**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Margaret Davidson

**In Attendance:** PC Scott Maclean (Beauly Police Office) and Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) for part only and 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 December 6 2017 were proposed for adoption, approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Police Report: PC Maclean noted that a group of four people had been successfully rescued off the hills since the last meeting and there had been one minor road traffic accident. There were no other incidents to report in the Strathglass area. Based on incidents in neighbouring communities he advised members of the community to beware of door-step scams where money is taken for services that are never carried out and urged people to ensure that outbuildings containing anything of value were kept secure.
4. Soirbheas Update: Carol Masheter advised that Soirbheas was looking for more local businesses to join its apprenticeship scheme. Up to 50% of salary costs could be funded together with a contribution of up to £1,000 for required equipment. If there was still interest in establishing a Health Walks Group in Cannich it would be useful to gather ideas for routes around the village and Walk Leader training would be available if needed. Ms Masheter gave an update on other ongoing projects and advised that the closing date for the next round of Tier 2 applications was February 12th. The next Soirbheas Board meeting was scheduled for February 22nd. In response to a question from the Secretary, Ms Masheter confirmed that a further payment of community benefit monies had been received from Corrimony Energy Ltd but did not consider that she could or should advise the amount.
5. SACC Projects and Activities Update:

*Organisational Structure:* Mr Hood advised that a newsletter had been sent out to every house in the community advising people of the changing role and structure of their community development company.

*Cannich Hall:* There was nothing new to report and volunteers to join the Hall committee were still being sought.

*Rewilding*: The group had developed a draft prospectus which would be reviewed at the next SACC Board meeting on January 16th.

*Former Nurses House Cannich:* A Stage 1 Expression of Interest had been submitted to the NHS and the project had been registered with the Scottish Land Fund. The next step would be to secure funding for developing a feasibility study and business plan. A meeting with the NHS was scheduled for January 22nd.

*Disused Toilet Block Cannich:* This would be held in abeyance so that resources could be focussed on making progress with the Nurses House.

1. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on October 25 2017:

*Pensioners’ Xmas Lunch:* The lunch had been very much enjoyed by those attending although the late confirmation and communication of the event had resulted in a disappointing turn-out. Annette Sutherland advised that a small group of volunteers were planning to start fund-raising activities for a 2018 lunch at an early date with a view to making it a bigger and more inclusive event.

*Cannich Recreation Park (CRP) Assets and Agreements:* Mr Hood had contacted THC and SSE and both had undertaken to check their files for any relevant agreements.

*Wall at Fasnakyle Burial Ground:* The Secretary had e-mailed Hugh Gardner at THC as agreed and also sent a follow-up but no response had been received. This may need a further follow-up.

Other matters arising had been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.

1. On-going SCC Activity Updates:

*Proposed First Responders Programme:* Two volunteers had registered their interest with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and it was considered that more volunteers would probably have to come forward in order to establish a viable programme although this had still to be discussed with SAS.

*Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) and the Cannich Shinty Club Defibrillator:* Mr Stirling advised that he had inspected the PADs in Cannich, Struy and Tomich along with a representative from SAS and all three units were in working order. These units would require new pads and batteries in the next year or so which would have a cost implication for SCC unless funds could be separately raised for that purpose. The Cannich unit still required a mains electrical connection for its heater. The requirement for another defibrillator training session was discussed and it was noted that SAS would do this although no specific time or place were agreed.

The letter from Strathglass Shinty Club regarding the defibrillator in the Shinty Club-house was considered. After some discussion it was agreed that there would be a benefit to the community in having a second PAD available in Cannich but SCC did not have the funds to bring the Shinty Club unit to working condition, buy an insulated cabinet for it and have it relocated and provided with an electrical supply. It was estimated that this would cost a total of between £700 and £800. Funds would therefore have to be raised for this purpose and Carol Masheter undertook to look into possible sources. It was agreed that if funding could be found and the unit was to stay in the area of the Shinty Field (perhaps mounted at the front of the Hall) the Shinty Club should be asked to pay the future maintenance costs for that unit. It was agreed that the Secretary should respond to the Shinty Club accordingly.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters:

Mr Hood reported that SCC’s net available funds after allowing for payments to be made amounted to £1,095.60. In addition balances of £36.80 from the Pensioners Lunch and £423.54 from the Cannich Recreation Park project were being held. It was agreed that the former should be used to kick-off the funding for a 2018 lunch and the latter would be held pending clarification of the ongoing commitments and liabilities related to the Recreation Park project (if any).

1. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence since the previous meeting. There were no matters of note or actions arising.
2. Planning Update: Mr Hood advised that there had been no planning applications in the Strathglass area since the previous meeting although it was noted that no reports had been received from THC over the Christmas/New Year period.
3. Any Other Business: Brad Collins advised that a member of the public had confronted him about the continuing lack of activity at the Glen Affric Hotel. Mr Collins had advised that the Community Council and THC had done everything they could to keep pressure on the owners to start refurbishment work but this was not considered an adequate answer. After some discussion it was agreed that the Secretary should contact the owners to ask about their plans for 2018.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday February 22nd 2018 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

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