**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 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:** 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 November 23 2016 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on November 23rd 2016:
* Cannich Recreation Park Gates (Signs and Springs) – These had been replaced but the springs were a temporary fix and would be replaced with a permanent fix once the weather improved. Costs would be met from the CRPSG funds held by SCC.
* The Pensioners’ Xmas Lunch had been a success. The final cost exceeded the Soirbheas grant by £6 or so and it was agreed that this shortfall would be covered by SCC. Kay Graham undertook to complete the paperwork for Soirbheas within the next week. *(After the meeting a donation was received from a member of the public to cover the funding shortfall).*
* The potentially dangerous trees near Fasnakyle had been marked with pink ribbons and Mr Ellis undertook to take photos of them for sending to THC. It was noted that the tree previously reported to THC had been felled.
* There was nothing further to report regarding the ‘Health Walks’ initiative.
* It was agreed that the abandoned car in front of the Glen Affric hotel presented a danger to the public and that the Secretary should notify the police accordingly with copies to the hotel owners and THC.
* Other matters arising had all been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.
1. Police Report: The routine Police Report had not been received and there was no representative from the police at the meeting.
2. On Going Activity Updates:

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* The meeting in December for finalising the plan did not take place and had been rescheduled for later in January.

*Proposed relocation of Cannich Surgery:* All the equipment for the new surgery room had been received other than the bed and Mr Hood undertook to chase the NHS representatives to try to finalise the relocation schedule. No response had been received from the NHS regarding the release of the survey report on the former nurse’s house to HSCHT. The Secretary was asked to follow up.

*Disused Toilet Block in Cannich:* The cost estimate for demolition received from THC (£3,800 plus VAT) was considered to be excessive. Councillor Davis had advised the Secretary that the toilet block would be advertised for sale on the open market by THC and, after discussion, the Secretary was asked to contact the Ward Manager to review the community’s options.

*Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm:* The Secretary advised that the pre-examination meeting had been held in December and that the inquiry/hearing sessions would be held in the week ending March 10th possibly in Balnain Hall or Cannich Hall. Determination was now unlikely to be made until May.

*Funds from FCS Parking Levies:* In the absence of clarification regarding the criteria for the use of these funds it was agreed that all suggestions should be put forward to FCS. Suggestions noted to date had been potential improvements to disabled access and facilities at Dog Falls and opening the waterfall on the Allt Coillte burn to view (above the A831 at the north-eastern end of Cannich) by felling some of the bordering tree cover. The Secretary was asked to write to Councillor Davidson with a copy to Graeme Prest at FCS regarding the criteria and to ensure that these funds were secured for the benefit of the community.

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 were £728.52. The amount of £1,681.21 was still being held on behalf of CRPSG.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and asked for the following particular points and actions to be noted:
* THC’s Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidelines had been adopted and now carried the full weight of the Development Plan in decision making.
* Comments on the Review of Polling Places Consultation draft proposals and Returning Officer’s representations were required by January 20th.
* The deadline for Tier 2 funding applications to Soirbheas (£501 - £10,000) was February 13th.
1. Planning Update: Mr Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass. No unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
2. Forestry Matters Update: Mr Stirling advised that he had invited Alastair Smyth of FCS to attend the SCC meeting in February but Mr Smyth was being reassigned. In view of the extensive local harvesting plans and associated heavy traffic volumes it was agreed that the Secretary should request FCS representation at the February meeting and approximately quarterly thereafter for as long as this harvesting activity was ongoing. The meeting regarding the proposed Erchless Native Woodland development had not taken place. This would be a huge development and serious concerns had been raised about the potential impact it could have on deer movements including the potential forced diversion of deer into an SSI area. The matter was still in consultation and the Glen Strathfarrar DMG was engaged in the ongoing discussions. The proposal had not yet been submitted for planning consent.
3. SNH Deer Management Report: The SNH Deer Management Report had been submitted to the Scottish Government and would provide the basis for Government to decide if the current system of regulation was working satisfactorily or if further regulation and/or legislation may be needed. The Association of DMGs had raised concerns about some of the historic population numbers used by SNH and its conclusions and the Scottish Government’s response to the report was now awaited. Mr Stirling advised that he had heard that FCS may be commissioning some out of season shooting and noted that it had been previously agreed that this would only happen after consultation with the local community and other interested parties. The Secretary was asked to raise this matter with FCS.
4. Any Other Business: Mr Hood advised that a small group of interested people within the community had held an initial meeting to discuss how the proposed ‘Rewilding’ project could be taken forward. It was noted that David Balharry would be attending the SCC meeting in February to give an update on the proposed project. The appalling state of the Glen Affric Hotel was raised by Annette Sutherland and it was noted that it looked even worse after the part-painting than it had before. There was a lengthy discussion regarding possible actions that could be taken and the Secretary was asked to liaise with the THC Ward Manager to see what options (if any) were available to the community to try to accelerate some very significant improvement.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday February 15 2017 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

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