**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the virtual meeting (via Teams) held on Wednesday, 12th May 2021 at 7-30 pm**

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

**Also attending:** Cllr. David Fraser, and for relevant parts: Simon Cameron, Phil Macdonald, John Dyce (SFRS); Alan Greenwood, Jane Macdonald (SSE Renewables); Karl Falconer (Capers in Cannich).

**Apologies:** Cllr. Margaret Davidson, Cllr. Helen Carmichael, Georgina Parker.

**1. Welcome.**

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

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 31st March 2021 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

**3. Matters arising from the previous meeting.**

a) Soirbheas / SCC / GUCC protocol: A revise protocol had been received 27/4 and circulated for comment.

b) Bhlaraidh WF Extension: Representatives of SSE Renewables had been invited to this meeting.

c) Potholes: John Taylor (tHC) was advised of the poor condition of local roads and it had been noted that some remedial action had commenced.

d) Damaged tree in Struy: details and photos had been sent to tHC.

e) IMFLDP2: SCC comments had been submitted 29/4.

f) FLS residents parking permits: application details had been posted.

 **4. Police report.**

No report available.

**5. SFRS retained firefighter recruitment (comments by SC, PM and JD).**

a) The need for 4/5 recruits for Cannich Station to enable a viable team was outlined by SFRS representatives. It was agreed that the SCC would assist in publicising vacancies.

b) Online recruiting is being organized and though applicants must be aged 18+, there will be some flexibility regarding entry requirements. An Open Day will be organised as soon as conditions allow.

c) Also noted that the SFRS is also able to provide Fire Safety inspections and advice to local residents.

**6. SCC matters.**

a) Bhlaraidh WF Extension (comments by AG and JM): A PAN has been submitted to tHC for 18 turbines of 180m tip height giving a generating capacity of 100MW. EIA’s are currently being prepared with a view to submission to ECU in August 2021to be followed by a formal planning application to tHC. The virtual exhibition is still on-line for public viewing.

b) Fiodhag Windfarm: The met. mast planning application has been refused consent by tHC. New Project and Community Engagement personnel have been appointed by vento ludens.

c) Crathaich Windfarm: The developer, Muirden Energy, has made a submission to ECU and a Scoping Opinion Request has been made to SCC. Agreed that SCC would submit a response by 17/5 highlighting the need for contemporary surveys, realistic viewpoints, etc. bearing in mind the cumulative effects of other operational and proposed windfarms.

d) Loch Liath Windfarm: The developer, Statkraft, will hold an online exhibition from 21/5 to 14/6.

e) Capers in Cannich (comments by KF): The first 3 night glamping event is planned for 28/5 to 30/5. Dependent upon COVID conditions, more events are planned throughout the summer. Live music will be performed between 4-00 and 11-00pm on each day to a maximum of 250 people on-site. Directional speakers will be used and noise cancelling equipment installed behind the stage. Entrance is by ticket only and strict rules regarding audience behaviour and bio-security, with on-site stewards and medical facilities, are in place.

**7. SACC matters.**

a) The former Nurses’ house has been demolished.

b) WCs at Cannich Hall have reopened for public use, and the hall is due to reopen on 17/5 with a wedding as the first booking.

c) There is ongoing discussion with the GP practices about providing improved clinical cover from the hall.

**8. Treasurer’s Report and financial matters.**

a) The balance of available funds is £2099.65

b) tHC has invoiced SCC for £832.72 for Christmas lighting costs. The invoice has been queried but no explanation has been received. The Chair will continue to challenge it and Cllr. Fraser agreed to investigate.

c) HC is to register as a bank account signatory.

**9. Planning.**

a) Consent for the Fiodhag WF met. mast had been refused.

b) Five applications had been made in period.

c) An application in Knockfin for 3 houses was thought to be at risk of flooding but NE confirmed that SEPA will make a formal flood risk assessment.

c) It was agreed that an application for 4 houses on the site of the old Glen Affric Hotel was beneficial.

d) An application for a workspace for timber building construction at Bedrock, Cannich was felt to have probable access problems off the hill but a venture that brings viable employment to the village was seen as very desirable.

**10. Forestry matters.**

a) Upper Guishan has been identified as having deep peat, contrary to an FLS statement made in our February meeting, throwing doubt upon the accuracy of some survey information provided by windfarm developers.

b) Some signage has been installed at the public access point to Upper Guisachan (and site of the proposed Fiodhag WF), banning “unauthorised” access to amenity and Core Paths. PS to investigate and advise.

c) GACP minutes from the last two meetings in February, including any previously agreed amends, have still not been issued by FLS. PS to chase.

d) A photo report of the Affric- Kintail Way Phase 1 upgrade was provided. All agreed that it was an excellent project and a credit to all involved. It is understood that a further £180k will be required to complete the other phases of the project. Cllr. Fraser agreed to assist with obtaining further funding from tHC.

**12. Deer management.**

Nothing to report.

**13. Correspondence.**

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

**14. Any other business.**

a) Cllr. Fraser reported that he will meet again with some Cannich parents on 17/5 about the play park improvements. There is now an agreed process for developing play parks with tHC taking on responsibility for maintenance of new equipment. He also agreed to arrange a survey of safe routes to Cannich Bridge Primary School, especially along the A831 route from the direction of Struy.

b) It was agreed that the Chair, together with the Chair of GUCC, would arrange an early meeting with Soirbheas regarding a request that they be the sole point of contact for Community Benefit payments from windfarm developers.

c) LC reported upon a recent successful litter pick around Cannich and wondered if more appropriate equipment could be provided. He was directed towards Soirbheas and the Strathglass Community Fund for funding.

**15. Next meeting.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm. The date of the next meeting (type to be advised) is Wednesday, 23rd June 2021 commencing at 7-30 pm.

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