



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 16th April 2013 at 7.30pm
in the Rosehall Village Hall**

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Norman MacDonald (NM), John White (JW), Lily Byron (LB), Sandy Chalmers (SC), Ron Boothroyd (RB)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Invited guests: Gareth Dixon, Mitchell's Chemists

Also present: Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF), Dorothy Bruce

Apologies: Claire Bruce, Vice Chair, (CB), Russell Smith (RS), Brian Coghill (BC), Sally Williams (SW)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above) /Police report. Chair Pete Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting and as there was no police representative present, or report available, the meeting moved directly to Item 2.

Item 2. Minutes of March meeting/matters arising (not on the agenda). The minutes of the March meeting were approved, as being a true and accurate record; proposed by Norman MacDonald; seconded by John White. The only matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Non-agenda item. New pharmacy in Bonar Bridge. Gareth Dixon was invited to update the community on progress towards opening his new Mitchell's Pharmacy in the village. Approval was given by the NHS Panel last week allowing Gareth to proceed. He passed round plans showing both the outside and interior of the new venture. It is proposed that the upstairs be made into a self-contained flat for use either by the shop manager or as rented out accommodation. The interior of the ground floor will comprise the brand new layout of a modern pharmacy which will include a retail area, a pharmacy counter, dispensary, and consultation room as well as a staff area and storage to the rear of the building. At present there is a step up into the shop; this will be removed either by lowering the shop floor or the raising of the pavement thus providing disabled access. Little or no change is planned for the exterior of the building where the character of it will be maintained. It is hoped to use local tradesmen whenever possible to carry out the building/fitting works. As these are major works, involving planning permission, it is expected that opening for business will be in approximately ten month's time. Employees at the new shop will be one pharmacist, one full time dispenser and two front shop assistants. Gareth is due to meet Dr Mair at the surgery to offer the dispensing staff first refusal of the equivalent posts in the new establishment. It is hoped to fill all positions with local people if possible. This is a major investment of financial commitment to the area and is much appreciated. Gareth hopes to build a good rapport with the community with pharmacy operating as an important and integral part. Using modern electronic technology it should be possible for prescriptions to be transmitted from the surgery direct to the pharmacy which would enable swift collection by patients after attending the GP; this will help to make the transition to the new system as smooth as possible. As the project progresses Gareth will keep the CC informed. Wishing him every success, the CC thanked Gareth for coming to the meeting and he left at 7.50pm.

Item 3. Regular updates:

- (i) **Planning & licensing.** (RS). Cllr Farlow advised of several planning decisions made today at Highland Council with regard to windfarms. The thirteen turbine Coire na Cloiche development was approved. Braemore was not and will go to the Scottish

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Government and public enquiry. A site visit was arranged for Glencassley and Sallachy. Dalnессie has already been passed to Scottish Government with a public enquiry expected. A map is now available on the Highland Council website, access through Planning and then Renewables, which shows all windfarm developments, operational and proposed, within the HC area. GF will provide the direct link information. **GF Action.** RB pointed out that as at least some windfarms are here to stay, more must be made of them with visitor centres, bike trails, wild life wardens etc. It seems that in some areas deer are frequenting developments as recent earthworks have supported new grass growth; in others the grouse population has increased due to the lack of raptors. In May, HC will discuss wild lands within the proposed Highland-wide Development Plan. It was stated that local jobs and apprenticeship schemes are becoming more common within the renewable industry. CC members urged GF to stress the importance of improving and maintaining the infrastructure in all development areas. As the developers always install a satellite system for their own communications it was suggested that this could be extended for use by local areas currently unable to access satisfactory Broadband services.

