**Strathglass Community Council**

**23 October 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Community Room, Cannich Hall**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees**

Humphrey Clarke (Chair)

Georgina Parker (Vice Chair and Secretary)

David Tulloch

Leeson Carlyle (Treasurer)

David Fraser – Highland Councillor

13 members of the public

**Apologies:**

Gordon Buckley - on holiday

Karl Falconer – on holiday

Tina, Soirbheas

1. Partner Updates
   1. Soirbheas: not attending this time. Has confirmed attendance at every other meeting to update.
   2. SACC: no update received.
2. Major Energy Infrastructure Updates
   1. Helen Crawford Motion: was agreed by Highland Council. This would provide a regularly updated map of energy infrastructure projects as well as training for Community Councillor and increase transparency for local communities.
   2. Windfarms Update:

Awaiting further information regarding development close to Struy.

Crathaich wind farm has been consented. David Fraser confirmed that the project was reduced by one turbine as it would have been visible from Glen Affric.

* 1. Fasnakyle BESS – Planning expected to go in on 19th November, Fire service capacity, Mitigations, concern regarding lack of alternatives for evacuation for those living close by, prevalence of peat. It is important that members of the community consider whether they wish to respond. We will publish info/link to planning on our facebook and links on our agenda.

**ACTION:**  Members of the community to write to SCC with any other feedback..

* 1. Discussion on Energy Projects:

The meeting discussed the importance members of the public sharing their views with the community council, in order that these could be represented. Members of the public expressed multiple concerns regarding the consultation process, including the different information given to people at the meetings. There were no indications of support in the room for the current trajectory. Representations to SCC by email, facebook or in person are welcome. Members of the public asked about contact details for MPs/MSPs. These will be added to the SCC website.

* 1. Bingally Substation Update

Members of the public attending the meeting confirmed that BAM vehicles are speeding across the roads and tracks in Tomich, including on a Sunday endangering the lives of residents, tourists and pets/animals. A danger to local people, families and animals.

HC went through the list of questions he has so far for SSE. HC took down list of further questions from members of the community.

**ACTION:** Members of the community to write to SCC with other questions.

**ACTION:** Humphrey Clarke to continue to follow up with SSE to set up online meeting with SCC.

* 1. Tomchrasky Connection to Bingally

Members of the public and community councillors voiced concerns re. Environmental disturbance (including to nature and peatland) and visual impact of overhead lines. Bingally ‘consultation’ attendees had been given different answers regarding connections/lines in and lines out. Questions re other connections to Bingally. Potentially Loch Liath connection?

**ACTON: Ensure members of the community are aware of the upcoming even at Cannich Hall on Tuesday 29 October between 7pm and 7.30pm.** DF advised the H shaped towers that will carry the lines are over 30 metres high. These will cover a distance of 22 km across the hills from Invermoriston and down into Bingally (Tomich).

1. Planning – General

No issues raised.

1. SCC Member Updates:
   1. Forestry (including FLS)
   2. TFL – GP meeting with AM at TFL next week
   3. DMG – David provided an update. Deer fencing along the roadside at Glassburn.

SSEN – See also re Bingally and Tomchrasky above. A member of the public raised concerns regarding the damage done by SSE contractors to the road east out of Tomich (close to Tomich Kennels)

**ACTION:** David Fraser to take a drive up to review.

1. Additional items/community communications
   1. Winter gritting arrangements: raised with the council. John Taylor was under the impression that the gritting arrangements were sufficient last year. That does not concur with SCC recollections/minutes. Members of the public and GP confirmed that the Tomich road from Fasnakyle into and through the village was unsafe for early school buses and general public as the road wasn’t gritted until 10/11am (if at all)

Members of the public raised that the road between Cannich and Struy have degraded

**ACTION:** David will send through an address for John Taylor for SCC to follow up also

* 1. Funding Proposals – none to discuss this time.
  2. Community Action Plan – still with SACC – urged members of the public to consider joining SACC as two members have resigned.
  3. Supporting new signage for Shinty Club.
  4. Ending of analogue signal: BT are saying that if you don’t have broadband. This policy is unclear and offers no alternative if customers do have BT broadband and a BT phone line, as there will still be no method of contacting anyone in the case of a power cut. There have been two power cuts in Tomich in October already and others locally.

**ACTION:** Humphrey Clarke to follow up with BT.

* 1. RTS signal: storage heaters operated via RTS they will not operate once the signal is turned off in June 2025. No WAN in Tomich so smart meter can’t work.

**ACTION:** David Fraser to follow up with Highland Council

* 1. Christmas Decorations

**ACTION**: GP to contact Neil Fraser

1. The co-option of Leeson Carlisle as a community council member and treasurer had been noted. Leeson confirmed that reconciliations of grants and payments needed to be completed to establish an accurate balance. The financial records are to be reviewed and signed off by a competent person to unlock the community council grant from Highland Council. This was delayed due to the SCC being disbanded earlier this year, due to lack of quoracy.
2. Dates for 2025 meetings (see attached list)
3. Date/Time of the next meeting: 7.30pm 20/11/24

**Suggested meeting dates 2025:**

Wednesday 22nd January

Wednesday 19th February

Wednesday 19th March

Wednesday 23rd April

Wednesday 21st May

Wednesday 18th June

No meeting in July

Wednesday 20th August

Wednesday 24th September

Wednesday 22nd October

Wednesday 26th November