



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 7.30pm
on Zoom

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Marcus Munro, Vice Chair (MM), Mary Goulder, Treasurer/Secretary (MG), Russell Smith (RS), Norman MacDonald (NM)

Apologies: John White (JW), Rikki Veters (RV), Brian Coghil (BC)

Also present: Hamish Munro (HM), Jessie Munro (JM), Michael Baird (MB)

Police representative: None present

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above). Police report. This meeting immediately followed the closure of the AGM. Personnel remained unchanged. No report received from the police despite confirmation of the date. MB reported that there have been numerous speeding incidents noted on the Bonar-Ardgay straight. He has been in communication with Rhoda Grant MSP who in turn has contacted Donna Manson, THC and Superintendent Trickett. THC are said to be reviewing the speed restrictions and further actions by the police are anticipated. Once again, the idea was put forward for a continuous 30mph limit from the outskirts of Ardgay through Bonar to the outskirts on both the Dornoch and Lairg roads. MM said that while the reduction of speed on the complete straight would be welcomed the main issue is the stretch approaching Bonar Bridge from Ardgay past Ardgay Game and The Hub. He suggested reinstating 'Smiley Sid', the CC's own speed advice sign, on a lamppost at the entry into Bonar from Ardgay. This requires THC to connect the equipment to the appropriate streetlight. Such a request will be made. **KC/MG Action.** The CC will continue to support A&DCC in its efforts to resolve this issue.

Item 2. Minutes of September meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the September meeting, also held on Zoom, were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Marcus Munro seconded by Russell Smith.

Item 3. Regular updates:

- (i) **Planning & Licensing.** (RS) Application for facilities for motorhomes at three locations, Stonehenge, Rosehall Tearoom and Falls of Shin led to an invitation to KOSDT to attend the next meeting to discuss the plans at Stonehenge. NM expressed mixed feelings about this use of the site fearing it might discourage the regular use by locals. Concerns also expressed about the plans for disposal of human waste from campervans, the fees to use such a service, and whether this might inadvertently encourage wild camping and irresponsible waste dumping. **MG Action.**
- (ii) **TECS.** (1) MM has been approached by an Inveran resident regarding the neglected surface on the access road to the houses, now in extremely poor condition. SSE is/has been conducting upgrading work at the sub-station which may have contributed to the wear and tear. Secretary will write to SSE, copying in Cllr Currie, suggesting resurfacing the area as a goodwill gesture to the residents. **MG Action.**
- (iii) **Financial report.** (MG) Accounts prepared for AGM and circulated by email. Although THC advised it was not necessary to have the accounts audited this year, with the authority of PC and NM and owing to the odd circumstances which arose while trying to access the No. 2 account, it was important to have this done. Also with a view to handing over the post of Treasurer in the New Year it seemed the wisest action. Balance No 1 account at 11.30hrs on 16th November 2020:

Treasurers acct No1: £3531.11 reflecting the compensation payment from BoS, which was then transferred to MG by authority of Chair and NM. Outgoing payments were £215.26 to Faclan Word Service for invoice and £31 to RBLS for the poppy wreath.

Access is now in place to the No2 account which has a current balance of £36,003.83. This reflects two incoming payments from Coire na Cloiche, £18,463 and £1347 along with a Beinn nan Oighrean payment of £3387.50.

- (iv) **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** (PC) The Trust Manager is currently working on a refunding package, seeking support for longer than has been the case previously. A five year package would be best. A complex application is being prepared for submission to the Achany Panel. The update in the Kyle Chronicle covers Trust activities. New board members are needed to fill at least two vacancies. Younger people would be particularly welcomed – even on a part-time basis and utilising Zoom as required.
- (v) **Rosehall.** Invercassley Stores & Tearoom has begun a takeaway service on Friday and Saturday nights with delivery in Rosehall and Altass. Achness Hotel is currently opening weekends only, from Thursday 6pm to Sunday 6pm but open all day. The A830 between Rosehall and Lairg is undergoing repairs and resurfacing and is closed until 18th December.
- (vi) **Invershin.** (KW) Inveran Bridge. Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Board has taken legal advice which confirms that THC is not the owner of the bridge. KOSFB is attempting to discuss the issue with THC as dangerous deterioration is likely should this be a hard winter. There is a serious possibility of collapse of the bridge which could block salmon from making their way up-river, compromising the fishing on the Shin and in turn the local economy. MB disputed THC's claim that it does not own the bridge as his investigations through Landownership Scotland would appear to indicate that it does. The new bridge was opened in the 1970s at which time the road no longer crossed the old bridge. MB advised that THC may be willing to remove vegetation around the bridge and improve signage. KW said that a local landowner is interested in the possibility of creating a circular foot/cycle path around the river which would include upgrading the bridge. The bridge will be two hundred years old in 2022. Talks/liaison should continue, contact Matt Dent, Core Paths Officer THC. The CC will provide whatever support it can. **KW Action.**
- (vii) **Bonar Bridge.** It was queried if any follow up received regarding the recent break-in at Migdale Stores. Details of suspicious vehicles were passed to the police but nothing further has been heard.
- Land opposite the Bonar Bridge Post Office. KW might be able to arrange for a work party to clear the vegetation etc. He suggests a community group could be established which could seek funding for this and ongoing maintenance. KW will report back at next meeting. **KW Action.**
- MB highlighted the many incidence of loads of aggregate passing through Bonar due to construction work at Garvary, Achinduich and Dalchork. Restrictions have been placed to stop trucks passing the primary school when children are arriving/leaving. There is a possibility that the Football Club car park could be resurface by SSE as a goodwill gesture. RS proposed that all road surface and verges damage be made good at the end of works.
- Highland Councillor's report.** None available.
- 4. Windfarm updates.** (1) Meall Buidhe. The community benefit proposal put forward by Muirden Energy was rejected. The company will be informed. **PC Action.**
- 5. Website update.** KOSDT maintaining updates.
- 6. Correspondence.** Any relevant correspondence has been forwarded. (1) Information regarding the proposed Boundary Commission changes will lead to exacerbation of the Inverness bias in Highland Region. The CC does not support any reduction of Councillors in this area. The workload under the existing system currently overloads the Councillors in post. This extremely large area is already underrepresented. CC will write to Margaret Davidson, THC, accordingly. **MG Action.**
- 7. Any other competent business.** None raised.

Minutes approved 19/01/2021

8. Date, time and place of next meeting. Due to the continuing restrictions it is proposed (tbc) that the next meeting will also be held using Zoom, on Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 7.30pm. Any matters raised by members of the public will be addressed on their behalf.

9. Private session. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea funding applications. Application by Rosehall Primary School Parent Council for £250 towards Christmas gift scheme for local children received an award of £250. Application by Bonar Bridge Football Club for funding towards its clubhouse refurbishment project was approved in principal but with the award ringfenced pending confirmation of receipt of other funding sought. Phil Tomalin, Company Secretary, and applicants will be advised.**MG Action.**

Meeting closed 9.30pm.