**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Annette Sutherland and Cllr Helen Carmichael.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Margaret Davidson (from 7:50 pm), Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) 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. Members of the public in attendance were reminded that comments should be made via the Chair. No conflicts of interest were declared.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the SCC meeting held on March 29 2017 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Police Report: No police representative was present but the Community Engagement Form had been received and Mr Ellis noted that the only reportable issue in the period covered was a minor road traffic collision. The police were seeking assistance in identifying the owner of the old Royal Observer Bunker in Cannich but nobody present was able to help with this.
4. Soirbheas Update:Carol Masheter advised that the Apprenticeship grant had been launched and the first round of applications were currently being accessed. The next closing date for Tier 2 grant applications was August 14th. The Soirbheas AGM was scheduled for June 29th and it was planned to have a public community broadband update session alongside the AGM although specific details for this had not yet been finalised. Soirbheas was planning to run a Dementia Awareness Campaign over the next few months.
5. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on March 29th 2017:
* The grant paperwork for the 2016 Pensioners’ Xmas Lunch had been completed and funding for a 2017 lunch was discussed. Mr Campbell advised that a member of the community had offered to donate £90 to get the funding process underway and it was agreed that Mr Hood and Mr Campbell should approach local organisations for donations. SCC would receive donations and act as banker.
* Mr Ellis had previously notified THC Roads Department about the potentially dangerous trees near Fasnakyle but no update had been received. It was noted that, although the trees were on private land, some of them were overhanging the road which should make them accessible to THC. Mr Ellis agreed to contact THC again.
* Protected status for continuity of power supply for the Cannich Hall remained an open item.
* A meeting between representatives of GUCC and representatives of SCC to discuss Soirbheas financial reporting had been set for May 18th.
* Mr Hood advised that, subject to members’ approval, SACC planned to move towards a Community Trust model enabling it to take on a wider range of activities. This would require changes to the company’s objectives and operating structure but no change to its legal structure or status.

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

1. On Going Activity Updates:

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* Letters had been sent to all the individuals who were assigned some responsibility in the draft plan to confirm their agreement. In the absence of a response by May 29th their agreement would be presumed. The Plan could then be regarded as final and registered with SSE and THC. It would be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it was kept current.

* *Disused Toilet Block in Cannich:* Although there had been no progress regarding the disused toilet block in Cannich, this remained an open item.

*Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm:* This was still with the Reporter for decision and no updates had been received.

*Former Nurse’s House in Cannich:* Only one response had been received to SCC’s request for volunteers to take this forward. Nonetheless, after some discussion, it was agreed that Mr Hood would try to set up an early meeting with representatives from HSCHT and Councillor Davidson undertook to give some thought as to how a potential community interest in the property could be progressed.

1. Road Signs and Other Local Signs: After discussion it was agreed that the Community Councillors should individually give consideration to the road signs that they would like to see at the two approaches to Cannich village (i.e at the foot of Kerrow Brae and at the Glen Affric Hotel/Beauly road bridge crossroads) and be prepared to discuss and consider at the next SCC meeting. Councillor Davidson undertook to address the relocation of the big brown ‘Glen Affric’ sign at Fasnakyle to make it more obvious. It was also agreed that the Community councillors should liaise with Matt Jones to see how his more general review of signage in Cannich was progressing and that Mr Jones should be invited to the next SCC meeting to join in the signage discussion. It was noted that the ‘Affric Kintail Trail’ signs were ecologically friendly but not particularly eye-grabbing for people walking the Trail.
2. 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.
3. Accounts for the Year Ended March 31st 2017: The draft Accounts had been previously circulated and were proposed for approval and unanimously approved. It was agreed that the Accounts should go for independent examination and certification prior to being proposed for adoption at the AGM in June.
4. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and the following points and actions were of particular note:
* SSEN’s Resilient Communities Fund of £285K was open and applications for individual grants of up to £20K would be accepted up to June 15th. Mr Hood noted that SACC would probably be making an application based on costs associated with the Community Emergency and Resilience Plan.
* The M&S Community Energy Fund was open with £300K available in £12K chunks for renewable energy initiatives. It was noted that awards were based on votes and that communities with small populations and limited support were therefore unlikely to be successful.
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: Mr Stirling advised that he had attended the South Ross Deer Management Groups Liaison meeting and that all the DMGs were waiting for the Scottish Government’s decision regarding possible deer management legislation. Whatever the outcome, SNH was scheduled to look at this again in 2019. It had been noted that feral pig and wild boar populations were growing. These beasts were causing considerable damage which was a concern to FCS, NTS and the sporting estates.

The continuing atrocious state of the Glen Affric Hotel and associated accident risks were raised and Councillor Davidson undertook to discuss the situation with THC’s Building Standards and Environmental Health departments to see what, if anything, could be done to achieve some early improvement.

A member of the public asked what was happening regarding improved broadband for Tomich and noted that he had been unable to get any meaningful information from BT Open Reach. Carol Masheter said that Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) might be able to provide information on services planned for Tomich and said she would contact CBS on this issue. She also advised that there was an ongoing initiative to provide a wireless broadband service in Strathglass and that this could possibly be extended to Tomich. An update should be available at the proposed meeting noted in Item 4 above.

A member of the public raised the issue of litter being dropped by construction workers in Glen Affric and, after some discussion, it was agreed that the Secretary should write to Green Highland Renewables to ask them to address this matter with their staff and contractors.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday June 21st 2017 immediately following the AGM (which was scheduled for 7:30 pm on the same date) and declared the meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

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