**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the meeting held at Cannich Hall on Monday, 16th May 2022 at 7-30 pm**

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

Also attending: Carol Masheter (Soirbheas).

**Apologies:** Georgina Parker, Alan Hood, Cllr. 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 4th April 2022 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

**3. Matters arising from the previous meeting not covered elsewhere within these minutes.**

a) Chair’s emails to HC: It has been confirmed that HC’s IT contractor had installed additional anti-phishing protocols to improve IT security some months ago. This resulted in all the SCC Chair’s emails to HC officers being quarantined with no notification to recipient or sender, meaning that various queries over a number of months had not been replied to. The matter has now been resolved thanks to the efforts of Cllr. David Fraser and Jim McAuley.

**4. Police report.**

a) Public protection: There have been three incidents of abandoned vehicles or walkers failing to return and one non-suspicious death in the community.

b) Crimes of dishonesty: There have been a number of incidents whereby post and honesty boxes have been damaged during attempts to steal cash, and the theft of a collection box from a church. An incident of squatting was reported and we were reminded that, in Scotland, squatting in an unoccupied house is a criminal offence. A large scale theft of timber involving the use of heavy plant was also reported.

c) Residents are reminded to report all crimes of dishonesty and suspicious behaviour to Police Scotland by ringing 101, by email or by posting a note at the Muir of Ord station.

1. **Soirbheas report.**
2. The photo competition is open with a prize of £100 for a local group – see details on the website.
3. Soirbheas AGM is on 30/6 and is open to all.
4. A Deer Management Group education day has been arranged for local school children.
5. A Tier 2 application for EV chargers at The Hub in Drumnadrochit is being considered.
6. An application for Heritage Trail funding has been made and £10k has been awarded for Strategic Pathway development.
7. The Struy food cupboard will be removed.

**6. Strathglass Community Action Plan.**

CM summarised the purpose of a Community Action Plan emphasising its focus on people and their future community requirements and how it should dovetail with a Local Place Plan that concentrates on the local built environment. She also shared her experiences with the Glen Urquhart CAP, whilst acknowledging that the Strathglass community is entirely different, and provided a copy of the GUCAP Community Survey.

It was agreed that all Strathglass residents and the various local groups would need to be involved in its creation and that a Working Group including representatives of local groups be established.

**7. SCC matters.**

a)Windfarm update:

i) Bhlaraidh Windfarm Extension: further to the changes requested by HC, a response to the ECU AIR was made on 26-4-22.

ii) Bunloinn Windfarm: an application has been made to the ECU for a new windfarm comprising 10 turbines, 230m high, in Glenmoriston approx. 30km from Cannich. SCC is a statutory consultee and we have been asked to respond by 11-6-22.

iii) Other windfarms: nothing new to report.

b) Struy Bus shelter**:**

HC Roads officers have agreed in principle to the siting of a shelter on the Glen Strathfarrar Road, just before its junction with the A831 (just after the Give Way sign), if it is located at least 600mm from the road edge and incorporates windows to facilitate passenger / driver eye contact. This location would involve the partial removal of an old dry stone wall that represents the boundary with the adjacent property. CM advised that calling it a public shelter, also for the use of visitors to Glen Strathfarrar, may make funding easier to source. It was also suggested that a traditional stone construction may be more visually sympathetic. The estimated cost would probably necessitate a Soirbheas Tier 2 application. Chair and CM to ascertain the ownership of the adjacent land and seek approval for the partial stone wall removal.

c) SCC AGM:

Will take place prior to our next regular meeting at 7-30pm on 27-6-22.

d) IMFLDP2:

The HC have approved the plan as previously laid out in the Main Issues Report and it can be viewed on the HC website. There are no changes to the “growing settlements” of Cannich and Tomich. Any objection should be notified to HC, for consideration by the Reporter, by 17-6-22.

**8. NP Working Group.**

Further meetings of the WG, involving various interested parties, have taken place.

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

a) The bank balance is: £2716.09

b) The balance of available funds is £2241.55

**10. Planning**

a) A forestry track at NE of Cougie Lodge has been permitted.

b) Alterations and refurbishment of Deannie Cottage, Strathfarrar have been permitted.

c) Alterations to Deanie Lodge, Strathfarrar have been permitted.

**11. Forestry matters.**

A virtual meeting to consider the FLS draft Visitor Strategy Plan is scheduled for 18-5-22. PS summarised the content which included climate change, reducing emissions and waste, the rural economy and communities, and health and education. PS also attended a site visit at Lower Guisachan (prior to thinning operations) with FLS and the local Heritage Group where new archaeological sites are being identified.

**12. Deer management.**

An AKDMG meeting had taken place on 8-4-22 where it was reported that community activities, including school visits and a community venison project were to be arranged.

**13. Correspondence.**

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

**14. Any other business.**

a) The Chair noted that the new Ward 12 councillors are:

David Fraser (Independent)

Emma Knox (SNP)

Helen Crawford (Conservative)

Chris Balance (Scottish Green Party)

b) The recent death of the popular local postie, Sandra, was noted with deep regret.

**15. Next meeting.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday, 27-6-22 at approx. 7-45pm, after the AGM, Cannich Hall.

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