**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the meeting held at Cannich Hall on Wednesday, 24th January 2022 at 7-30 pm**

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

**In attendance:** Carol Masheter (Soirbheas) and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Margaret Davidson, 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 1-12-21 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

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

a) tHC have not responded to our enquiries about “Capers in Cannich”, a bus stop shelter at the entrance to Glen Strathfarrar, about our concerns over the potholed bus stop in Struy, the damaged lamp-post in Tomich and the poor road surfaces in Tomich, though noted that some initial work on potholes has commenced.

b) Land use and National Parks: PS advises that plans for an initial meeting of interested parties are in hand whilst AH will elicit interest from the SACC Land Use Group.

**4. Police report.**

a) There was a report of a housebreaking at the Old Free Church, Fasnakyle on 15-1-22. If anyone has any information they are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 quoting ref. no. 1397.

b) Further to comments circulating on social media regarding other cases of criminality throughout Strathglass, Police Scotland advise that they have no record of these incidents. Residents are encouraged to report all suspicious behaviour and suspected crime to the police via 101 or CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

**5. Soirbheas report.**

1. Applications for Tier 1 and 2 grants are invited.
2. Covid recovery grants are still available.
3. Funding to assist with the costs of employee training is available.
4. Further to the earlier Transport Feasibility Study, funding has been made available for local walking paths.
5. The Befriending Scheme is seeking volunteers interested in helping vulnerable residents.
6. Plans for a mental health training scheme are being finalised.
7. Another ebike demonstration will be held later in the year. There are ongoing discussions about the provision of ebikes in Cannich but it has become apparent that practical difficulties, including secure storage, insurance, maintenance, instruction for users and ebike return, are major difficulties that would have to be overcome.
8. This year’s Tatty Day will be held on 5-3-22.
9. Funding has been agreed with local DMGs for community consultation / venison projects.
10. Possible funding to assist with the provision of EV charging facilities in Cannich is being considered.
11. A community provided bus shelter at the Glen Strathfarrar junction may be eligible for Tier 1 funding. Chair to further contact with tHC regarding location protocols, etc.

**6. SCC matters.**

a)Windfarms update:

i) Fiodhag: Erection of the met. Mast has been consented, after appeal, by DPEA.

ii) Bhlaraidh Extension: the target date for ECU consideration has been extended to 15-2-22.

iii) Loch Liath, Tomcrasky, Crathaich: no new info.

b**)** Bus services: Concern was expressed regarding the recent unreliable bus service to Cannich /Tomich from Drumnadrochit. Apparently services have been withdrawn on seven occasions (including two instances of the bus leaving the road) due to icy conditions on the A831 and driver concerns about passenger safety. Stagecoach and tHC are aware and are working to ensure services are not disrupted during the school exam period.

b) Cannich Christmas lighting: No lights were erected by tHC this year for reasons that are not clear. Chair to clarify with tHC so that the problem is not repeated next Christmas.

c) Ward 12 meeting: The Chair had attended a virtual Ward 12 meeting on 7-12-21 and provided a summary of key points affecting Strathglass:

* The playpark in Cannich will be refurbished later this year. Funding has been secured and practical details are being handled by tHC Amenities Officer.
* A Participatory Budget event (similar to that held at the Craigmonie Centre in 2019) is planned for later this year.
* The final proposed IMFLDP2 will be published for consultation and comment in March 2022.
* tHC is developing an “Active Travel Strategy” to include long distance walking and cycling routes around North Loch Ness and safe school routes.
* The SG Broadband R100 scheme is 4/5 years behind schedule. Eligibility for R100 vouchers can be checked on the R100 website, but be aware of potential problems with wireless, open space providers.

**7. SACC matters.**

a) Cannich Hall is open but use is currently much reduced and income has dropped by approx. £15k p.a. AH has applied for funding to enable the purchase of an air purifier which, it is hoped, will encourage the return of previous users, including the GP surgeries.

b) CHT has allocated the new houses to established residents of Strathglass.

c) AH and CM are to meet to consider a Community Action Plan.

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

a) The bank balance is: £2043.85.

b) The balance of available funds is £1930.31.

c) AH to chase tHC for the 2021/22 bursary.

**9. Planning.**

a) Applications for three houses on the site of the old Glen Affric Hotel, Cannich and the construction of a garage, store and office in Tomich have been submitted.

b) The application for the erection of three houses in Knockfin, Tomich has been consented.

**10. Forestry matters.**

a) SCC submitted a response to the FLS Visitor Strategy Consultation document.

b) As substantial extraction is expected over coming years, a meeting with FLS and GACP is to be requested.

c)) Roads used for timber extraction are incurring continual damage and their maintenance is being reviewed by tHC and FLS.

d) FLS have consulted SCC and tHC regarding new car parking notices. SCC requested references to penalties be amended or removed.

e) FLS have secured funding for the improvements to Dog Falls paths and car park.

**11. Deer management.**

a) A habitation impact assessment has been undertaken and is the subject of review.

b) There is a major fencing project ongoing.

c) Out of season deer shooting is to be expected.

d) Feral wild boar are being shot at night around Hilton Hall.

**12. Correspondence.**

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

a) SMG has advised that funding for Phase 2 of the AKW has been secured.

b) The 2022 Highland Cross event will take place on 18-6-22.

**13. Any other business.**

a) The defibrillator in Tomich had failed after being left without power during the early winter; power has been restored but the fitted battery was found to be defective. A temporary replacement has been fitted and defective battery returned to L2BH.

b) Reported that the wall adjacent to Cannich Bridge had been damaged.

**14. Next meeting.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday, 28th February 2022, commencing at 7-30 pm, at Cannich Hall.

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