**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the virtual meeting (via Teams) held on Wednesday, 13th January 2021 at 7-30 pm**

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

**In attendance:** Carol Masheter (Soirbheas), Cllr. Margaret Davidson.

**1. Welcome and Apologies:**

The Chair noted that there was a quorum, welcomed all those in virtual attendance and declared the meeting open. Apologies had been received from Police Scotland though a Beat Report was available.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2-12-20 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

1. **Matters arising from the previous meeting:**

a) An SCC submission had been made to Boundary Commission Scotland in support of tHC’s objections to its Ward 12 proposals.

b) The non-cleared ICO cheque had now been cleared and a new ICO certificate received.

c) Further to concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding campervan chemical waste disposal, it is understood that tHC, Scottish Water and SEPA are reviewing the situation and have issued additional guidance to stakeholders.

**4. Police report:**

There had been an incident in December of careless driving and driving without insurance in Cannich.

**5. Soirbheas report:**

a) 50 winter resilience packs, along with “goodie bags” for the elderly and vulnerable, had been distributed. Soirbheas (and the SCC) gratefully acknowledged the assistance of Annette Sutherland and her team with this project.

b) Grant deadlines for 2021 are available on the Soirbheas website and the Community Fund remains open to groups and organisations to cover loss of income due to the pandemic.

c) The food larders are still operating in Cannich and Struy.

d) The Community Helpline (07516317180) remains open for advice, shopping and prescription collection.

e) Soirbheas can now make referrals to Home Energy Scotland who can advise on energy efficiency and support that may be available to reduce bills. For those on Universal Credit, tHC personnel will negotiate with suppliers on a person’s behalf if required.

**6. Covid 19 and Resilience Planning:**

See para. 5.

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

a) Whilst Cannich Hall had closed again due to the renewed lock down, some Covid safe maintenance was being undertaken.

b) The planning application regarding the site of the former Nurses House had been approved. It was anticipated that a legal problem concerning a small strip of land owned by SSE would be resolved shortly.

**8. SCC matters:**

1. A number of residents of Tomich had commented that road gritting was inadequate in cold weather. Their concerns had been passed to tHC Roads and individuals had been encouraged to contact tHC direct. It was agreed to monitor the situation whilst Cllr. Davidson encouraged communities to sign-up to tHC Winter Resilience Scheme.
2. Windfarms:

i) A Request for Scoping Opinion had been received from ECU regarding Loch Liath Wind Farm (ECU00002182) for up to 26 turbines of 200m blade tip height proposal. It was agreed that we should insist upon rigorous EIAs that include the cumulative effect of all operational and proposed wind farms. The Chair to send a submission to ECU, copied to tHC.

ii) Reports had been received of Covid non-compliant working practices on the site of the proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm. vento ludens have been advised of our concerns and we will monitor future works.

iii) We are advised that tHC take issues of visibility, peat and wildlife very seriously when assessing potential wind farm sites. Also advised, that on tHC website there is a map showing areas for potential wind farm siting.

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

a) After deducting reserved funds and liabilities, available funds are £2201.65.

b) AH advised that we needed another bank account signatory. HC agreed to be the third signatory.

**10. Planning:**

An application had been made for a 25m high 3ES telecommunications mast near Dog Falls.

**11. Forestry matters:**

FLS have suggested parking charge increases with various pricing regimes under consideration. It is understood that increased charges would be used to fund improved facilities. It was agreed that a flat rate for any time in one day would be easier to implement and more likely to be successful.

**12. Deer management:**

A draft report entitled East-West Wild, originated for Trees for Life, had been distributed for consideration and comment. Understood that what is essentially a land management plan, that encompasses woodland and peatland regeneration, green tourism and renewable energy opportunities, is being promoted to land owner members of the DMG. It was noted that much of the land area described is also popular with wind farm developers. Agreed that a DMG representative be invited to our next meeting.

**13. Correspondence:**

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

**14. Any other business:**

a) It was agreed that a limited number of members of the public could be invited to the next meeting by prior application.

b) Noted that Covid vaccinations had begun and that if assistance was required for transport, the Community Help number should be contacted. AH reported that Cannich Hall had been offered as a vaccination centre.

c) MD reminded us that the Ward 12 by-election would take place 11-3-21.

**15. Next meeting:**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8-40 pm. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 17-2-21 commencing at 7-30 pm.