mr Balharry confirmed that no action was required from SCC at this time and said that he would be happy to talk to local community groups about rewilding should they wish to hear more about it. Mr Hood advised that the group of people looking at how the initiative could be taken forward had already approached Strathglass and Affric Community Company with a view to becoming a sub-group within SACC thereby coming under its legal entity umbrella.
6. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on January 11th 2017:
* Cannich Recreation Park Gates (Signs and Springs) – Remedial work was still required which Mr Ellis was prepared to undertake. Mr Hood agreed to check with CRPSG to confirm that they would meet the costs of the materials required out of their funds.
* The grant paperwork for the Pensioners’ Xmas Lunch had not been completed. Kay Graham confirmed that she had all the receipts and undertook to finalise the matter as a priority.
* Feedback from THC was awaited regarding the potentially dangerous trees near Fasnakyle.
* Regarding the disused toilet block the Ward Manager had advised that the landowner was SSE. He had contacted SSE and was waiting for a response on the community’s options.
* Mr Stirling advised that the matter of the FCS parking fees would be discussed at the Forestry Liaison Meeting scheduled for March 10th and the issue of consultation on out-of-season shooting would also be raised.
* It was agreed that the Secretary should invite the owners of the Glen Affric Hotel to attend a future SCC meeting to give an update on their plans for the building.
* Other matters arising had all been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.
1. On Going Activity Updates:

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* The Plan was finalised but it remained to confirm that all the people named as ‘helpers’ in the event of an emergency were happy to have their names used in this context. Mr Hood stated that this would be done before the Plan was issued.

*Proposed relocation of Cannich Surgery:* Mr Hood advised that the relocation of the surgery would take place on March 14th. The Secretary was asked to contact the NHS regarding the relocation of the public access defibrillator to the Cannich Shop.

*Disused Toilet Block in Cannich:* This had been addressed in ‘Matters Arising’ (Item 6 above).

*Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm:* The Public Hearings were scheduled to be held in the Cannich Hall from March 7th to March 10th inclusive. The hearings were open to the public but only people who had formally notified the Reporter of their wish to address the hearing would be allowed to speak.

*Funds from FCS Parking Levies:* This had been addressed in ‘Matters Arising’ (Item 6 above).

*Your Ward, Your Funds:* The selection of projects for grant support had been finalised and Cannich Primary School, Strathglass Shinty Club and Cannich Hall had all been successful.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Mr Hood advised that after allowing for the finalising of the Pensioner’s Xmas Party costs and the Cannich Hall fees for the 2017 meetings the available funds remained at £728.52.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and the following points and actions were of particular note:
* Comments on the future of the Scottish Planning System should be made by April 4th.
* LEADER funding was now available for up to 50% of the cost of major community benefit projects.
* Comments on the draft new planning guidance for windows and doors in listed buildings should be submitted by March 13th.
* THC’s Engineering Consultants had been asked to look at the faulty concrete work on the new bridge on the Kerrow Road. A member of the public pointed out that a cable under the bridge had been tied to an old rotting strainer by a piece of string and the Secretary was asked to advise THC accordingly.
1. Planning Update: Mr Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass. No unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
2. Possible Community Purchase of Former Nurse’s House in Cannich: After some discussion it was agreed that a public meeting should be called to solicit ideas for potential community uses for the house. This would be on March 22nd in Cannich Hall. It was agreed that a representative from the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust should be invited but it was not considered necessary to invite a representative from the NHS. The Secretary was asked to issue the Notice for the meeting.
3. Co-opted Member Proposal: Mr Ellis advised that following the lack of a quorum for the SCC meeting scheduled for February 15th and the need for a very late cancellation it would be appropriate to co-opt another member to try to minimise any recurrence of that situation. It had previously been noted that a representative from Struy would be preferred but no volunteer had been forthcoming. Mr Campbell advised that Brad Collins of Cannich Stores had indicated his willingness to become a member and proposed that Brad Collins should be co-opted on to the Community Council. This was seconded and passed by the required majority. The Secretary was asked to advise Mr Collins of his appointment..
4. Any Other Business: A growing amount of litter on the verges of both the section of road between Cannich and Fasnakyle and in Glen Cannich was noted, caused by people throwing their litter from moving vehicles. This was possibly (but not definitely) a construction traffic related problem. The Secretary was asked to look into the possibility for securing a pick-up team from people serving community service orders. The possibilities of a community or school ‘task-force’ to do the clean-up were also discussed. Kay Graham advised that the problem of dog-fouling had again been the subject of postings on the Cannich Buy-Sell Facebook page. The name of one alleged repeat offender was put forward and the Secretary undertook to contact the THC Dog Warden to see if any specific action could be taken.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday March 29 2017 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

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