**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

**Present:** Nigel Ellis (Chair), Paul Stirling, Annette Sutherland, Kay Graham.

**Apologies:** Alan Hood and Humphrey Clarke.

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Margaret Davidson, Nicky MacLennan (Soirbheas) and threemembers 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.
2. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the SCC meeting held on 31st July 2019 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

3. **Police report:**

No report was available.

4. **Soirbheas report:**

a) Struy broadband:

Reported that Broadway Broadband, a provider that specialises in providing coverage in hard to reach areas using radio and white space technology, may be able to provide a service at a competitive cost if there is sufficient local interest. HC and Carol Masheter to ascertain likely interest in the Struy area.

b) Reminder of grant deadlines and apprenticeship funding. Refer to the Soirbheas website, CM or NM for more detail.

c) Befrienders:

A new initiative, funded jointly by Beauly Cares and Soirbheas, to provide support for isolated or lonely persons throughout Beauly, Strathglass and Glen Urquhart. Potential service users and/or volunteers are encouraged to contact Tasha McNicol, Coordinator on 01456459077 or at [befriender@glenurquhartcareproject.org](mailto:befriender@glenurquhartcareproject.org) for more information.

d) Inclusive communities:

Soirbheas is part of the inclusive community sub-group of the Glen Urquhart PPG, which is developing a project based upon the Dementia Friendly Communities model, originated by the Alzheimer’s Society. Further information to be circulated shortly.

e) Transport Feasibility Study:

The options considered have been displayed for public perusal and comment. Initiatives identified, including electric bike hire, EV charging network and improved public transport information, will be developed over the next few months.

5. **Matters arising from meeting on 31-7-19:**

a)Cannich Bridge painting:

Nothing further to report at present.

b) Glen Affric Hotel:

Nothing further to report at present.

c) THC Call for Sites:

Three submissions have been made for the Strathglass area; by SCC (as discussed at our previous meeting), by SSE relating to land off the A831 in Cannich and an anonymous submission relating to ideas for Tomich. All submissions, which may not meet the criteria required by THC, are available for perusal only on THC website.

d) Extra bin for Cannich play area:

Peter Kelly (THC) is of the opinion that an extra bin is not required at present. The situation will be monitored over the few months.

e) Planning application 19/02808/FUL (see also item 11):

THC Planning has advised that SCC’s opinion was sought because this is a Schedule 3 development. Agreed that, after consideration of further submissions by the applicant, our objection with regard to the height and location of the wind turbine would still stand.

f) Bhlaraidh Wind Farm extension scoping opinion request:

A request that the SCC be a statutory consultee and that a comprehensive visual impact assessment is a prerequisite of any future planning application has been submitted.

g) THC year end documentation:

Reported that all signed documentation has been submitted by AH.

6. **Correspondence received since the last meeting:**

The Chair provided a summary of all correspondence received since the last meeting. Items of note are:

a) A reminder that Community Council nominations are required from 23-9-19 to 8-10-19.

b) Consultation by BT regarding removal of public phone boxes (also see item 10).

c) Gavin Sell, NHS Highland has requested an opportunity to discuss his ideas for “Care in the Community”. Agreed that a standalone public meeting, jointly with SACC be organised. Chair to contact AH.

d) Advice from THC that the revised Community Council Scheme will become effective from

16-9-19. The Chair provided a summary of the implications for SCC.

7. **SACC activities:**

Nothing to report.

**8. SCC activities:**

AH advises that the Shinty Club defibrillator will shortly be relocated to the outside of Cannich Village Hall. PS will arrange its registration when it is available for public use.

9. **Treasurer’s report:**

The balance available, excluding ring fenced items, is £1212.37.

10. **BT public phone box removal:**

BT has posted notices in the phone boxes in Cannich, Tomich and Struy advising of their intention to deactivate them. THC will prepare a consolidated response as circa 110 boxes throughout the Highlands are similarly affected. Agreed that the SCC will object to the deactivation of the Tomich box on the grounds of: no mobile signal, the absence of other readily available to the public landlines, and its proximity to a PAD. Chair to submit an objection to THC/BT.

11. **Planning:**

a) Notified of two planning applications (details on THC website).

b) Noted that THC Forestry Officer had also objected to planning app. 19/02808/FUL.

12. **Forestry matters.**

a) The Glen Affric field trip on 31-8-19 with FLS personnel had taken place and three SCC members had participated.

b) FLS are to arrange a public consultation event at Cannich Village Hall regarding their felling plans over the next five years. Concern was expressed about the potential number of HGV movements through Cannich village this will entail. Agreed that SCC will await the outcome of the consultation event before commenting further.

c) Concern was also expressed about the damage caused by forestry traffic to roads around Tomich.

MD agreed to investigate.

13. **Deer management.**

Reported that wild boar/feral pigs are present in the Guisichan area and are likely to migrate further throughout the strath.

14. **Any other business.**

a) PS had attended the SSE consultation event in Inverness and summarised its content.

b) After a comment from a Cannich resident it was agreed that THC be asked to provide additional road signage and that a request to Google Maps to update so that camping and caravan traffic is not directed into a cul-de-sac. Chair to action.

c) After a comment relating to an incomplete Stagecoach bus journey to Raigmore after the driver unilaterally changed the schedule, MD agreed to investigate.

d) Complaint of a poor pavement surface adjacent to the SSE building in Cannich. Chair to refer to John Taylor at THC.

15. **Next meeting:**

7-30 pm on 23rd October 2019 at Cannich Village Hall.