**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20th February 2019 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

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

Apologies: Kay Graham, Councillor Margaret Davidson.

**In Attendance:** Carol Masheter (Soirbheas), Ben Griffin and Giles Brockman (FCS), and twomembers 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. The minutes of the SCC meeting held on 9th January 2019 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. **Matters arising from meeting on 9 Jan 19:**
4. Defibrillators: Pads replaced but new batteries are placed in storage pending fitment when required.
5. Fasnakyle Cemetery wall: Awaiting response from Hugh Gardner, THC.
6. Cannich Bridge painting: Following a site visit, Alan Johnstone, THC considered that simply repainting would not be appropriate but undertook to discuss further with colleagues.
7. Meeting with Killmorack CC: Awaiting response from KCC.
8. Glen Affric Hotel: No response to date from Ainslie Fraser regarding plans for the building’s demolition.
9. Potholes: The large pothole on MacColl Road had been repaired.

g. Waste bins: The rubbish bin by Cannich bus stop had been replaced but no action to date regarding the dog waste bin by the path adjacent to Cannich School.

1. **Forestry Commission Scotland report:**
   1. Ben Griffin, FCS Planning Forester explained that FCS has 10 year plans for each area and the one for Glen Affric is being reviewed. The new plan should be completed by Jan/Feb 2020 and provides legal authority for forestry works to the area.
   2. Preparation of the plan would need to include the views of local residents, land owners, DMGs and other interested parties. It was agreed that as part of this consultation, the FCS planners would hold a local presentation within the next few months, where all interested parties could express their views.
   3. In this area, FCS activities are largely conservation based rather than commercial. It was explained that some new enclosures were being created and some would be extended to protect trees from deer. The importance of maintaining paths and trails was commented upon.
   4. In terms of current activity, there are two coops in progress or imminent: Burnside (12000 tonnes) has started. Glen Cannich (5000 tonnes) will start shortly. Felling will take place throughout the summer. Knockfin will be started soon and felling will take place for 2 months per year over the next 3 years. Felling will commence in another two areas next year.
   5. It was explained that the contracts specified that the logging vehicles may only travel on roads between 0700 and 1900 hrs, they may not travel through Cannich during school set down and pick up times and, in the village, a speed limit of 20 mph has been specified. There is also an agreed limit of 5 lorry loads to pass through Cannich per day.
2. **Soirbheas Report:**
   1. Carol Masheter reported that the Community and Rural Transport Feasibility Study had been funded and put out to tender. When consultants had been appointed they would be consulting with schools, clubs and other bodies to establish needs and aspirations for transport.
   2. Tier 2 Funding had been granted to the SMG for their Affric-Kintail Way planning application, the Shieling Project for electric bikes and Highlife Highland Active School for the employment of additional coaches.
   3. Tier 1 funding had been granted to the Strathglass Heritage Association to provide a projector and screen.
   4. Soirbheas are currently reviewing the Apprenticeship Grant Scheme provided for apprentices with a view to increasing the grant from 50% to nearer 80% and extending the current 16-24 age range.
   5. The Elderly and Young Partnership befriending scheme is expected to commence in the next two months. It is funded for two years and seeks to set up friendship partnerships at a rate of nine per year.
   6. Soirbheas want to encourage more volunteering and plan to set up a scheme that will acknowledge outstanding volunteers and to make a donation to their organisation.
3. **Police Report:** A Community Engagement Report had been received that advised that police had found a blue Citroen car in the Cannich area but that they were still searching for the driver.
4. **SACC activities report:**
   1. Fraud. The SACC has been the victim of an email scam which has occupied much of their time and detracted from other activities. Some money has been lost and the police have been informed, but the organisation is still solvent and functioning.
   2. Cannich Village Hall. Reported that the new caretaking arrangements were working well.
   3. Former Nurses House Cannich. Housing Needs Survey Community Questionnaires will be despatched to all in the area within the next few weeks.
   4. Classes. A new football class has started.
5. **SCC activities:**
   1. The L2BH lead ELS training session was scheduled for 7th March 2019 at 7-00 pm in Cannich Village Hall. To date, 15 persons had confirmed attendance.
   2. RDS Forestry had agreed to supply an Xmas tree for 2019.
6. **Planning** (all details on THC website):

a. The Affric Lodge spa application has been approved.

b. Applications had been received for minor modifications to Fasnakyle Power Station and for the extension and rebuilding of two cottages near Hilton Lodge.

10. **Treasurer’s report**:

After ring fenced and items awaiting clearance the balance available is £1388.37

11. **Correspondence:**

The Chairman provided a review of all correspondence received since the last meeting.

12. **Broadband speed – Struy:**

Correspondence from a resident of Struy had highlighted the appalling broadband speed available in the area. HC reviewed the results of his recent enquiries. It was agreed that he contact Carol Masheter, Soirbheas to see if there were any recent developments and/or updates. If not, residents could be encouraged to write to HIE, with copies to their MP and MSP, with the aim of upgrading the local BT/Openreach exchange.

13. **Any other business:**

a. In an answer to a member of the public, it was hoped that mobile phone signals in Tomich would improve after EE had erected new masts, as part of their contract to provide coverage for the three emergency services.

b. On behalf of SACC, AH said they wish to be included in future joint SCC/GUCC/Soirbheas meetings.

14. **Next meeting:**

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at approx. 8-30 pm and advised the date of the next meeting as Wednesday, 27th March 2019 at 7-30 pm in Cannich Village Hall.

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