**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

**Present:** Nigel Ellis (Chair), Ian Campbell, Brad Collins, Alan Hood, Paul Stirling and Annette Sutherland.

**Apologies:** Kay Graham

**In Attendance:** Cllr Margaret Davidson, PC Scott Maclean (Beauly Police Office) for part only and four 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 October 25 2017 were proposed for adoption, approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Police Report: PC Maclean noted that there had been one successful mountain rescue in the area since the last meeting but there were no other incidents to report. He reminded the meeting and members of the community that this was the time of year for extra care and vigilance on the roads and for ensuring that cars and passengers were properly equipped for the winter weather.
4. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on October 25 2017:

Mr Ellis noted that there were one or two significant issues in the ‘matters arising’ and that this item was therefore being moved forward on the agenda.

*Pensioners’ Xmas Lunch:* Although the grant claim for funding for the 2017 Pensioners’ Xmas Lunch had not been submitted to Soirbheas, Kay Graham had advised by e-mail that funding via a donation was in place and that the lunch would go ahead on Wednesday December 13th as planned. The Hall had been booked and the Cannich Bridge Primary School pupils would be attending to sing some post-lunch carols. Brad Collins undertook to start a list in the shop for attendees although it was acknowledged that it was a bit late in the day for this. It was agreed that the most important action for everybody would be to communicate to potential attendees that the lunch was on. It was reiterated that organising and funding community events was not part of the Community Council’s remit (although SCC had agreed to be the conduit for the funds) and noted that future Pensioners’ Xmas lunches would be dependent on some volunteers taking responsibility for the fund-raising and the organisation.

*First Responders:* The Chairman reported that two members of the community had signed up with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) as potential First Responders which would not be sufficient to establish a local group. The SAS had not responded to the proposal that Cannich could perhaps operate as a sub-group of Drumnadrochit and it was assumed that SAS was waiting to see if sufficient volunteers for a meaningful group were forthcoming before looking at the structure.

*Defibrillators:* Mr Ellis had discussed the maintenance requirements for the public access defibrillators (PABs) with Lucky2BeHere and had also researched the topic via the internet. It was essential that the Cannich PAB should be hard wired and Brad Collins undertook to get this done including the purchase of a new power block if needed. It was agreed that SCC would meet the costs. Mr Ellis advised that no routine maintenance of the PABs was required but they should be inspected every four-to-six weeks to ensure that they were in working order. Mr Stirling said that he could probably do that and would discuss the matter with Mr Ellis offline. The pads and batteries were probably due for replacement in 2018 and Lucky2BeHere should notify SCC when they were due.

Other matters arising had been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.

1. Soirbheas Community Benefit Monies: Mr Campbell gave an update on the meetings that had taken place between Soirbheas Board members and representatives of the Glen Urquhart and Strathglass Community Councils and summarised how the community benefit monies from the Corrimony wind farm were calculated and paid. Given that a significant amount of the communities’ 20% profit share was currently being received by Soirbheas Trading Limited (STL) with no visibility for the Community Councils, members of the community or even the Soirbheas members. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to the Soirbheas Board to request that, in the interests of transparency, the full-form accounts of STL should be posted on the Soirbheas website.
2. Cannich Recreation Park (CRP) Assets and Agreements: With the disbanding of the Steering Group (CRPSG) and the passing of its residual funds to SCC it was agreed that Mr Hood and Mr Campbell should try to get hold of a signed copy of the SSE land lease (if it was actually signed) and any papers related to ownership of the equipment in order to properly assess risks and liabilities going forward.
3. SACC Projects and Activities Update:

*Organisational Structure:* Mr Hood reported that two further potential Directors had been identified which should bring the number of Directors to eight. A newsletter had been prepared to advise members of the community of the structural changes and the SACC website was to be updated.

*Rewilding*: The group had met and were working on their prospectus.

*Disused Toilet Block Cannich:* There was no specific progress to report.

*Former Nurses House Cannich:* A meeting was scheduled with the NHS in January. Discussions were on-going with Scottish Land Fund and the Rural Housing Fund and SACC was in the process of registering with both these bodies. SACC was also talking to a potential project manager.

*Cannich Hall:* A temporary caretaker had been appointed (Carrie Fraser) and the position was being advertised. The Hall continued to be busy and the Chrismas Fair had been a huge success with an estimated 200 people attending. Volunteers for the Hall committee were still being sought.

1. On-going SCC Activity Updates:

The on-going activities had all been covered under ‘Matters Arising’ above.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Mr Hood reported that £1,257.67 had been paid out of the monies held for CRPSG, £102.00 had been paid out for Hall hire for SCC’s 2018 meetings and a donation of £250 had been received for the Pensioners’ Xmas Lunch. This meant that SCC’s available funds were £1312.86, £340.00 was being held for the Xmas Lunch and £423.54 was being held from the CRPSG funds pending investigation of potential liabilities. A request for funding for the SACC newsletter was considered and Messrs Hood and Campbell both declared an interest as SACC Directors and excluded themselves from any decision. After discussion the other Community Councillors approved £100 for this purpose. A request for some financial assistance for the Children’s Xmas Disco was considered. Mr Ellis noted that efforts had been (and were being made) to move this event on to a sustainable self-funding basis and the amount requested was to cover a funding gap during the transition. The amount of £100 was unanimously approved.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence since the previous meeting. It was agreed that a letter of support should be issued to the Shieling Project in respect of the project’s proposed accommodation upgrades but with the caveat that it was not for planning purposes. SCC’s position on any planning application would depend on the details of that application. There was a discussion about THC’s update e-mail on broadband and Cllr Davidson said that THC was proactively looking at what it could do to speed up the roll out. She noted that free wi-fi should be available in Drumnadrochit and Fort Augustus in 2018, that funds were available from the UK Government for fibre-to-premises projects and that funds for digitisation were available in the Region Deal.
3. Planning Update: Mr Hood presented his report on recent planning activities in Strathglass. Two new house applications had been submitted (one at the top of Kerrow Brae and the other on the Beauly road near Invercannich Farm). In context of the Invercannich application, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to make the Planners aware of SCC’s recent correspondence with THC’s Roads Department regarding safety concerns related to the Cannich end of the Beauly Road.
4. Any Other Business: A member of the public asked whether the requirement for a licence for public bonfire parties was a one-off or on-going and the consensus was that it was not going away. Cllr Davidson advised that representations on the subject could be made to the Head of the Licencing Board. Mr Hood asked whether funding might be available for improving the appearance of the bridges at each end of Cannich and Cllr Davidson noted that LEADER monies were still available and could be a source. The poor condition of the wall around Fasnakyle burial ground was discussed and Cllr Davidson suggested that the Secretary should contact Hugh Gardner at THC to see if funding for remedial or replacement work might be available from the Burial Ground Commutation Fund.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday January 10th 2018 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

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