**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2020 at 7-30 pm**

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

Cllr. Margaret Davidson, Carol Masheter (Soirbheas).

1. Mr Ellis noted that there was a (virtual) quorum, welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12-2-20 were proposed for adoption, unanimously approved.
3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting on 12-2-20:**

There were two outstanding issues: pavement, road signage and the old toilet block in Cannich, and potholes and road gritting in Tomich. Whilst John Taylor (THC) had agreed to undertake the work in Cannich, there was no action to date and no acknowledgement regarding the Tomich issues had been received. It was agreed not to pursue these issues until the Covid 19 emergency is over.

1. **Police report:**

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

a) There were reports of a vehicle theft and arrest in Kirkhill, and other motoring offences in Beauly and Kilmorack.

b) Apart from calls received and investigated about possible breaches of Covid 19 legislation, the Police warned of an increase in attempts at telephone and online fraud.

1. **Soirbheas report:**

a) Work had been mostly related to resilience issues and distribution of information. There had been low demand so far on the emergency support number. Soirbheas has the ability to support SACC with community resilience activities.

b) Two Tier 3 grants had been made, to the SACC for the former Nurses’ Home project, and the SMG for the Affric and Kintail Way project. Tier 2 grant deadlines have been temporarily lifted to allow flexibility. A temporary community support grant of up to £1000 had recently been established.

c) The Glen Support Network newsletter to be issued shortly.

d) The Transport Hub funding application to the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Fund had been unsuccessful, however all other funding for the building purchase and baggage transfer business had been secured.

e) Details of another Photo Competition would be circulated shortly.

f) Cllr. Davidson thanked Carol for her work coordinating volunteer efforts in the area.

1. **Covid 19 virus issues:**

a) Reported that, so far, there had been very few confirmed cases in the area.

b) THC food vouchers had been issued for eligible children that are valid for redemption in local stores.

1. **SACC projects and activities update:**

a) Cannich Village Hall had been closed but could be available for emergency use and volunteer activities.

b) Reported that applications for funding of the former nurses’ home project have been successful. £160k had been awarded and a further £190k was believed to be announced shortly. SSE had agreed to transfer ownership of the strip of land that isolated the site from access. A re-tendering for the project had been undertaken because the initial response was inadequate. The outcome is likely to be an award to a local contractor with work commencing later this year.

c) An approach for emergency benevolent funding for Strathglass and Aigas to HIE had resulted in an award of circa £23k. This will be distributed to residents in need in the form of food vouchers, fuel, reimbursement of volunteers for motoring costs, and for creating a starter pool of PPE for volunteers and residents. Details of the application procedure are to be determined but it was noted that records of expenditure must be diligently kept.

1. **SCC Matters:**

a) Kerrow Energy Storage. The PAN is now closed full planning application is likely when circumstances permit.

b) Bhlaraidh windfarm extension. Whilst a community presentation had been delayed, it was agreed that we should ask if any more detail was available. Chair to action.

c) Fasnakyle wind farm. Though the developer had stated that on-site surveys had been discontinued at this time, it had been noted that, in contravention of Scottish Government lock down instructions, contractors had been seen on-site. The developer has been advised of our concern. Further public presentations / community engagement is expected when circumstances permit.

d) THC Off Street Car Parking proposals. Proposals and consultation have been suspended.

e) NPF4 workshop. The Chair and PS had attended and provided input to the Scottish Government strategic planning consultation process.

f) Community Council member information consent. After consultation with SCC members, the relevant information had been provided to THC.

g) Due to the current situation, the requirement for an AGM before June end has been suspended by THC. The requirement for fully audited 2019/20 year-end accounts has also been suspended.

1. **Treasurer’s report and Financial matters:**

Transactions since the last meeting were payment of annual liability insurance premium of £86.00 and receipt of THC Ward 12 Discretionary Funding of £500. After deduction of ring-fenced items, funds available were £1995.64. Simple accounts, that do not require audit, will be prepared shortly for submission to THC.

10. **Planning:**

a) An application by FLS to extend existing access SE of Home Corrie in Tomich to avoid logging lorries accessing that site having to go through Tomich had been submitted. Noted that historic archaeological remains of a pre-clearance settlement are present on the site to be felled.

b) An application to upgrade access to forestry 100 m north of Ash Cottage, Struy had been approved.

c) An application for a House at The Croft, Tomich was approved.

d) The Kerrow Battery Storage PAN was closed.

e) An application to erect a stable block East of Tomuaine, Tomich had been approved.

1. **Forestry matters:**

The Forest Block being felled is part of West Kerrow that includes an area of pre-clearance settlement that is of visitor quality. There are remains of houses, walls and a field system that are heavily overgrown. SHA has requested FLS to preserve and clear the site. Agreed that the SCC would support this action and that PS would advise FLS accordingly.

1. **Deer management:**

Nothing to report

1. **Correspondence:**

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

1. **Any other business:**

It was noted that the renowned travel writer Terry Stevens had included both Loch Ness and Glen Affric among his top 50 destinations in the world.

1. **Next meeting:**

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at approx. 9-00 pm and advised the date of the next meeting as Wednesday, 17th June 2020 commencing at 7-30 pm. The nature of the meeting will be advised when the agenda is issued. The scheduled AGM will not take place.

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