**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC**)

**Minutes of the meeting held at Cannich Hall on Wednesday, 22nd February 2023 at 7-30pm**

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

**In attendance:** Tina Morrow (Soirbheas) and 3 other members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Chris Ballance , Cllr David Fraser, Kara Scott (Soirbheas)

**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 5-12-22 were proposed for adoption and unanimously approved.

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

GP surgeries at Cannich Hall:

Further to the advice from both Beauly GP practices that they were unable to resume the weekly surgeries at Cannich Hall (see minutes of 5-12-22 meeting), AH advised that SACC had not had any recent correspondence with NHS Highland.

Bearing in mind the importance of this service to the community, and the apparent unilateral nature of the decision with no prior consultation, the Chair was asked to raise the matter with Cllr. DF.

**4. Police report.**

No police beat report had been made available.

We have been advised by Cllr. CB that the Police Scotland Inverness Area Commander considers the Community Council Beat Reports to be of limited value and that her limited resources were better employed tackling crime and public safety instead of compiling individual CC reports. Whilst the SCC had some sympathy for her viewpoint, the Chair was asked to suggest that a general overview of crime trends and suspicious activity throughout the ward would be useful for all the CCs.

**5. Soirbheas**

1. New Community Development Manager, Tina Morrow, introduced herself.
2. Soirbheas is partnering with Sunflower Home Care, part of Highland Hospice (an NHS Highland contractor), to bring an adult Home Care service to Glenurquhart and Strathglass. They have started a recruitment campaign for locally based Care Workers and interested residents should contact TM.
3. Soirbheas will continue to run the established Befriending Service.
4. A Heritage Walking Weekend, in partnership with Strathglass Heritage Association and Glenurquhart Heritage Group, has been arranged for the weekend 24/26-3-23 to encourage local interest.

**6. SCC matters**

a) Windfarms and energy storage update:

Fiodhag - no new information

Bhlaraidh Extension – consented by ECU

Loch Liath – Heather Lafferty (Statkraft Project Manager) will attend our 5-4-23 meeting

Tomchrasky – under consideration by ECU, decision date 4-4-23

Bunloin - under consideration by ECU

Fasnakyle Battery storage - no new information

b) Struy shelter:

A Soirbheas Tier 2 grant application has been approved subject to the provision of an acceptable licence agreement from Erchless Estate. A funding shortfall of £1448.20 requires resolution so the Chair will approach HC for Ward Discretionary Funding and/or the SCF.

c) Beaver translocation to Strathglass:

No new information available but the Chair advised that Steve Micklewright (TfL) would be attending our

5-4-23 meeting to advise on Tfl’s future plans.

d) Defibrillators:

Three sets of pads require replacement on 28-4-23. An application for funding by Soirbheas will be made after the replacements are acquired.

**7. SACC matters.**

a) The AGM was held on 6-2-23.

b) Many of the pre-Covid activities have not yet returned to Cannich Hall and it is anticipated that this will result in a deficit of approx. £6000 this year.

c) A Strathglass Community Action Plan will be discussed with Soirbheas over the next few months.

e) The new community homes, which have now been occupied for approx. 12 months, have proved to be a great success and are popular with their occupants.

**8. Treasurer’s report.**

The current bank balance is £3102.95 and funds available after deducting ring-fenced items and liabilities are £2593.41.

**9. Planning.**

a) Details of submissions for approval had been provided by AH and included applications for the removal and replacement of the Deanie substation and the erection of a sub-station at Culligran after the approval of ground investigation works.

b) A number of applications had been consented in period, including 22/04171/ADV for the erection of lamppost banners in Cannich to which the SCC (and others) had objected.

c) A PAN had been received from a developer wishing to erect a 4G telecoms. mast and infrastructure at Carn Na Gearraig, Eskdale Moor. SCC has requested mapped details of current and proposed 3G and 4G coverage.

**10. Forestry.**

A community member had suggested a proposal to PS; that Affric Car Parks funds could be used to create a new footpath, on FLS property, to an impressive viewpoint above Loch Beinn a’ Mheadhoin. A similar proposal had been discussed previously by the TRA and all SCC members agreed it was a worthy suggestion.

**11. Deer management.**

a) PS advised that the deer management group, AKDMG, have changed their name to Affric and Kintail Land Management Group (AKLMG).

b) An FOC venison preparation and cookery event had been organised for 3-3-23 at Cannich Hall. Details have been posted on the SCC Facebook page.

**11. Correspondence.**

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

**12. Any other business.**

a) The Chair announced that he intends to stand down from the SCC after the next AGM on 21-6-23.

**13. Next meeting.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at approx. 8.50pm. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 5th April 2023 commencing at 7-30 pm, at Cannich Hall.

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