**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 7:30 pm in Cannich Village Hall**

**Present:** Nigel Ellis (Chair), Paul Stirling, Lee Carlyle, Georgina Parker, Humphrey Clarke.

**In Attendance:** Matthew Oosterwijk (TRA), Alex Macleod and Ian Allsop (FLS) and 3members of the public

**Apologies:** Alan Hood, Cllr. Margaret Davidson and Police Scotland

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 previous meeting held on 8th January 2020 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved and signed by Mr Ellis.
3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting on 8th January 2020:**
4. A831 road signage and pavement issues in Cannich:

 No response from Alan Johnstone (THC) to date - NE to chase

1. Damaged Bottle Bank fencing:

 THC has repaired the fencing and fitted additional posts but will not commit to future maintenance.

1. **Police Report**

The Chair presented a summary of the Police Scotland Community Engagement Report. There were no incidents of note regarding road safety, public protection or drug / alcohol misuse. Information about the cutting down of the Slater’s Arms sign and a missing person from Beauly since 23-12-19 is sought.

1. **FLS timber transportation – briefing by Alex Macleod & Ian Allsop**
	1. It was explained that extraction via the A831/ A82 through Drumnadrochit is the THC agreed route but that the A831 via Struy to Beauly is a THC consultation route that had been agreed for timber transportation to Invergordon and the Norbord timber mill. It is estimated that about half the timber extracted will go via the latter route.
	2. 2019 was a buoyant year for timber felling with approx. 30000 cubic metres extracted. Some 15000 cubic metres are expected to be extracted in 2020. The capacity of each truck is approx. 25 cubic metres. It was explained that though felling and subsequent extraction mainly takes place in winter due to conservation issues, extraction is also driven by demand and, if a ship awaits cargo there will be, briefly, more vehicle movements than the usual 5/6 per day.
	3. It was agreed that movements of HGVs should not take place overnight from 7-00 pm to 7-00 am, nor during morning and afternoon school arrival and departure times. Speed through the villages should be limited to 20 mph.
	4. From the floor, there was a complaint that passing places on the single track A831 Struy route were too far apart. FLS agreed to consult with THC about increasing the numbers of passing places.
	5. There was a complaint of lorries exceeding 40 mph through Tomich and in excess of 20 vehicles per day leaving Plodda around the Christmas / New Year period. FLS explained the 20 movements was not normal and would remind contractors of speed limits. PS agreed to provide FLS with a photo of the sign that had previously been situated at the entrance to Tomich.
	6. The issue of potholes created in driveways being used as informal passing places was raised from the floor.
	7. FLS were asked if they could remove mud from the road deposited by vehicles exiting forest tracks as it was a hazard for other vehicles, especially motor cycles. FLS agreed to investigate.
	8. For problems or complaints about vehicles the recommended contacts are: ian.allsop@forestryandland.gov.scot or sam.brown@forestryandland.gov.scot
2. **Tomich village road issues.**

 The TRA had raised a number road related issues with the Chair, namely:

 a. Erratic road gritting through Tomich and Knockfin despite these roads being established school bus routes.

 b. The proliferation of potholes.

 c. The non-replenishment of ready-to-use grit bins.

 The Chair agreed to take the matters up with THC if details of the pothole locations were provided.

1. **SACC projects and activities update (Alan Hood had provided a summary).**
	1. AH thanked all who attended the “Care in the Community” meeting where NHS Highland had explained the difficulty of covering Strathglass where there are currently five people receiving personal / social care at home. SACC intend establishing a steering group to investigate models for supporting the NHS in this service. In discussion, it was agreed that though undoubtedly there was a need, SACC must be careful not to become contractually bound to carry out a service for which there are not the people predictably available.

b. Grant applications for the purchase of the former District Nurses’ house (£10k) and the construction of two new properties (£360k) homes on the site have been made with decisions expected in March 2020 and construction beginning in the summer. It is understood that when completed the homes will be managed by HSCHT and be let at “affordable rents”. Also reported that agreement in principle had been reached with SSE regarding the transfer of ownership of an adjacent piece of land between the site and pavement.

1. **SCC activities.**
	1. Fasnakyle Wind Farm:

 The Chair reported that Alan James (Soirbheas) had met with representatives of vento ludens, the ECU (on behalf of Scottish Ministers) had responded to the vento ludens scoping proposals and advised that, by his estimation, the proposed turbines were 25% taller than those planned for the refused Bheinn Mhor application, that 10 turbines fell within the GUCC boundary whilst none fell within the FAGCC area.

* 1. Facebook:

 GP provided statistics about the Facebook page and reported that there had been no abuse to date. Should any abuse occur, the respondents would be blocked as soon as it was detected. The page has been visited by the equivalent of roughly half the population of the SCC area. It was agreed to continue the Facebook site with the proviso that we should not promote other organisations or businesses whilst being careful not to post items before they are confirmed.

1. **Treasurer’s report.**

 After payments deducted for the hire of the meeting room for 2020 and domain registration, the balance of funds available is £1572.21.

1. **Planning.** (all details on THC website):
	1. A Proposal of Application Notice for Kerrow Energy Storage (ref: 20/00578/PAN) had been received. This revised application is for a 29.9MW facility housed in 32 containers with landscape bund and screening. The applicant intends to hold a public event on 11-3-20 in Cannich Hall.
	2. There was an application for a new large stable block on land East of Tomuaine, Tomich (ref: 20/00134/FUL). Concern was expressed regarding flooding of the site and it was agreed that SCC would request that no flood prevention measures be incorporated (now or in future) to avoid consequent flooding risk both up and down stream. Chair to action.

c. Application for a timber stacking area near Cannich was permitted and application for a Smart Meter Network installation at Guisachan Farm did not require prior approval.

1. **Correspondence.**

 The Chair summarised the correspondence received since the last meeting, which included:

* 1. SSE Renewables business plan to deliver a “Network for Net Zero”.
	2. Accounts Commission report on THC financial performance
	3. Stagecoach advice about revised timetables for Inverness and the Black Isle.
	4. Advice of a community event by Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division regarding the National Planning Framework (NPF4) in Inverness on 12-3-20.
1. **Deer Management.**

 Nothing further to report except the Scottish Government are apparently keen to reduce the deer population further.

1. **Next meeting.**

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at approx. 9-20 pm and advised the date of the next meeting as Wednesday, 25-3-20 commencing at 7-30 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Chair