**STRATHGLASS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING NOTES WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024**

**AT CANNICH HALL**

**Attendees:**

Humphrey Clarke (Chair)

Georgina Parker (Vice Chair & Secretary)

Ian MacKay (Treasurer)

Paul Stirling

Leeson Carlisle

In attendance: Councillors David Fraser and Chris Ballance

Members of the public: 11

1. Welcome and Apologies: No apologies received.
2. Minutes of last meeting held on 27th November 2023 : Approved
3. Matters arising from meeting of 27th November 2023
4. Affric & Loch Ness National Park Public Consultation

* GP, PS and IM gave an overview of activities to date.
* Support is being provided by Laternal North, Government appointed consultants (range of support confirmed by email 6th December)
* Draft boundary for consultation – extended to cover part of Loch ness down to Invermoriston, across to Strathcarron, up towards Contin and east to Beauly
* Stakeholder consultation throughout December: community companies, businesses, other community councils, Highland Councillors, education institution
* Public consultation supported by consultants w/c 23/1/24
* Consultation meeting dates will be published on the updated website on Friday 12th , supported by social media posting and posters on local notice boards.
* Press and survey launch on Friday 12th February 2024 in partnership with TfL
* Cannich Hall event on Saturday 27th February 2024
* IM secured initial funding, mostly for ICT and meeting refreshments
* Liaison with overlapping nominating groups Affric 2 Alladale and Wester Ross Biosphere was facilitated by the consultants. Proposition was to consult across local areas, to limit any confusion between groups.
* Consistent with the role of the SCC, the aim of the consultation will be to seek feedback on the Government provided content shared on the website from our communities.

Questions/suggestions from the public included:

* Q. What is the purpose of national park designation. How do we avoid the pitfalls of Skye and NC500. A. Refer to FAQs on the website.
* Q. How will people impacted outside of the boundary be consulted. A. Survey will collect responses from across the region and will be analysed by postcode. Reporter stage will follow the initial informal nomination process’. Nomination will be forwarded to HC upon completion.
* S: We should include a suggestion in the nomination a requesting representation from across the area of the NPA – not just the main conurbations. ACTION
* Q. Request for individual drop in sessions to be supported by a public open session. A: Agreed. GP to action.

1. SCC matters:

a) Windfarm and battery storage proposals update: nothing to update locally.

b) SSEN Transmission proposals affecting Strathglass. Meeting with Kate Forbes was discussed and representations were made by SCC. Discussion regarding current works above Tomich.

e) National Park Nomination Update: See item 5 above.

f) Community Place Plan: No update. Extended to September. SCC attending next SACC meeting.

7. SACC/Soirbheas update: Update provided by SACC by email was read out to the meeting by the Chair. See SACC website for info.

8. Treasurer’s Report and Financial matters: Current balance: £1,821.97. We are still awaiting an invoice for the Christmas lights.

9. Planning: Nothing new since 27th November, last meeting.

10. Forestry matters: Community partnership meeting. Looking at introducing an MOU to have with the community. Carbon capture credits – considering whether a proportion could be provided to the community. Plodda – considering undertaking work on the track for the last time subject to the community coming up with a plan for future maintenance. Work has started on Kerrow Brae. All phases, 1, 2 and 3 of AKW completed. Compost toilet at Dog Falls has been completed. Access to new viewpoint being created.

11. Deer management: New consultation being issued by Scottish Government to potentially amend the deer act. DMGs will be involved in that consultation. As a community, we can be involved in feedback as it will impact upon local jobs. Awaiting further information.

12. Correspondence: Lighter than usual due to email system changeover.

13. Agreed meeting dates for 2024 – see overleaf.

14. Any Other Business

Email hosting: contract ends on 25th January. Ian moving us to a new provider. Strathglass group email is still live.