**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29th March 2017 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Kay Graham and Cllr Margaret Davidson.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Helen Carmichael, Cllr Jean Davis, PC Scott Maclean (Beauly Police Office) – part only, Colin Leslie and Duncan Manson (FCS) - part only 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. He noted that this was Brad Collins’ first SCC meeting as a co-opted member and welcomed him to the group. 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 1 2017 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Police Report: PC Maclean advised that since his last report there had been one minor road traffic collision in the area. An incident of vandalism at the Slaters Arms was under investigation and there had been a serious but non-suspicious car fire at Millness. PC Maclean noted that the penalty for using a mobile phone or other device while driving was now six points and a £200 fine. The terrorist warning for the UK remained ‘severe’. Scam calls alleging to be from Microsoft were rife and people should be wary of these. PC Maclean was advised that there had been strangers in a van offering power tools for sale in Cannich and he urged people to record and report the vehicle registration number in such circumstances so that the police could make appropriate enquiries.
4. Forestry Update and Harvesting Plans:Colin Leslie advised that the FCS Deer Management Officer would attend a future meeting of SCC. Mr Leslie was asked to send SCC a copy of the minutes of the Glen Affric Community Partnership (Forestry Liaison) meetings even if no SCC member was able to attend. Duncan Manson then presented the FCS harvesting plans in the area for 2017 as follows: Lower Guisachan starting April – 2,000 tonnes, Upper Guisachan starting May – 9,000 tonnes, Kerrow starting August – 7,000 tonnes and Fasnakyle starting August/September – 10,000 tonnes. This represented between 1,100 and 1,200 lorry loads moving through the area in this period.

The pylon access road across Kerrow was too steep in places for the logging lorries and was not an optional route. It was agreed that logging lorries would be asked to adhere to a 20 mph limit through the villages. In addition it was agreed that there should be no logging lorry movements through the area before 7 am in the morning or after 7 pm in the evening and there would be no movements through Cannich or Balnain between 8 am and 9 am or between 3 pm and 4 pm during school term time. Concern was expressed about the suitability of the lower Kerrow Road for any significant volume of heavy traffic and it was agreed that this would be taken into consideration.

1. Proposed Rewilding Initiative (Additional Agenda Item):Matt Jones hadasked to be given the opportunity to give the Community Councillors an update regarding the proposed rewilding initiative. He advised that he was a member of the group of people looking at how the initiative could be taken forward and stressed that it would be a very long term project. The group was initially developing a document to outline the scope, potential economic benefits and potential social benefits. Thereafter they would be looking to secure funding and professional support to develop a full scoping report. On a separate topic Mr Jones advised that he and others were becoming increasingly concerned about the plethora and diversity of signs in and around the village. These were not perceived to be particularly helpful to visitors and he would be talking to local businesses to try to get some better structure and uniformity. Mr Stirling advised that Tristram Woolston may be able to offer some expertise and experience in this area and suggested that Mr Jones should contact him. It was noted by Mr Campbell that signage was also being looked at as an outcome of the last Forestry Liaison meeting.
2. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on March 1st 2017:

* Glen Affric Hotel owners had undertaken to secure the building and have the abandoned car removed.
* Cannich Recreation Park Gates – Ali Mann had undertaken to carry out the work that was required.
* The grant paperwork for the Pensioners’ Xmas Lunch was still incomplete. Kay Graham to action.
* Feedback from THC was still awaited regarding the potentially dangerous trees near Fasnakyle. Chair to check status.
* Secretary to chase the Ward Manager regarding the disused toilet block in Cannich.
* Glen Affric Hotel owners will consider plans for the building after other projects finish in May.
* Secretary to contact the Ward Manager regarding the person to contact to enquire about the availability of Community Service Order workers for litter collection.

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

1. On Going Activity Updates:

*Community Emergency and Resilience Plan:* Draft Plan waiting for printing and circulating. *Relocation of Cannich Surgery:* Mr Hood noted that the relocation had gone well and undertook to check with SSE whether the Hall should be a ‘protected’ building for continuity of power supply purposes now that the surgery is based there. Brad Collins had the relocation of the defib in hand.

*Disused Toilet Block in Cannich:* This had been addressed in ‘Matters Arising’ (Item 6 above).

*Cnoc An Eas Wind Farm:* Mr Ellis advised that the Public Hearings had been held as scheduled and the Reporter’s decision was expected around the end of May.

*Funds from FCS Parking Levies:* Mr Stirling said that around £20k had been collected in the first three years and that five possible projects for funding had been discussed at the Forestry Liaison meeting. Developing some Forestry themed events for members of the community, children and visitors in the summer was one that was already moving forward. Another was looking at improvements that could be made to tourist road signs. Improvements to the Affric-Kintail Way and a potential Heritage Trail were other possible projects. Opening up the waterfall at the Allt Coillte burn was discussed but this was considered to be too large a project for this funding.

*Former Nurse’s House in Cannich:* A meeting had been held on March 22nd to consider any community interest in the future of the house although it was noted that the house has not yet been declared ‘surplus to requirements’ by NHS Highland. Social Housing, accommodation for the Hall caretaker or other community service employee and serviced office space were ideas put forward. Discussions with HSCHT were on going and a Notice had been posted asking for volunteers to take this matter forward.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters: Mr Hood advised that a number of bills had been settled including the meeting room hire fees for 2017 and the Secretary’s expenses (£120) for the year ended March 31 2017. Available funds were £612.04.
2. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence arising since the previous meeting and the following points and actions were of particular note:

* Following a wildly inaccurate claim made by a Scottish Government Minister regarding the level of community benefit monies expected from the Corrimony windfarm which was reported in the P&J, the Secretary had written to the Chair of Soirbheas seeking clarification. He also repeated earlier requests made by SCC and GUCC for some more regular financial reporting from Soirbheas to the two communities. The Chair of Soirbheas had reiterated the view that the Soirbheas Annual Accounts contained all the information required by the communities and that no additional financial reporting was needed. This was discussed and the Community Councillors agreed that their dissatisfaction with this response should be minuted and a further meeting with GUCC and representatives of the Soirbheas Board should be requested to discuss the matter further.
* The Community Councillors noted that consultation requests and on-line surveys from the Scottish Government and other public sector bodies seem to be a burgeoning industry. It was noted that the cost must be huge and the benefits questionable.

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 gave a brief update from the recent Strathfarrar DMG meeting. All DMG information is available on the ADMG website [www.deer-management.co.uk](http://www.deer-management.co.uk) . The Erchless reforestation project has been delayed. The Scottish Government’s pronouncement on the future of deer control and regulation is expected in May. Mr Hood advised that SACC was reviewing its legal structure and could become a Community Development Trust which would broaden its scope of activities. A meeting to discuss this would be held next week.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday May 10 2017 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:20 pm.

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