**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 7:40 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Brad Collins, Kay Graham and Cllr Helen Carmichael

**In Attendance:** Cllr Margaret Davidson,Sgt Julie Connor (Beauly Police Office),Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) and two members of the public.

1. Mr 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 May 9 2018 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. Police Report: Sergeant Connor presented the latest Police Report and noted that six minor incidents had been reported in Strathglass in the period since the previous report (April 17th) but with no follow-up actions required.
4. Soirbheas Update: Carol Masheter gave an update on Soirbheas grant schemes and activities. The next closing date for Tier 1 applications was August 13th, the closing date for the next round of Apprenticeship Grants was August 29th and the Soirbheas AGM would be held on Thursday June 28th. In response to a question regarding high speed broadband for Struy, Ms Masheter advised that the wireless broadband network had reached Aigas but there was no line-of-sight between there and Struy to take it further. Annette Sutherland asked about possible funding for the provision of garden maintenance services for some of the older and less physically capable residents of the area and it was noted that charities’ regulations governing individual benefit meant that this could only be considered on some kind of group or general community benefit basis. The Secretary reported on the joint meeting between representatives of Glen Urquhart CC, SCC and Soirbheas that had taken place on June 1st. Soirbheas had received £140K from Corrimony Energy Ltd in the first half of 2018 and was expecting £55K from SSE’s Blairidh windfarm. This represented a significant increase in income for Soirbheas and new projects and grant applications would be welcomed. A new Tier 3 for grants (over £10K) would be announced at the Soirbheas AGM and this would be targeting infrastructure projects. Mr Campbell also noted that community benefit income would soon start to flow from the Glen Affric micro-hydro developments and Strathglass Development Fund was already open for grant applications from organisations and events in the Strathglass area.
5. SACC Projects and Activities Update:

*Local Action Plan:* Mr Hood advised that a list of organisations and businesses in Strathglass was currently being finalised. These organisations and businesses would be contacted to see if they wanted to be actively involved in the development of the Local Action Plan. Funding for the formal consultation phase was being discussed with Soirbheas.

*Cannich Hall:* Nothing new to report.

*Land Use (formerly Rewilding)*: The group was considering ways of securing more community engagement with this initiative.

*Former Nurses House Cannich:* SACC’s application for grant funding from Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for developing the Feasibility Study and Business Plan had been rejected and the SACC Board had decided to spend no more time on this initiative at least in the near term. Cllr Davidson suggested that other sources of funding could be available and should be approached including perhaps THC or the Scottish Government. She asked Mr Hood to forward her a copy of SLF’s rejection letter.

*Gala Day:* The 2018 Cannich Gala Day was scheduled for Sunday August 12th

1. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on May 9 2018:

*Actions for THC Roads Department:* The Secretary Had sent a follow-up e-mail to John Taylor at THC but John was out of the office until June 21st.

*Speeding Traffic through Cannich:* Cllr Davidson had still to look into the possibilities for reducing the speed limits in the village. The Secretary had contacted the Beauly Police Office to request random speed checks and an encouraging response had been received. Sergeant Connor explained the resource constraints were an issue but they were exploring possibilities. She added that it would be helpful if some pattern could be identified that would help targeting offenders such as particular times of the day when speeding was more prevalent.

Other matters arising had been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.

1. On-going SCC Activity Updates:

*Strathglass Shinty Club Defibrillator:* Mr Ellis advised that no further information had been received from Strathglass Shinty Club regarding the repair or proposed relocation of its defibrilatotr.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters:

Mr Hood reported that there had been no recent receipts and payments and that the funds currently available remained at £1905.60 including £920.00 that was specifically earmarked for defibrillator maintenance costs.

1. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence since the previous meeting and noted that there was to be an Autumn round of ‘Your Cash, Your Choice’ sponsored by THC with a total pot of £10K and a £500 cap on individual grants. There was also notification of an on-line consultation regarding Potentially Vulnerable Areas following the issue of THC’s first Local Flood Risk Management Plan. Cllr Davidson suggested that organisations and individuals in Cannich should be engaging with this in view of the very serious flooding that took place in Cannich a few years ago.
2. Planning Update: Mr Hood advised that there had been six new planning applications in the period since the last SCC meeting but there were none of a particularly significant, unusual or potentially contentious nature. The application for a new-build house on the Beauly road at Invercannich had been rejected by the Planners.
3. Any Other Business: The Secretary advised that a letter had been received from the Forestry Commission regarding an application for approval for tree felling in Machradh Forest in Glen Cannich. An area of 22 hectares would be cleared in operations taking place over twelve months starting in July 2018 with some 23,000 mature trees being felled. Cllr Davidson advised that five members of the Glen Affric Community Partnership group (including herself) had made site visits to gain a better understanding of the scope, potential costs and potential benefits of improving the path from Allt Garve in Glen Affric to Cougie and upgrading the access paths around Dog Falls. These projects had been identified as candidates for some of the FCS car parking revenues but the scope of the two projects meant that significant monies would also have to be sought from other sources. A member of the public asked about the status of the proposal to extend the 30 mph speed limit area from Cannich along the Beauly road. The Secretary advised that THC had undertaken some time ago to carry out a speed survey as a first step but he wasn’t sure if this had happened or not and undertook to check the status with THC.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be held on Wednesday August 1 2018 starting at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

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