- (ii) **TEC Services.** (SC) SC advised that Craggan Dhu is partially cleared with further work expected when the contractor is available. In time this area will revert to Highland Council for maintenance. While it might prove possible to utilise some of the cleared area for walks or picnic areas, the strip will require safety fencing. Replanting can take place after two years. Cycle path upgrade at Invershin Bridge is set to go ahead in accordance with the plans with Sustrans; it is hoped to have the work completed by the end of June. The £1400 costs will be shared by Creich and Ardgay CCs. Kyleside Walk upgrade is awaiting notification of costs. Balblair Wood parking at Invershin has achieved its funding from HC Ward Discretionary Fund and Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit (via the newly established CC environment improvement fund) and a contractor has been appointed to carry out the work. A split in the road surface on the main street in Bonar Bridge has been reported and is scheduled for repair. Cllr Farlow is arranging a road safety seminar to be held perhaps in June with regard to the speeding/safety issues at the Invershin Hotel. Two representatives from each of the three local community councils plus two HC road engineers should attend. Another suggestion is the insertion of a three metre wide red rumble strip with appropriate warning signs. CC will write to Simon Young, and also T/Chief Inspector Garry Cameron. **MG Action.** Cllr Farlow will continue to liaise with SC to arrange the seminar. **GF Action.** Once again the temporary traffic lights at Ardchronie were discussed with the solution of a priority traffic system put forward. The road area used would be constricted to an appropriate width on the safe section of road with, for example, a northbound priority. Cllr Farlow will enquire if this is feasible. **GF Action.**
- (iii) **Financial report.** (RT) The year- end figures were passed round prior to submission to James Docherty for auditing. The balances recorded at 5th April show the current account standing at £1942.34 and the savings account at £6633.00. As the Bank of Scotland insists on the completion of new forms with details from the approved signatories it was agreed that these should be Pete Campbell, Russell Taylor and Norman MacDonald. The forms must be returned to the Bank of Scotland by mid May at the latest or the accounts will be frozen. A certified extract from these Minutes will be prepared, signed by PC, to be sent with the forms. **MG/RT/PC/NM Action.**
- (iv) **Spinningdale.** (SW) Nothing in Sally's absence.
- (v) **Police matters.** (NM) Nil of note
- (vi) **Environmental/health.** (?) No CC rep has this responsibility at present.
- (vii) **Youth.** (?) No CC rep has this responsibility at present.
- (viii) **Education/schools.** (LB) Nothing at this time.

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- (ix) **KOSDT.** (PC) A professional fundraiser, Helen Houston from Golspie, has been appointed to help raise the funds required to operate the Development Officer post for the next two years.
- (x) **Rosehall.** (JW/LB) A request has been received that a dustbin be placed at the play park; speed bumps have been suggested to slow daytime traffic in Cassley Drive; a street light is requested on the Cassley Bridge. The overall condition of the Glencassley road has greatly deteriorated. Three incidents of damaged car sumps have occurred plus another of a wheel and tyre damaged beyond repair. The last seven miles up the glen is reported as being in the worst condition. While it is appreciated that this is a little used road when compared to others, without significant repair Highland Council could well be sued by car owners faced with seriously damaged or even written-off vehicles. SC will pass all issues to John Clark, Highland Council, Bonar Bridge. **SC Action.** The lack of reliable and relevant public transport to/from Rosehall was raised again. PC advised that concerned residents could be funded to run a transport scheme if someone could be found to co-ordinate it.
- (xi) **Invershin.** (SC) Nothing other than the Balblair Wood parking and the Invershin road safety issues discussed at Item 3 (ii).
- (xii) **Highland Councillor's report.** Mainly concerned the Planning decisions discussed at Item 3 (i).

Item 4. Broadband in Rosehall. (RB) Ron advised that the awaited announcement from HIE was made on March 26th. It appears that BT was the only viable applicant for the provision of the improvements. Ron is trying to establish a timescale for, and just where the Rosehall exchange is in the proposed roll out of improved Broadband speed and availability. So far he has had no reply to his calls. He suspects the roll out will not happen in under two years, if at all here. Individuals are faced with taking contracts for satellite connection as being the only option at least meantime. Highland Council has its own Pathfinder network which could be utilised by fibre optic connections if allowed. RB and PC agreed to try to set up a meeting with Vicki Nairn in the Chief Executive's Office to discuss this possibility. Dorothy Bruce attended the meeting to register her complaint that having recently given up her Broadband connection when she was away for a few months, she has now been told, after many phone calls, that no connection is available due to lack of capacity.

RB/PC Action.

Item 5. Carbisdale Castle. It appears that there is little hope for saving the hostel. SYHA has no more money for the repairs and Historic Scotland will not relax regulations with regard to original building materials. The CC is at a loss as to any other action which could be taken. Fears were expressed that the permanent closure of the hostel could jeopardise the rail link.

Item 6. Ronnie McNeill's presentation. The local collection has raised £205. Ronnie and his family have expressed their gratitude for the support of the community over the many years and have decided they would like the collection to be split into two donations, one to the Bradbury Centre and the other to the Migdale Hospital Comfort Fund. Treasurer will make the appropriate arrangements. **RT Action.**

Item 7. Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit applications. There were no applications to discuss.

Item 8. Windfarms updates. See Item 3 (i).

Item 9. Community Council notice board. This and the new notice boards procured by KOSDT should be in place soon.

Item 10. Correspondence. A letter of confirmation of the Highland Council Ward Discretionary Budget award was passed to RT.

Item 11. Any other competent business. Following her recent resignation, PC proposed that a vote of thanks to Kay Smart be recorded in recognition of her service to the Community Council. He reminded members of the need to bring younger people onto the CC. An agenda item next month will be the consideration of upgrading an Associate Member to a co-opted full member of the CC. With the AGM due in June members were also urged to consider who might take on the office bearing positions at that time. **Agenda item.**

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Item 12. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st May 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Invershin Village Hall. SC to book the room. **SC Action.**

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.