**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the virtual meeting (via Teams) held on Wednesday, 28th July 2021 at 7-30 pm**

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

**Also attending:** Cllr. David Fraser, and for relevant parts: Carol Masheter (Soirbheas), Tim Francis (HC Access Ranger Service).

**Apologies:** Cllr. Helen Carmichael, Leeson Carlyle.

**1. Welcome.**

The Chair noted that there was a quorum, welcomed all those in virtual attendance, apologised for the cancellation of the 23/6 meeting and declared the meeting open.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th May 2021 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

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

a) Christmas lighting invoice: the matter was discussed with HC Accounts on 18/5 after which there has been no further communication.

b) Upper Guisachan unauthorised access signage: PS reported the matter had been resolved.

c) GACP minutes: still outstanding.

d) Joint Soirbheas / SCC / GUCC meeting: an informal meeting of SCC (Chair and PS), GUCC (DF and PL) representatives and Jimmy Murray (Soirbheas) took place on 19/5. Responses to wind farm developer correspondence were discussed and agreed.

**4. Police report.**

No incidents of note were reported.

**5. Soirbheas update.**

Further to the report circulated prior to the cancelled 12/5 meeting, CM provided an update of current activities that included their AGM, photo. competition and calendar, befriending project, possible childcare in Strathglass, defibrillator funding and management, fibre broadband, meetings with DMG and East West Wild and the appointment of Ian Mackay as Director.

**6. HC Access Ranger Service – briefing by Tim Francis.**

TM explained that following visitor problems experienced by rural communities over the last few years, tHC had secured funding from 1-5-21 for a temporary Access Ranger Service to work with existing Ranger Services provided by FLS, NatureScot, etc. to encourage compliance with the Scottish Access Code. He introduced himself as the Senior Access Ranger for the area around Loch Ness and the Black Isle (including Strathglass) and works with a small team. They are to promote and encourage responsible visitor access to all rural areas and communities by public engagement and education. They are able to work with other HC personnel, Police Scotland and other agencies as required. Though funding expires 1-10-21, if the scheme is successful, it is hoped that it will become permanent.

**7. SCC matters.**

a) Windfarms.

i) Fiodhag: vento ludens have sold their UK interests to EDPR who have submitted an appeal to the SG regarding the refusal of planning consent for a met. mast south-east of Tomich.

ii) Bhlaraidh extension: awaiting scoping decision by ECU.

iii) Tomchrasky: scoping has been completed and a formal planning application is awaited.

iv) Loch Liath: a virtual exhibition has been completed and a scoping decision by ECU is awaited.

v) Chrathaich: SCC has been asked for viewpoints by Muirden Energy whilst a scoping decision is awaited.

b) Cannich Hall defibrillator.

AH to submit a battery and pads funding application the SCF, whilst NE will confirm cost and availability for same with L2BH.

c) Fasnakyle Cemetery.

Noted that wall crack monitors had been fitted and, to date, do not show any evidence of movement. Further to comments from the public it was agreed to ask tHC for overhanging branch trimming, increased strimming frequency and, assuming continued wall stability, redecoration of the wall.

d) Cannich Bridge painting.

No further progress. AH to forward latest email correspondence to DF for follow-up.

e) Cannich litter picking.

AH advised that he would submit an application to the SCF for equipment funding.

**8. SACC matters.**

a) Cannich Hall.

Due to COVID related restrictions there has been limited use of the hall. AH will review latest SG regulations to determine whether greater use is possible.

b) New houses.

Good progress is being made and second stage funding has been drawn down. A letting policy, agreed with CHT, is being developed. So far eight expressions of interest have been received that does demonstrate a need for affordable housing. Formal applications can be made in September with a view to allocation in November.

c) Former Glen Affric Hotel site.

The developers have asked for discussions regarding their consented four affordable house development.

d) SACC has received a donation from Soirbheas (approx. £230) for spending on food. The terms of the donation are quite restrictive and AH is seeking ideas.

**9. Treasurer’s report.**

A summary had been circulated prior to the meeting detailing an available balance of £2013.65 after deducting funds of £423.54 held on behalf of Cannich Recreational Park.

**10. Planning.**

A summary of planning applications and decisions in period had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**11. Forestry matters.**

a) PS and SHA representatives have asked FLS to respect the archaeology of an ancient village whilst clear felling east of Tomich. The site has previously been considered a possible visitor feature.

b) Other extraction is taking place around the Upper and Lower Plodda tracks and Upper Guisichan.

c) GACP meetings need to be reinstated.

**12. Deer management.**

Noted that DMGs are the subject of an SG review due to changed priorities and that the EU Habitats Directive has been incorporated within UK legislation.

**13. Correspondence.**

The Chair provided a summary of correspondence received since the last meeting. Of particular note was confirmation from Boundaries Scotland of the changes to the Ward 12 boundary.

**14. Any other business.**

a) A number of comments had been received from Cannich residents regarding noise and disturbance relating to the “Capers in Cannich” events. The Chair advised that another three events were scheduled for this summer and that noise complaints should be referred tHC Environmental Health and traffic problems to Police Scotland. The organiser’s plans regarding future events are not known.

b) Some members of the community had asked whether planning consent was required for the establishment of camping and caravanning site. The Chair undertook to ask tHC Planning.

c) HC raised the issue of windfarm developers approaching various community groups in Glen Urquhart and Kiltality. The Chair reiterated that both GUCC and SCC had referred all such approaches to Soirbheas. DF encouraged the reinstatement of the regular Soirbheas / SCC / GUCC meetings. The Chair agreed to contact GUCC and Soirbheas in this regard.

**15. Next meeting.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at approx. 9.15pm. The date of the next meeting (type to be advised) is Wednesday, 8th September 2021 commencing at 7-30 pm.

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