**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the meeting held at Cannich Hall at 7-30pm on Wednesday, 20th October 2021**

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

**Also attending:** Nicky MacLennan (Soirbheas) and two members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Margaret Davidson and David Fraser.

**1. Welcome.**

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

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

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th September 2021 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

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

a) The damaged lamp post adjacent to the Cannich Bridge junction has been replaced.

b) HC, after investigation, has confirmed that the Fasnakyle Cemetery walls are stable and will revert again about their repainting.

c) Planning queries: reply from HC awaited.

d) Further to comments regarding tourist traffic trying to access Plodda via Knockfin, it was noted that FLS have erected new signage.

e) Affric National Park proposal: a positive response to a Strathglass Working Group has been received from both SMG and SHA. PS and GP agreed to represent SCC whilst AH would enquire about interest from SACC.

**4. Police report.**

No report available.

**5. Soirbheas report.**

a) A trial of Buggy Walks will take place in Drumnadrochit on 28-10-21 and 9-11-21.

b) A mini COP 26 event is planned for 13-11-21 outside Cannich stores. Attractions include e-bike demonstrations, Green Swap project and freebies / handouts.

c) Up to £2000 training grants available to support businesses with the costs of retraining caused by Covid related changes to services.

d) The Apprenticeship Grant Scheme is offering up to £23500 over three years for eligible applicants.

e) Tier 1, 2 and 3 grants are available to community groups – contact Carol Masheter for information.

f) A grant for Phase 2 of the Affric-Kintail Way has been approved.

h) The GUCP are recruiting social care workers and cleaners whilst GURCA are recruiting a Community Development Officer.

**6. SCC matters.**

a) Windfarms:

i) The Chair summarised a virtual Ward 12 meeting with HC planners regarding windfarm planning application protocols in general. Specific applications and their negative and/or positive effects were not discussed.

ii) Bhlaraidh WF extension – the ECU has agreed a consultation extension for the SCC until 22-10-21. Whilst it was noted that GUCC had already objected, it was agreed that SCC would submit a holding objection pending the response from other statutory bodies.

iii) Fiodhag WF – a Reporter lead site visit, with the appellant and representatives of FLS, SCC and GUCC, had taken place after which the DPEA had asked the appellant for a further submission to address queries raised about the exact location of the mast and peat depths. It was agreed that SCC would comment on this submission by 28-10-21. It was reported that during the site visit, the developer had not adhered to FLS H&S requirements regarding accompanied visits. Also noted that an earlier FLS offer to provide a visualisation looking from Knockfin toward the development had been withdrawn.

iv) Crathaich WF – a pre-application public consultation (by appointment between 9.00 and 12.00am) will take place at Cannich Hall on 17-11-21.

v) Loch Liath WF – the developer has made initial contact with Soirbheas regarding community benefit.

vi) Tomcrasky WF – no further information.

b) Joint SCC/GUCC/Soirbheas meeting: The Chair provided a summary of the meeting held on 11-10-21 during which Soirbheas presented their latest financial position / future plans whilst SCC and GUCC discussed issues of mutual interest.

c) Cannich Playpark: An update had been provided by Cllr. Fraser which detailed the process to be undertaken by HC. No action by SCC required at this time.

d) Affric Highland: The Chair summarised a launch presentation by TfL of their Affric Highland project, a re-branding of East-West Wild.

**6. SACC matters.**

a) Cannich Village Hall is now open for meetings and other events. Reported that current use is much reduced from normal.

b) AH advised that though the GP surgeries are expected to return to the Hall, it is not clear when. Whilst these surgeries are a vital community service, the income generated is also an important contributor to the Hall running costs.

c) The two new affordable houses are progressing well and are expected to be ready for occupation in the New Year. There have been 18 applications for them and allocation decisions will be in late November.

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

a) The bank balance is: £2189.19.

a) The balance of available funds is £2043.85.

**8. Planning.**

a) An earlier three house application for Knockfin has been withdrawn.

b) Under consideration there are applications for three new houses SW of Hillview in Tomich, extension of the car park and path re-route at Dog Falls, a replacement house to be built at Dorran Cottage, Cannich and the erection of an extension at Tigh-na-Bruiach in Struy.

c) It was noted that the Hillview, Tomich application may not comply with some HwLDP and IMFLDP policies. Agreed that the Chair would review and comment to HC planners if appropriate.

**9. Forestry matters.**

a) New signage east of Tomich has been erected.

b) Significant thinning is taking place in Lower Guishachan.

c) The top track to Plodda was closed on 18-10-21 and traffic was redirected to the lower car park.

**10. Deer management.**

a) A meeting of the Strathfarrer DMG is scheduled for 22-10-21 at which a stag season update, review of population modelling and NatureScot Strathglass SAC Habitat Survey 1st Draft Report is expected.

**11. Correspondence.**

The Chair provided a summary of correspondence received since the last meeting. Items of note were:

a) Correspondence from Knockfin residents regarding planning applications 21/01776/FUL and 21/04342/FUL.

b) Notice of the SP’s Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee’s consideration of Boundary Scotland’s proposals. Subsequently, SCC has been advised that the Ward 12 proposals have been rejected.

c) Various correspondence regarding road sign vandalism around Cannich. We are grateful for timely remedial work by Brad Collins.

**12. Any other business.**

a) A lamp post in Tomich had been destroyed by an accident in Tomich. Chair to advise HC.

b) It was noted that Iain and Diane Scally have now moved to Nairn. All agreed that they will be sadly missed and many thanks were expressed for their service to the community over many years.

c) The SCC has been advised that an AGM is necessary for the year 2020/21. It was agreed that an AGM would be held prior to our next meeting on 1-12-21 if our accounts can be audited in time.

**15. Next meeting.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm. The next meeting, which will be held after an AGM at 7-30pm, will take place on Wednesday, 1st December 2021 at approx. 8-00pm Cannich Hall unless otherwise advised.

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