**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25th October 2017 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Margaret Davidson and Councillor Helen Carmichael

**In Attendance:** Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) and PC Scott Maclean (Beauly Police Office) for part only plus two 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 September 13th 2017 were proposed for adoption, approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Police Report: PC Maclean presented the new format report which included the five Community Council areas covered by the Beauly and Fort Augustus police offices. He advised that future reports would be issued monthly rather than being issued to tie in with specific Community Council meeting dates. There were no serious incidents reported in the Strathglass area. A concern was raised about logging lorries speeding on the Kerrow Road. PC Maclean undertook to raise the issue with the Forestry Commission although he counselled that the perception of the speed of a large vehicle on a narrow road was often misleading.
4. Soirbheas Update: Carol Masheter advised that the latest Soirbheas newsletter was about to be issued. Two free ‘Money Matters’ sessions would be delivered by Age Scotland on November 21st in Drumnadrochit. The poles for the Tomich Super-Fast Broadband connection were installed to take the lines to the cabinet. It was understood (but not confirmed) that the cabinet should go live this year. The Struy Wireless Broadband project was making progress. There was a new section on the Soirbheas website designed to inform and assist new community groups to get established. The Tier 1 grant progamme was open for applications and would stay open while funds were available. The next Tier 2 deadline dates were November 27th and February 12th 2018 (the latter being subject to funding being available). No progress had been made towards establishing a Health Walk group in Cannich.
5. SACC Projects and Activities Update:

*Organisational Structure:* Mr Hood reported that the transition to the new organisational structure was moving forward. Two new Directors had agreed to join the SACC Board but further Directors were still required. In particular SACC needed somebody who could take on the Company Secretarial duties. The sub-group teams also needed new members particularly the Hall Committee which was currently down to a team of three. Anybody interested in joining the Board or one of the sub-group committees should contact Mr Hood. It was planned to issue a communication quite soon to members of the community advising them of SACC’s revised role and structure.

*Rewilding*: There was no specific progress to report.

*Disused Toilet Block Cannich:* There was no specific progress to report but it was noted that some of the research done on the Former Nurses House was also pertinent for the disused toilet block.

*Former Nurses House Cannich:* Meetings had been held with Scottish Land Fund and the Rural Housing Fund. It had been recommended that SACC’s constitution should be reviewed for conformity with funding bodies’ requirements before any formal expression of interest was lodged in respect of the nurses house or the toilet block. Mr Hood noted that a formal ownership risk assessment should and would be carried out in respect of any asset that was being considered for community ownership.

*Cannich Hall;* It was agreed that the Cannich Hall should be included as a separate item on the agenda for future updates. In response to a question from Annette Sutherland, Mr Hood advised that the feedback on the new surgery arrangement from the NHS, the doctors and patients was all positive.

1. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on September 13 2017:

Kay Graham confirmed that the grant application to Soirbheas for the 2017 Pensioners’ Christmas Lunch was prepared and would be submitted before the end of the month.

Other matters arising had been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.

1. On-going SCC Activity Updates:

*Road Signs and Other Signage:* Some of the work agreed had been completed and a full update would be prepared and made available for the next SCC meeting.

*Road and Bridge Maintenance:* Any refurbishment of the bridge on the Beauly road would be dependent on THC’s budget and it was not anticipated that work would be carried out any time soon. THC had surveyed the bridge at the Kerrow end of Cannich village but the results and any planned actions were not known. An update would be included as part of the ‘Roads and Signage’ update for the next SCC meeting. It was noted that the remedial work on the new bridge on the Kerrow Road had been completed.

*Proposed First Responders Programme:* There had been no action or movement since the meeting on September 18th where people interested in becoming a First Responder had been asked to register their interest on the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) website. Two people had expressed an interest in joining the programme and Mr Ellis undertook to follow-up to find out why they had not registered with SAS. Kay Graham said that she knew two other people who were interested in joining the programme and it was suggested that she should ask them to register with SAS. The pros and cons of possibly operating as a sub-section of the Drumnadrochit programme were discussed and Mr Ellis undertook to raise the idea with Ricky Laird of SAS.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Mr Hood advised that payments had been made or were scheduled to be made for the ‘Glass Recycling Bins’ sign (£28.48), the Hall hire for the First Responders meeting (£12.00) and the Hall hire for SCC’s 2018 meetings (£81.00). SCC’s available funds after taking account of these items stood at £1,321.86.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and the following points and actions were of particular note:

* SCC had received copies of correspondence related to a near-miss incident between a D & E Coach and two cyclists along the Tomich road. This had been resolved but the item led to discussion about other incidents involving D & E drivers. It was noted that anybody observing inappropriate or potentially dangerous behaviour by commercial vehicle drivers (be it a bus, a lorry or a van) should formally report the matter to the operating company involved.
* THC was hosting another Rural Communities Convention on November 1st in Drumnadrochit and Mr Ellis advised that he was planning to attend.

1. Planning Update: Mr Hood presented his report on recent planning activities in Strathglass. No unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted and there were no items requiring SCC action.
2. Any Other Business: A question was asked regarding maintenance requirements for the public access defibrillators (PADs) and it was noted that the batteries were due to be replaced after 5 years which may be quite soon. Mr Ellis undertook to get in touch with Lucky2BeHere to confirm when the battery replacement and any other required maintenance was due. It was agreed that the electricity supply to the Cannich PAD should be connected and that SCC would pay for the work to be done if somebody could organise an accredited electrician to do the work. Concerns were raised about the apparent lack of progress in identifying projects for the FCS car parking funds and in the ability of FCS to get the projects completed and the money spent within the current FCS financial year. The Secretary was asked to formally advise Councillor Davidson and Graeme Prest of SCC’s concern. It was noted that, as a consequence of the new public event licencing requirements, the Struy and Tomich bonfire parties had been cancelled. The Cannich event would go ahead and Struy and Tomich residents would be welcomed.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday December 6th 2017 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

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