**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21st June 2017 at 7:40 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Helen Carmichael and Cllr Emma Knox.

**In Attendance:** Cllr George Cruickshank, Cllr Margaret Davidson and five 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 March 29 2017 were proposed for adoption, approved and signed by Mr Ellis. Kay Graham advised that she had asked for the minutes to record that no part of the Glen Affric Hotel had listed building status and it was agreed that this omission should be noted in the current minutes.
3. Police Report: No police representative was present but the Community Engagement Form had been received and Mr Ellis noted that the only reportable issues in the period were two mountain rescue incidents and the report of damage to some boat oars at Loch Mullardoch which was being investigated.
4. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on March 29th 2017:

* As agreed at the previous SCC meeting, individual Community Councillors would continue to approach local groups and organisations regarding funding for a 2017 Pensioners’ Xmas lunch. It was also noted that funds would have to be raised if there was to be a Christmas party for the Strathglass children in 2017 and it was suggested that some of the parents should perhaps be leading this initiative.
* A fairly dismissive response had been received to the GUCC/SCC letter to Soirbheas requesting some more detailed and regular financial reporting from Soirbheas to the communities it serves. A further meeting of the three parties had been arranged for August 17th. After discussion it was agreed that the information being requested was reasonable and should not be burdensome for Soirbheas to produce. Councillor Davidson commented that the relationship between the Community Councils and the Soirbheas Board required some ‘bridge-building’.
* Mr Hood advised that the proposal to change SACC’s objectives and operating structure was an on-going matter.
* The potential application to SSEN’s Resilient Communities Fund by SACC was also an on-going matter.
* With regard to the Glen Affric Hotel, Councillor Davidson noted that THC’s Building Standards department had advised that if the ground floor of an empty building was secured against access then it was compliant with legislation. However, it was pointed out that the ground floor of the hotel was not secured and Councillor Davidson undertook to refer the matter back to Building Standards. She advised that she was still waiting for a report from THC’s Environmental Health department regarding the hotel. After some discussion it was agreed that the Secretary should invite the owners of the hotel to come to a Community Council meeting to give an update on their plans for the hotel.
* It was noted that there was nothing new to report regarding Carol Masheter’s undertaking to advise Community Broadband Scotland of the very poor broadband service in Tomich. Councillor Davidson noted that many communities were pursuing their own solutions with wireless being the favoured option.

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

1. On Going Activity Updates:

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* Mr Hood advised that this should be finalised this month. There was discussion about making members of the community aware of the Plan and suggestions included flyers and posting the Plan on the SACC website.

*Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm:* It was noted that the Reporter had rejected the Developer’s appeal and it was hoped that the matter was now closed.

*Former Nurse’s House in Cannich:* Mr Hood advised that three or four members of the community had expressed their willingness to take forward a community ownership bid and, after some

discussion, it was agreed that the Community Council supported this initiative. SACC would probably be the owner and it was agreed that Kay Graham would represent SCC on the project team.

*Disused Toilet Block in Cannich:* It was agreed that the Secretary should contact SSE to try to move this forward.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Mr Hood advised that there had been no payments since the last meeting and that the available funds remained at £612.04. A donation of £90 towards the Pensioners’ Xmas lunch had been received from a member of the community and was being held by SCC but ring-fenced for that specific purpose.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and the following points and actions were of particular note:

* Survey request in connection with the development of the Local Improvement Plan for Highland. Councillor Davidson urged the Community Councillors to respond.
* A request from HM Fire Service Inspectorate for feedback on SCC’s relationship with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was discussed and the Secretary was asked to submit a response reflecting the points agreed.
* Problems with multiple access to the Strathglass Community Council g-mail account were highlighted and the Secretary undertook to investigate and report back to the other Community Councillors.
* It was agreed that the minutes of the Forestry Liaison Group meetings should be posted on local notice boards in future.

1. Planning Update: Mr Hood reported on recent planning activities in Strathglass. No unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
2. Road Signs and Other Local Signs: Councillor Davidson noted that some thoughts and ideas had been put forward and advised that the THC Roads Department was looking at the possibilities for repositioning the big sign at Fasnakyle. She suggested that a follow-up meeting for the interested parties would be timely and appropriate and this was agreed. It was also agreed that Matt Jones should be invited to the next SCC meeting. It was observed that more regular and thorough verge and branch cutting would help visitors to see the signs that already exist.
3. Any Other Business: Brad Collins advised that Cannich Stores had won Spar’s ‘best rural Post-Office’

award and thanked everybody in the community for their support of the business. Cannich Stores had also been ranked in the top ten Spar stores in the UK and this was acknowledged by all present as a great achievement.

A communication had been received from the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) regarding some restructuring of the service and suggesting a fresh look at a potential local First Responders service. It was agreed that a representative from SAS should be invited to the next SCC meeting.

A communication had been received from THC reminding communities of the need to have a Public Entertainment Licence to cover firework events. It was noted that the licence cost was £425 and it was generally agreed that this cost could see the end of some local events. An inconclusive discussion followed regarding the differences (from the licencing and insurance perspectives) between a formal organised community event and an informal event put together by a few like-minded people. It was agreed that the Secretary should ensure that the organisers of the Struy and Tomich bonfire parties were aware of the communication from THC.

It was noted that the ironworks on the bridges at both ends of Cannich were in urgent need of refurbishment and the Secretary was asked to bring this to the attention of THC’s Roads Department. A member of the public added that the supposedly temporary metal bridge on the approach to Tomich had been there for a very long time.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday August 2nd 2017 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

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