**MINUTES OF STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD AT 7.30 pm ON WEDNESDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2023 AT CANNICH HALL**

**Attendees:**

Humphrey Clarke (Chair)

Georgina Parker (Secretary)

Paul Stirling

Lee Carlisle

Ian McKay (Treasurer) (Joined online)

7 Members of the community

Meeting convened by David Fraser as the first meeting since the election.

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Chair welcomed attendees.

1. **Election Results & Nomination of Officers:**

Nominations confirmed unanimously. Humphrey Clarke as Chair, Ian McKay as Treasurer, Georgina Parker as Vice Chair and Secretary, Paul Stirling and Leeson Carlisle, Community Councillors.

1. **Minutes of last meeting in October** agreed and signed by Chair. Matters arising from meeting of October 2023: All on Agenda
2. **SCC matters:**
3. **Windfarm and battery storage proposals update:**

Ian requested that SCC be advised when the Fasnakyle Battery Storage goes to committee.

**ACTION:** David Fraser agreed to do so once the December schedule is released

**b) SSEN Transmission proposals affecting Strathglass**

* Repeated requests to SSEN over last six months to visit sites to discuss location / constraints finally took place last week. Although by now machinery was already working on a specific site
* ZTV provided showing that there will be visual impact to Glen Affric NNR (and from parts of Tomich). NSA was again missed on maps. Corrections requested
* We have requested clarification regarding site ecological surveys in addition to ongoing peat surveys. So far they have found deep peat ranging from 0.5 metres to 5 metres and up to 8 metres depth.
* SSEN advised that alternative sites were being considered.
* David Fraser explained that the work that they are doing comes under permitted development. Environmental concerns would come under NatureScot.

**ACTION:** SCC to write to NatureScot regarding environmental concerns expressed, in particular in relation to peat

SCC will attend an OFGEM meeting on Friday in relation to the proposed developments.

1. **Glen Strathfarrar public shelter**

Shelter in Struy now erected. The Chair thanked Nigel for his work and perseverance to get this project over the line. Draft sign provided. Woodwork to be treated with preservative Awaiting licence agreement. The meeting expressed its gratitude.

**d) Defibrillators**

Replacement pads sourced by LC for the Cannich Hall defibrillator.

**e) National Park Nomination Update**

* David Fraser will provide contact details to the Glenmoriston Improvement Group
* GP and PS provided an update on the National Park Nomination.
* IM successfully applied to Siorbheas for funding to support the nomination process.
* Discussed current proposed boundary, which needs to be refined to be bordered by catchments/hilltops. The boundary will be refined through the consultation and nomination process.
* Discussed aspects that could support the case for a national park in this area.
* Working title for the National Park is Affric & Loch Ness National Park.
* Website will be launched shortly, once sufficient partner/supporter statements were received.

**f) Community Place Plan**

* Date for completion has been moved to Sep 24.

**ACTION:** Set up a meeting with Alan regarding the CPP and SACC.

1. **SACC/Soirbheas update:** Soirbheas did not attend. SACC sent written update which was presented by the Chair.

* Community Health Project: 2 community health classes are being funded by Soirbheas.
* Community Transport Project: working to glean best practise in community transport with the support of the Development Trust Association.
* Community Electric Vehicle Charging Points Project: Linked to above.
* Community Events/Social Events Project: OAP Strathglass Community Christmas Lunch Event and Community Hogmanay event.
* Cannich Village Playpark improvements: Working with the Playparkl Community Group to help to re-energise the Cannich Village Playpark.
* Strathglass Growing Project: In discussions with SSE to identify and facilitate a possible transfer of land.
* Cannich Village Hall Project, losing £12K per annum. Exploring opportunities to diversify funding.
* Strathglass Community Housing Project: Proposal to add an additional property (5 McColl Road) to the current two
* Strathglass Community Project Officer: Working with Soirbheas to fund a paid project officer to assist in the development of community projects.
* GP Surgery: working with politicians to try to reinstate.

1. **Treasurer’s Report and Financial matters:**

Iain will take over treasurer’s responsibility and is progressing with the requisite paperwork.

1. **Planning:**

* Iain will take over responsibility for reporting on planning.
* The Chair reported that objections have been raised by SCC in relation to the planned mast network.
* Forestry building north of Comar woods. Decided.
* Change of use of use of land – next to Spar.

1. **Forestry matters:**

* Update provided on planned forestry harvesting activities. Fasnakyle scheduled for 2004. Cougie harvesting delayed. Change in forestry planned activity plans due to fall in timber prices.
* Work starting up on the Affric Kintail way – short diversion for walking and cycling. Dog falls area.

1. **Deer management: nothing to report.**
2. **Correspondence: Shared with Community Councillors.**
3. **Agree meeting dates for 2024**

* Agreed subject to availability of Cannich Hall and moving AGM to June 2024 to allow time for auditing of accounts.

**ACTION:** Chair to ascertain availability of hall on draft agreed dates.

**12. Any Other Business**

* Discussion regarding wild boar. Present across Tomich and bordering Cannich.
* Queried SSEN’s plans for moving plant through Tomich.
* Question regarding signage to Plodda.

**ACTION:** DF will visit the area to assess the above.

* PS will speak to Forestry regarding potholes on the track up to Plodda.
* Christmas lights for Cannich discussed

**ACTION:** DF will make enquiries with Highland council

* Concerns raised regarding robustness of gritting service at Tomich