**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 2019 in Cannich Village Hall**

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

 There were no apologies for absence.

**In Attendance:** Threemembers of the public including Jim McAuley (SMG).

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 20th February 2019 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters arising from the meeting of 20th February 2019:**
4. Defibrillators: The ELS training evening held by L2BH was attended by about 12 people of varying ages.
5. Cannich Bridge painting: Awaiting a further response from Alan Johnstone (THC). NE agreed to contact Margaret Davidson to seek support.
6. Glen Affric Hotel: See below
7. Waste bins: The dog waste bin by the path adjacent to Cannich School has been replaced.
8. Forestry Commission Scotland: Maps of planned work and details of community consultation are awaited. PS agreed to contact Colin Leslie (FCS).
9. **Police Report:** Local to the SCC area there was a report of one successful Search and Rescue operation, 3 thefts of lead from roofs, a road traffic accident in Kiltarlity, another in Beauly and three in Kirkhill.
10. **SACC activities report:**

a. Fraud: Dealing with the fraud has restricted time available for other activities but the Police, bank and insurance company have been helpful. Procedural changes have been made to prevent similar frauds in future.

b. Former Nurses House Cannich: A Housing Needs Survey Community Questionnaire will be despatched to all residences in the area in early April.

1. **SCC activities:**

 a. Glen Affric Hotel: Noted that security of the building had been improved but that it was still not totally secure. The owner of the Hotel is hoping to commence demolition in the summer. The owner of the adjoining Bar has been considering demolition of his property whilst not structurally affecting the Hotel. After discussion, NE agreed to contact Cllr. Margaret Davidson to see if there were any incentives available to encourage owners to fastrack demolition of derelict buildings.

 b. End-of-year: AH agreed to prepare draft financial reports to the THC model for approval at the May meeting, prior to auditing and the AGM in June.

 c. Lucky2BHere: Agreed that the SCC would make a donation of £50 in recognition of the free ELS training.

1. **Planning** (all details on THC website):

a. There are new applications for alterations to Crask Bungalow in Cannich, an ESN telecommunications mast in Glen Strathfarrar and an energy storage facility in Kerrow.

b. The Kerrow energy storage application was discussed at length with the consensus that there were concerns regarding the visual impact, potential noise that could be generated and risk of site flooding with resulting health, safety and environmental issues. It was agreed that SCC would object to the application pending the provision of more detailed information. It was noted that THC Flood Risk Management Team had objected and had asked for the application’s referral to SEPA.

c. Jim MaCauley updated the meeting with progress on the Affric-Kintail Way upgrade. On behalf of SMG, he asked SCC to consider applying for the necessary THC planning permission as the SCC would be entitled to a 50% reduction in the application fee. An application could be ready for submission later this year and SMG would underwrite the fee cost. There would be no residual liability to SCC but the cost savings to SMG would be considerable. It was agreed that SCC would apply on SMG’s behalf on the understanding that the necessary funds were made available before application and that written notice of no SCC liability is provided.

1. **Struy Broadband**
2. HC explained that the existing BT exchange in Struy, although old and unreliable is not included in the current HIE upgrade plan and that neither he nor Soirbheas have manged to influence HIE to bring forward the necessary modernisation.
3. Satellite broadband is available but is expensive, has restricted data allowances and is unreliable in cloudy conditions.
4. 4G broadband has become available in the last 6 months from both EE and O2. Both of these seem better value than satellite, faster and more reliable but still with data limitations.
5. In the short to medium term the only unrestricted data options seem to be by radio broadband as provided by Cromarty Firth or Monsternet but so far neither of these have managed to reach the area. Monsternet have surveyed out to the Shieling project but not so far provided a report.
6. HC and Soirbheas will continue to investigate.

10. **Treasurer’s report**:

 After ring fenced and items awaiting clearance the balance available is £1302.37

11. **Correspondence:**

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

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, 8 May 2019 at 7-30 pm in Cannich Village Hall.

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