**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2017 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Alan Hood and Cllr Margaret Davidson.

**In Attendance:** Liz Balharry andRoddie Maclennan (Strathglass Development Fund) 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 August 2nd 2017 were proposed for adoption, approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Police Report: No police representative was present and Mr Ellis presented the Police Report. It was noted that Sergeant Julie Connor had recently taken over responsibility for the Beauly and Fort Augustus areas (based in Beauly) and that PC David Elliot would be preparing future Reports for the Beauly section. The Report was being expanded to include information for neighbouring communities on a trial basis. In the reporting period there had been an unusually high level of calls and minor incidents and almost all of these were related to the Beladrum Music Festival. Regrettably there had been a fatal accident on the A833 near Brockies Corner for which investigations were ongoing.
4. Strathglass Development Fund (SDF) Update: Liz Balharry reminded the Community Councillors that SDF had been established to receive and distribute community benefit monies from the Glen Affric micro-hydro projects. The first annual receipt of £17.5k would be due twelve months after first production and this was expected to be in the bank in the last quarter of 2018. Ms Balharry advised that SDF had also negotiated a small community benefit payment from the two small micro-hydro schemes in Glen Cannich and the first annual amount of £2k should be received in December 2017. The Directors of SDF would be responsible for assessing and approving the community projects to be funded and a draft of the Application Form was available. Directors were required to be reappointed annually so any community dissatisfaction with the Board could be dealt with democratically. There were currently six Directors but this could be expanded to nine and anybody interested in joining the SDF Board should get in touch with Ms Balharry. The SDF AGM would be held on Tuesday October 24th at 7:30 pm in Cannich Hall and members of the community were encouraged to attend.
5. Rewilding Update: Liz Balharry advised that there had been no significant activity or progress during the summer. Once the SACC constitution change was completed it was hoped to formally include the Rewilding Project Team as a sub-group of SACC and move forward from there. No funding applications had been made yet.
6. SACC Projects and Activities Update:

*Organisational Structure:* The first meeting of the newly formed SACC Board was scheduled to be held within the next two weeks. The current Directors were Alan Hood, Carrie Fraser, David Balharry and Ele Forster. Ian Campbell had expressed a willingness to attend with a view to joining and additionalvolunteers were invited.

*Disused Toilet Block Cannich:* This project had now moved from SCC to SACC to take forward and there was no progress to report.

*Former Nurses House Cannich:* The NHS had advised by e-mail that the house was now formally surplus to NHS’s requirements. A meeting of the SACC project group had been scheduled for September 19th and Kay Graham and Jane Stokes had attended the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust AGM to gather information.

1. Matters Arising from the SCC Meeting on August 2 2017:
* No progress had been made with funding for a 2017 Pensioners’ Xmas lunch. It was agreed that Kay Graham would submit a Grant Application to Soirbheas and the date for the lunch was provisionally set for Wednesday December 13th subject to the Hall availability being confirmed.
* It was noted that, under the Communities Empowerment Act and with effect from December 2017, the owner of ‘abandoned’ or ‘neglected’ land may be compelled to sell if that land caused harm to the environmental wellbeing of the community. The physical condition of a building was included in this. In subsequent discussion it was noted that the Glen Affric Hotel building was still not secured. Some children had been caught inside and it appeared that Louise Hodgson (the former owner) had free access. This was a continuing safety concern and the Secretary was asked to contact the owners again and to follow-up with Councillor Davidson regarding visits by THC’s Environmental Health and Building Standards departments. In context of this discussion Brad Collins advised that he had spoken to the owner of the Glen Affric Bar who had stated that he had no intention of selling the bar and was planning to demolish it.

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

1. On Going SCC Activity Updates:

*Road Signs and Other Signage:* As a result of the site meeting on August 4th a list of agreed actions had been issued by Cllr Davidson and circulated. It was agreed that completion of these actions would represent a good step forward.

*Road and Bridge Maintenance:* This had been covered within the list of agreed actions issued by Cllr Davidson as noted above. The Secretary advised that THC had no budget for major bridge works in the area and the ‘temporary’ bridge on the approach to Tomich would be staying for the foreseeable future.

*Proposed First Responders Programme:* A meeting to take this forward had been scheduled for Monday September 18th at 7:30 pm in the Community Room at Cannich Hall.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Mr Ellis presented the Treasurer’s Report. He advised that payments had been made or were due to be made in respect of the Information Commission registration renewal (£35) and the Hall hire for the First Responders meeting (£12). The 2017/2018 grant of £866.30 had been received from THC and SCC’s available funds stood at £1,431.34.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and the following points and actions were of particular note:
* The licencing requirement for bonfire events was a serious issue and although the Cannich event could be covered under an extended SACC licence (if the incremental funding of £255 could be raised) this was of no help to Struy or Tomich.
* A question was asked about whether or not Highlife Highland employees were included in THC’s annual Staff Performance Awards and the Secretary undertook to get an answer to this.
* The British Red Cross First Aid Education Day programme was not run to a fixed schedule and Education Days would be organised based on demand.
1. Planning Update: Mr Ellis presented Mr Hood’s report on recent planning activities in Strathglass. No unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
2. Any Other Business: A draft meeting schedule for 2018 was presented, reviewed and agreed (copy attached). It was agreed that Mr Hood should be asked to make the necessary Hall bookings. It was agreed that the Secretary should procure a sign for the Glass Recycling Bins in the Hall carpark. Two members of the public expressed concern about the speed of traffic on the approach to Cannich from Beauly. There were a number of houses on this stretch of road with children and others regularly walking or cycling between their homes and the village. Despite the obvious safety issues this was a derestricted speed zone. Possible solutions were discussed and it was agreed that the Secretary would contact THC’s Roads Department accordingly. Kay Graham referred to the draft minutes from the Glen Affric Community Partnership and asked for some more specific details regarding potential projects for the car park income. Mr Campbell confirmed that the monies would be spent on incremental projects on Forestry Commission land that would be of benefit to the community. These monies would not be spent on routine maintenance works. He also confirmed that the income to date needed to be spent in the current financial year and future income spent on a current basis. Ms Graham expressed concern at the slow progress and the lack of more detailed information. It was noted that the Secretary had an outstanding action to invite the FCS Deer Management Officer to attend a future SCC meeting.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday October 25th 2017 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

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**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING SCHEDULE 2018**

* Wednesday January 10th
* Wednesday February 21st
* Wednesday March 28th
* Wednesday May 9th
* Wednesday June 20th + AGM
* Wednesday August 1st
* Wednesday September 12th
* Wednesday October 24th
* Wednesday December 5th

All meetings will be held in Cannich Village Hall starting at 7:30 pm.