**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the virtual meeting (via zoom) held on Wednesday, 21st October 2020 at 7-30 pm**

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

**In attendance**: Nicky MacLennan (Soirbheas).

NE noted that there was a quorum, welcomed all those in virtual attendance and declared the meeting open.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16-9-20 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

1. **Matters arising from the previous meeting on 23 Sep 20:**

All matters arising were agenda items.

1. **Police report:**

The Chair presented a summary of the Police Scotland Community Engagement Report:

1. There was a minor motor cycle accident on 11-10-20 at Comar Bridge, Cannich.
2. Police Scotland requested that any concerns about speeding should be referred to them for a targeted response.
3. **Soirbheas report:**
   1. Community Fund is still open to community groups and charity groups with grants of up to £1000.
   2. Tiers 1 and 2 grants programmes are still open, with no deadline for tier 2 grants.
   3. It is planned to reopen the community larders where and when appropriate. Schools, churches and care centres have been advised that confidential direct household support can be provided.
   4. There are plans to add access to OpenNESS mental health sessions to the Soirbheas website.
   5. The Loch Ness Hub has been set up in the former Tourist Information Centre at Drumnadrochit. A successful share issue will enable the building to be refurbished and staff recruited for an anticipated opening in March 2021. The Transport Feasibility Study recommendations will be implemented later when funding is.
   6. The Soirbheas AGM and Board meeting (via telephone conferencing) will be held 29-10-20. Residents of Strathglass are being sought for membership of the voluntary Board of Directors.
4. **Covid 19 and Resilience Planning:** 
   1. The original £24k grant from HIE has been distributed and accounted for.
   2. A further £19k may be granted but eligibility requirements are being checked by AH. This additional funding is intended for community recovery use.
5. **SACC projects and activities update:**

a) Planning permission has been granted for the former Nurses’ home site clearance and two homes

built.

b) Cannich Hall is due to re-open (with COVID-19 protocols) on 26-10-20.

1. **SCC matters:**

a) Kerrow Energy Storage: no further information available.

b) Bhlaraidh Windfarm Extension: due to further peatland habitat surveys, a public exhibition (restrictions permitting) is not expected before Spring 2021 and ECU application anticipated in August 2021.

c) Fasnakyle Wind Farm: no new information.

d) Speed limits: NE advised that the primary factor used by tHC when reassessing speed limits is accident statistics which do not suggest that current limits within Strathglass require review. However, tHC is monitoring the recently introduced 20 mph limits through villages in the Borders region.

e) Defibrillators: New pads are required by February 2021. It was agreed that their purchase (cost to be ascertained by NE from Lucky2BHere) be funded by SCC.

f) Xmas tree: tHC have quoted £240 to supply a for Cannich. AH will see if he can procure a free one from elsewhere, whilst NE will pursue with last year’s supplier.

1. **Treasurer’s Report and financial matters:**

After receipt of the annual tHC bursary of £473.27, available funds are £2411.65.

1. **Planning:** 
   1. There were a total of six applications under consideration.
   2. Four approvals had been granted including the demolition of the former Nurses’ house and the erection of two semi-detached dwellings.

1. **Forestry matters:**
   1. Work to improve access to the haulage track at the entrance to Tomich has begun.
   2. Wild camping is now less of a problem with cooler wetter weather.
   3. There is concern that car park sensors are not working properly which will affect the basis for the distribution of takings.
2. **Deer management:**

It was noted feral boars are spreading from Invermoriston closer to Tomich.

1. **Correspondence:**

The Chair provided a summary of correspondence received since the last meeting. This included:

a) a request from the organizers of “Capers in Cannich” to meet representatives of the SCC on-site. Agreed that NE and GP would meet with them.

b) a letter from a resident of Tomich regarding the SCC’s handling of planning applications. Agreed that NE would provide an appropriate response.

1. **Any other business:**
2. tHC have launched their Winter Resilience programme and are asking for community volunteers to assist with footpath snow clearance. NE to post notices (including Facebook) asking for persons who wish to register for insurance purposes.
3. A template for Community Resilience plans is provide on the Scottish Government website. It was agreed that the existing plan should be revised, based on the information we already hold, updated and enhanced as necessary.
4. Road resurfacing in Glen Cannich and temporary patching is being undertaken. tHC also advise they have adequate grit stocks and will refill public access bins shortly.
5. The Inner Moray Forth Development Plan will be published shortly.
6. The latest Boundary Commission proposals will be published in the near future.
7. Beauly sub-station is likely to expand significantly in the next few years to enable electricity distribution from off-shore and Skye based wind turbines.
8. NE was requested to ask tHC for remedial work to prevent flooding of A831 between the Cnoc Hotel and the River Farrar bridge. Large potholes in front of the Struy bus shelter also require repair.
9. **Next meeting:**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at approx. 9-00 pm. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 2-12-20, commencing at 7-30 pm. The meeting type will be determined in the light of the then existing guidance and advised when the agenda is published.

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