**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2018 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Brad Collins

**In Attendance:** Russell Cooper and Derick Macaskill (Forestry Commission Services) for part only and three 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 January 10 2018 were proposed for adoption and approved.
3. Police Report: There was no police representative attending the meeting and no new Beat Report had been received.
4. Deer Management Update from Forestry Commission Services: Derick Macaskill gave brief update covering the current Deer Management Plan, night shooting activities and out of season shooting. The current five year plan has been in place for around eighteen months and it was an ‘active’ plan which was adjusted as appropriate on an annual basis. Some night shooting was currently taking place in Strathglass forest and some local out of season shooting had been approved by SNH. It was noted that FCS always advised the police when approved night shooting was taking place so if members of the community had doubts about who was doing the night shooting they should contact the police. Alternately Russell Cooper (who is based in Glenurquhart) advised that he would be happy to take calls – 07887 626634. The localised sheep cull was ongoing until the end of February but would stop for the lambing season. It would start again later in the year if uncontrolled sheep continued to cause damage on FCS land..
5. SACC Projects and Activities Update:

*Community Action Plan:* Mr Hood advised that the SACC Board had met with a consultant who was experienced in the development of community action plans to discuss how to kick-start this initiative. It had been a useful meeting and the SACC Board would be moving this initiative forward over the coming months.

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

*Land Use (formerly Rewilding)*: The group would be meeting again next week.

*Former Nurses House Cannich:* There had been a meeting with representatives from NHS Highland last week and the next step would be to prepare a funding application to cover the development of a feasibility study and business plan. It was hoped that this application would be ready by the end of March.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr Hood advised that the Community Emergency and Resilience Plan would be reviewed annually and that the first review should take place within the next few months.

1. Matters Arising from the SCC meeting on January 10 2018:

*Wall at Fasnakyle Burial Ground:* It was agreed that the Secretary should arrange a site inspection with Hugh Gardner of THC.

Other matters arising had been satisfactorily dealt with and closed.

1. On-going SCC Activity Updates:

*Proposed First Responders Programme:* Mr Ellis advised that there was nothing new to report.

*Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) and the Cannich Shinty Club Defibrillator:* It was noted that the Shepherds and Stalkers organisation would be funding the refurbishment of the Shinty Club defibrillator, the purchase of an insulated housing for it and its relocation to the Cannich Hall porch. Donald Fraser (Carrie) was organising this. Mr Stirling advised that the unit at the Cannich shop was intermittently showing a red light (indicating that it was unserviceable) and it was assumed that this was because the heater was not connected and the cold weather was dragging the battery down. This unit urgently required a new battery and a transformer needed to be bought for it and the heater connected. It was noted that the pads for the Cannich, Struy and Tomich defibrillators were due to be replaced in September and the batteries for all three units were due to be replaced early in 2019. It was agreed that Mr Ellis would contact Lucky2beHere regarding a new battery for the Cannich unit and the Secretary was asked to make an application to the ‘Your Cash, Your Choice’ fund to cover new pads and batteries for the three units plus the transformer and connection for the Cannich unit. It was noted that keeping the defibrillators operable and available would be dependent on the necessary funds being raised on an on-going basis.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Matters:

Mr Hood reported that pending payments had all been made and SCC’s net available funds remained at £1,095.60. In addition balances of £36.80 from the Pensioners Lunch and £423.54 from the Cannich Recreation Park project continued to be held.

1. Correspondence: The Secretary reviewed the correspondence since the previous meeting. The notification that Community Council funding would be cut by around 50% was of particular note and extremely disappointing.
2. Planning Update: Mr Hood advised that there had been two approvals and one new planning application in the Strathglass area since the previous meeting. No unusual, major or potentially contentious items were noted.
3. Any Other Business: The Secretary explained that, as an outcome from the joint meetings that had been held between representatives of Glen Urquhart Community Council (GUCC), Soirbheas and SCC, a protocol had been drafted to cover a situation where GUCC and SCC disagreed on whether to support or object to a proposed development that was offering community benefit monies to both communities. This stated that *‘In the event that the two CCs fail to agree on whether to support or object to a proposed development that is offering community benefit monies to both communities, the CC in whose geographical area the proposed development (or the majority of the proposed development by area) lies will support or object the development as it sees fit and the other CC will agree to abstain from taking a position. Individual members of both communities will obviously be free to support or object to the proposed development regardless of the CCs’ position. This is an ‘in principle’ agreement which should cover most foreseeable situations but which can and will be breached if the views of the two communities regarding a particular development are irreconcilably polarised’*. After discussion it was agreed that SCC was content with the protocol as drafted.

It was agreed that the Secretary should write the Ward Manager regarding potential liabilities related to the land lease between SCC and SSE signed in 2012.

Mr Hood noted that considerable damage had been done to the pavement by contractors working at the SSE Warehouse in Cannich and undertook to get a contact name in SSE for the Secretary to make a formal complaint.

There was a general discussion about the poor state of the roads in the area and Mr Stirling undertook to send photographs of two particularly large potholes on the Tomich road to THC.

Mr Hood advised that he had been invited to a Strathglass Housing Forum at THC on April 6th.

As a follow-up to the deer management update Mr Stirling advised that the Deer Management Groups (DMGs) were under ever increasing pressure from the Scottish Government who seemed determined to try to have more control over deer management via legislation. The DMG members were the people closest to the issues on the ground and Mr Stirling urged the Community Councillors to continue to give them the Community Council’s support.

A member of the public asked if there was a single source of information regarding operators’ plans for improved mobile phone coverage in the area. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that new masts related to the Emergency Services Communications Network could support commercial applications and may provide a platform for improved coverage in the area but it would be necessary to contact individual operators to find out about their specific plans for expanding their networks.

There being no other business Mr Ellis advised that the next SCC meeting would be on Wednesday March 28th 2018 at 7:30 pm and declared the meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

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