**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd August 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:** None received

**In Attendance:** Richard Laird and Chris Alves (Scottish Ambulance Service), Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) and six 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. No conflicts of interest were declared.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the SCC meeting held on June 21 2017 were proposed for adoption, approved and signed by Mr Ellis. The Minutes of the SCC AGM held on June 21 2017 were also proposed for adoption, approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Police Report: No police representative was present and no Police Report had been received prior to the meeting.
4. Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) - First Responders Programme (FRP): Mr Laird advised that he had been in post as Community Resilience Team Leader (North) for SAS since last February and that he had a team of four facilitators across the North of Scotland to support FRPs. Chris Alves was based in Dingwall and supported programmes in this area. Mr Laird outlined some changes that had been made in the set-up, requirements and administration of FRPs in the years since the former Cannich based programme had lapsed and a series of questions and answers followed. First responders would undergo four days of training which would be given by SAS on a flexible basis. A local programme would need a co-ordinator and a minimum of three first responders. The co-ordinator would not need to be a first responder. SAS is not looking for 24 hour/7 day coverage and would be pleased to have partial coverage provided that it was on a regular basis and that the SAS Control Room had the rota to know when a first responder was available. Communication equipment and transport were an individual responsibility although some expenses could be reimbursed by SAS. Approximately £3,000 would be required to purchase the initial equipment and this would need to be funded locally or via grants. SAS would provide consumables only. The geographic area to be covered by the first responders would be decided locally but it was noted that the Strathglass Community Council area would be logical. It was agreed that the next step should be to set up a public meeting for Mr Laird (probably on a Monday evening in Cannich Hall) to garner community support and seek volunteers. Mr Laird would advise the Secretary of his availability after the schools go back from summer break and the Community Councillors would set up and publicise the meeting. It was noted that the local public access defibrillators should be registered with SAS and the Secretary was asked to arrange this if it had not already been done.
5. Soirbheas Update: Carol Masheter advised that the Tomich Broadband box was scheduled to be connected but probably not until December. Exchange line users within 3 kilometres of the box should note some improved speed after it was connected but the non-fibre local connections would still be a limiting factor. BT had no plans for Struy and wireless options were still being looked at locally. An Apprenticeship grant had been awarded to the Shieling Project. The next closing dates for Tier 2 grant applications were August 14th and November 27th. European funding had been secured to fund consultancy support for the development of a community energy plan. The dementia project had been deferred.
6. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on June 21st 2017:
* No progress had been made with funding for a 2017 Pensioners’ Xmas lunch.
* No response had been received to the request for the owners of the Glen Affric Hotel to come to a Community Council meeting to give an update on their plans for the hotel. The Secretary advised that he had spoken to one of the owners and that their plans still appeared very loose. Kay Graham advised that some kind of preferential community right to buy might be possible under the Communities Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 but the Secretary thought this would not apply to privately owned property. Kay Graham was asked to review and clarify what was possible. No update was available regarding Councillor Davidson’s discussions with THC’s Building Standards and Environmental Health departments.
* Actions for making people aware of the Community Awareness and Resilience Plan were pending.
* Approval for a change in use of the disused toilet block in Cannich was in process. THC had advised that the market value of the toilet block was £5,000 and asked if SCC was interested in buying it or making an application to THC to take ownership at a cost less than market value. After discussion it was agreed that the Secretary should confirm the community’s interest subject to the change of use being finalised and on an asset transfer rather than purchase basis. It was agreed that SACC would probably be the appropriate vehicle for this.
* It was agreed to keep the SCC g-mail account open but the access restrictions were noted and the Secretary was asked to ensure that all communications to the account were forwarded to the other community council members. It was agreed that the community council’s Information Commission registration should be renewed and the Secretary was asked to action this.
* No response had been received from THC’s Roads Department regarding the Cannich and Tomich bridges but Mr Campbell and Mr Stirling were meeting a representative from the department on August 4th and would raise the matter then.

 Other matters arising had all been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.

1. On Going Activity Updates:

*Road Signs and Other Signage:* A site meeting had been called by Cllr Davidson for August 4th starting at Fasnakyle. Cllr Davidson, a representative from THC’s Roads Department, two people from Strathglass Marketing Group, Mr Stirling and Mr Campbell were scheduled to attend.

*Former Nurse’s House in Cannich:* Mr Hood advised that the people who would take this project forward would meet in September and, in the interim, he would contact Helen Emery at NHS to see how NHS had progressed with the asset divestment process.

*SACC:* Mr Hood advised that the proposed changes to SACC’s objectives and operating structure were in progress. SACC’s 2017 AGM would be held on Monday August 7th. The Chairman suggested that an update on SACC’s various activities should be included as a separate agenda item for future SCC meetings and this was agreed.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Mr Hood advised that there had been no transactions since the last meeting and that the available funds remained at £612.04.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and the following points and actions were of particular note:
* The Climate Challenge Fund had been opened for applications. Grants up to £150K were available for projects taking place between April 1 2018 and March 31 2020. Development grants up to £1,500 were available to help in scoping potential projects.
* The Cabinet Secretary’s announcement on Deer Management noted that the Scottish Government planned to set up a new deer management group to review and oversee what SNH has been doing. Mr Stirling commented that this was an uncertain time for local Deer Management Groups (DMGs). The next regional meeting of the Association of DMGs was scheduled for August 15th in Glenfinnan.
1. Planning Update: Mr Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass. No unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
2. Any Other Business: It was suggested that a representative of Strathglass Development Fund should be invited to the next SCC meeting to give an update on the Affric mini-hydro projects. The very poor condition of some of the passing places on the Cannich to Beauly road was discussed and it was agreed that the Secretary should bring this to the attention of THC’s Roads Department. Construction and logging transport was a continuing problem and the Secretary was asked to get clarification of the licencing requirements for tree felling operations (FCS and private) from FCS and to write to the THC Leader confirming SCC’s support for pursuing contributions from haulage contractors towards local road maintenance costs via the licencing and planning processes.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday September 13th 2017 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

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