**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the meeting held at Cannich Hall on Wednesday, 27th June 2022 at 7-45 pm.**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr. David Fraser and two members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Chris Balance.

**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 16th May 2022 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

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

A joint meeting between representatives of SCC, GUCC and Soirbheas has been arranged for 29th June 2022.

**4. Police report.**

No report available.

**5. SCC matters.**

a) Bunloinn Windfarm:

Based upon the cumulative effects of this proposal, together with those of other operational and proposed projects, a formal objection was submitted in response to a statutory consultation request from HC on 11th June 2022.

b) Other windfarm proposals:

No further information available.

c) Glen Strathfarrar, Struy public shelter:

The Chair advised that he had held an on-site meeting with the Erchless Estate manager on 4th June 2022 during which the SCC proposal and HC recommendations were discussed (the preferred site location will require incursion on to Erchless Estates property and the partial demolition of a drystone wall). The Estate Manager advised that any structure should be of a temporary nature and constructed of timber, the remaining wall ends will require buttressing and that a licence agreement would be required. On this basis, he agreed to put the proposal to his principals and a reply is awaited.

The Chair also advised that, as the likely cost will probably require a Soirbheas Tier 2 application, he would obtain an additional two shelter quotations.

**6. SACC matters.**

a) NHS Highland has agreed to renew the lease to use the Hall Meeting Room for a weekly GP surgery though the date for recommencing has not been established.

b) The SACC AGM will take place in July 2022.

c) Though some private function bookings have been made, the Hall is still underused when compared to pre-Covid times and needs more regular bookings to remain viable. AH anticipates that there will be more users as a degree of normality returns.

d) Grants have been awarded for Cannich Hall, from the SCF for replacement tables and chairs, and Soirbheas for a PA system. Following some delays due to supply issues, expenditure of grant funds is anticipated within the next two months.

**7. NP Working Group.**

a) The Scottish Government are considering land use and National Parks proposals. No timescale is as yet available for decisions and action but the emphasis is likely to be on biodiversity, visitor numbers and community engagement. It seems likely the plans will be driven by NatureScot.

b) PS and JM had attended an event in Drumnadrochit, hosted by the Universities of Edinburgh and East Anglia. The SCC had been invited to take part in the workshop, which also included landowners, foresters, farmers, ecologists and other community representatives, to consider landscape transformation in the Affric area. PS and JM had participated within a group looking at community benefit, the outcome of which was that wellbeing, for both visitors and local communities, was at least as important as financial benefits, and that both could be derived from carbon sequestration as well as windfarms and hydro schemes. It was recognised that, at present, there is no structure in place to return any benefit of carbon sequestration and offset to the community and that a suitable mechanism was required.

c) The NP Working Group continues to meet and are considering, with other parties such as FLS and NatureScot, benefits and challenges.

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

a) The current bank balance is £2716.09.

b) The balance of available funds (after deduction of ring-fenced items) is £2241.55.

**9. Planning**

a) There have been no approvals in period.

b) There have been two applications for forestry tracks, one each for the erection of a cabin in Tomich, erection of a detached garage in Struy, and a house in Struy.

**10. Forestry matters.**

a) A consultation request has been received from FLS regarding the Draft Community Strategy for Scotland’s National Forests and Land. PS to study and suggest a possible SCC commentary at our next meeting prior to the response deadline of 23-8-22.

b) We have been advised that there is a high probability that circa 300 HGV loads of timber will be felled and extracted from an area immediately adjacent to the Affric-Kintail Way at Fasnakyle.

**11. Deer management.**

Nothing new to report

**12. Correspondence.**

The Chair provided a summary of correspondence received since the last meeting. Of particular interest was the aforementioned FLS consultation request, the public consultation held by SSE Transmission at Cannich Hall on

22-6-22 regarding the “Beauly Cluster Asset Replacement” and a consultation request from Scottish Woodlands regarding a woodland creation proposal at Glassburn.

**13. Any other business.**

a) Immediately prior to the meeting, the Chair had received an email from a representative of the TRA detailing a number of issues. It was resolved that their consideration be deferred until the next SCC meeting.

b) The issue of potholes around Tomich was raised again. DF advised that the matter was in hand and that a new machine was proving of benefit. The Chair again advised residents to make use of the HC “Report a problem” portal to assist the setting of priorities.

b) GP advised that a resident had complained about the proliferation of tea pots on the wall of the old hotel in Cannich.

Irrespective of whether or not the complaint has wider support, it was considered that, as the wall is privately owned, it was not a matter for the SCC or HC.

**14. Next meeting.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at approx. 9.15 pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday, 25th July 2022, commencing at 7-30 pm, at the Cannich Hall.

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