**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the virtual meeting (via Teams) held on Wednesday, 31st March 2021 at 7-30 pm**

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

**Also attending:** Cllr. David Fraser, Carol Masheter (Soirbheas),

**Apologies:** Cllr. Margaret Davidson

**1. Welcome.**

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

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

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th February 2021 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

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

a) Bank signatories: HC to register to be a third signatory.

b) Fiodhag Windfarm: an objection to the met. mast had been submitted on 22-2-21.

c) Cannich bridge painting: no renewed contact with tHC as yet.

 **4. Police report.**

There were no incidents of note with regard to road safety, public protection, drugs / alcohol misuse and crimes of dishonesty. Potentially bogus workmen operating in Cannich on 6-3-21 had been reported but no crimes had been recorded.

**5. Soirbheas report.**

a) A new grant scheme for employer training is being provided.

b) Re-stocking of the local larders is being phased out but the shelving is being retained for future use.

c) A new apprentice grant scheme will commence at the end of April.

d) As part of a schools cycling project, Velocity (an Inverness bicycle specialist) will be visiting local schools, including Cannich Primary.

e) Struy Church is receiving support with an application to add a WC and water provision to enable a meeting room for the village. The WC facility could also be made available to the public.

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

Nothing new to report other than a possible Covid case in Drumnadrochit Primary School.

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

a) The redecorated Cannich Hall will potentially reopen on 26-4-21, complete with refitted upstairs kitchen.

b) Demolition of the former Nurse’s house has commenced and a press release is imminent. There has already been interest from 4/5 applicants for the new homes.

c) The owners of the site of the former Glen Affric Hotel have made a preliminary enquiry regarding any possible SACC interest in the land.

d) Upon query, AH advised that the Affric Land Use is currently dormant.

**8. SCC matters.**

a) Soirbheas protocol with Community Councils: correspondence had been received from Jimmy Murray (Soirbheas) reviewing the protocol to be applied when approached by renewables developers. It was noted that there was an omission regarding keeping both CCs advised, both before, and during any discussions with developers that may take place. Chair to reply to JM pointing out the omission.

b) Bhlairaidh Windfarm extension**:** further to correspondence received from SSE Renewables regarding the submission of a PAN, it was agreed to invite representatives of their project team to our next meeting to present their plans and answer questions. Chair to organise.

c) Potholes: representations regarding potholes and road surface damage had been received from a number of local residents. Though damage is apparent throughout the area, Tomich and Knockfin are particularly affected. Existing damage will be exacerbated by HGV timber haulage through the summer. Chair to contact tHC Roads to request early remedial action.

d) Trees: there were reports of trees in Glen Affric and Struy in imminent danger of collapse. Chair to contact tHC Roads when accurate details of their location are provided.

e) East-West Wild: since the last meeting a number of representations had been received from residents regarding this and, though the project is interesting and some aspects have merit, there is concern regarding the lack of, and/or out-of-date, critical detail, including deer management. It was felt that although the SCC has not been asked for formal support at present, and the project has no precedence, it was agreed that support could not be offered until a proper public consultation and review had taken place. We are pleased East-West Wild has chosen the SCC to be their main point of contact with the community and we await further information on the subject.

f) IMFLDP2 Main Issues Report:

1. The complete MIR can be accessed on tHC website.
2. The plan describes Strathglass as hinterland and the villages of Cannich and Tomich as growing settlements with limited opportunities for development due to topography, the near capacity of water and sewage utilities and support services. tHC Planners are also aware of the poor road network and do not want to encourage private vehicle usage for commuting to Inverness. Struy is similarly resourced and development will be limited to dwellings for residents that need to reside in the area.
3. Cannich is identified as a gateway to Glens Affric and Cannich and sustainable tourism is to be encouraged. The area attracts circa 200,000 visitors a year and, being the mainstay of the local economy, there is a powerful argument for additional tourist facilities and information.
4. The SCC felt that additional local employment opportunities and affordable housing were required to encourage the retention of young people. The site of the former hotel has potential for small commercial units and some housing.
5. The SCC also felt that the Planners ideas quoted above were inconsistent with the growth in renewable energy and associated infrastructure developments and agreed that a response to this effect be submitted.

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

There has been no change since the last meeting.

**10. Planning.**

a) An emergency services telecoms mast 970 m SW of Mackeruck, Cannich has been approved.

b) There has been a planning application for a house NW of Birchwood, Cannich

**11. Forestry matters.**

a) The SCC has undertaken to administer Residents Parking Permits for FLS carparks in Glen Affric. Application details are to be posted.

b) A large influx of visitors is expected as lockdown eases and extensive timber extraction is scheduled.

**12. Deer management.**

As requested PS gave an overview of the process for out-of-season / night shooting of deer and explained that it is managed by NatureScot (SNH). The current legislation is the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996. An explanation of current timings, seasons, and reasons for authorisation and the rules applied. Reviews currently being conducted may extend some of the existing seasons.

**13. Correspondence.**

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

**14. Any other business.**

Cllr. Fraser reported that he had met with some Cannich parents who would like additional play equipment in the park. He was reminded that the existing equipment was community purchased but maintained by tHC and that there is £423.54 being held as a Reserved Fund in the SCC accounts to help with additional Play Park equipment.

**15. Next meeting.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9pm. The date of the next meeting (type to be advised) is Wednesday, 12th May 2021 commencing at 7-30 pm.

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