



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 18th June 2013 at 7.30pm
in the Bonar Bridge Hall**

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Sandy Chalmers (SC), Norman MacDonald (NM), Lily Byron (LB),

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Also present: Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF), Teresa Langley, Secretary A&DCC, PC Neil Bremner (Dornoch)

Apologies: Sally Williams (SW), Ron Boothroyd (RB), Russell Smith (RS), PC Katy Hunter (KH)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above) /Police report. This meeting followed directly after the AGM. PC Bremner had arrived during the AGM which was interrupted to allow him to make his report. Since the 1st May twenty six incidents have been reported in the area, all of them minor and not resulting in reports to the Procurator Fiscal. Two fixed penalties have been issued for speeding offences and speed checks will continue as part of regular policing. One road traffic incident involving a motorbike occurred at Rosehall. Three thefts were reported but further investigation revealed no thefts had actually taken place. Complaints to the Community Council regarding the closure of the right of way which links Lairg Road with Tulloch Road, at the side of the Bell Ingram office, came as news to the constable. Local residents have been angered by the closure, especially as no prior notice was given. Further enquiries will be made and Cllr Farlow offered to ask Core Path Officer Matt Dent to check on the status of the path. **GF Action.**

Item 2. Minutes of May meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the May meeting were approved, after two minor amendments, as being a true and accurate record; proposed by Lily Byron, seconded by Sandy Chalmers. **(1) Ardchronie traffic lights.** GF intimated that Highland Council is considering the purchase of land on the opposite side of the road from the railway to allow for the road to be realigned away from the embankment.

Item 3. Regular updates:

- (i) Planning & licensing.** (RS). Nothing local in Russell's absence. Cllr Farlow advised that HC approval has been given for approximately two hundred and seventy-seven wind turbines in the Beatrice Field. It is expected however that this huge project could take years to come to fruition.
- (ii) TEC Services.** (SC) The Invershin cycle ramp project was halted on instructions from Highland Council's Senior Project Officer. It appears that HC now wishes the ramp redesigned. A ramp made to the specific designs of Sustrans (used in many locations countrywide) has been made at CC expense and is ready to fit. As many cyclist tourists are already in the area this is needed immediately. Cllr Farlow will attempt to solve this problem as swiftly as possible to allow fitting of the ramp. He will also clarify the liability insurance status at the same time and report to the CC as soon as possible. **GF Action.** the western approach to Bonar Bridge clean up has now been concluded and payment from the Environment Fund of the agreed £100 will be made with thanks to the Lairg Rovers Football Club. **RT Action.** SC will remind John Clark about the water flowing over the A837 in Rosehall just above West Lodge. **SC Action.**
- (iii) Financial report.** (RT) Russell passed round the current bank statement showing a balance in the Treasurer's account of £5760.85. The No.2 account stands at £6633.00. The Treasurer was authorised to make the payments from the Environment Fund to

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Spinningdale (£200) and Invershin (£64) for their floral displays. The agreed £500 to the Kyle of Sutherland Youth Group will also be paid now in respect of their work with the Bonar Bridge floral displays for this year. PC will speak to Hayley Bangs with regard to this and future years. **PC Action.**

- (iv) **Spinningdale.** (SW) Nothing in Sally's absence. See note above re floral displays.
- (v) **Police Matters.** (NM) See Item 1.
- (vi) **Environmental/health.** No-one has this responsibility at present.
- (vii) **Youth.** No-one has this responsibility at present
- (viii) **Education/schools.** (LB) Nothing to report.
- (ix) **KOSDT.** (PC) Efforts to obtain funding for the Development Officer post look promising. Delays are being experienced with the Trust's application to the Ward Discretionary Budget; this funding is urgently needed. GF will try to move it forward. **GF Action.** New members are being sought for the 'Achany' Panel with elections, if required, being held in July. Agreement has been reached by the existing Panel to notionally divide the funds into three, one for each of the CC areas involved, with distribution still being decided by the Panel. Each area will have its own one-third allocation from the Funds to be used within its own area. This system will operate for a trial period of two to three years. It is hoped that this will help resolve issues regarding equal distribution.
- (x) **Rosehall.** (JW/LB) Nothing this month.
- (xi) **Invershin** (SC) Nothing this month.
- (xii) **HC Councillor's report.** In addition to comments made throughout the meeting, Cllr Farlow answered a question regarding the formation of a single Planning & Licensing Committee in the future. The decision has been deferred for one year. GF indicated that he would be in favour of the change which would avoid duplication which presently occurs.
- (xiii) **Broadband in Rosehall.** (RB) In Ron's absence, MG read out a draft letter which it is proposed to send to the MP and MSPs asking for support in seeking information from BT and HIE with regard to the current and future situation with Broadband provision. The letter was approved and will be sent accordingly. **MG Action.**

Item 4. Carbisdale Castle. SC was keen to continue to put pressure on Historic Scotland with a view to downgrading the Listing of the building from B to C List status which would allow repair work to be done using modern materials. Original material work can be done by only two companies in the country and is exceedingly expensive. It was agreed that in the first instance it would be best to ascertain if the SYHA would be prepared to carry out the work if such a downgrading was permitted. Keith Legge, Chief Executive SYHA, will be asked for an update on the situation and to share the current thinking at SYHA with regard to the future of the building. **MG Action.**

Item 5. Beinn Tharsuinn /Rock by Sea applications. Before discussing this month's applications, RT requested that he stand down as a Director of the Beinn Tharsuinn Board, nominating Norman MacDonald to take his place and represent Creich Community Council. Once assured that there would be no conflict of interests, Norman agreed to the proposal. RT will advise Phil Tomalin, Company Secretary. **RT Action.** Two applications to the Beinn Tharsuinn Fund were discussed. Bonar Bridge OAP Fund (discussed in part last month) was awarded £810 towards costs of the summer outing. Further information is to be provided in connection with the application for funding help for the Christmas event. Rosehall Four Seasons Club was awarded £646 towards costs of setting up a course of T'ai Chi lessons. Phil Tomalin will be advised of both awards. **MG Action.**

Item 6. Windfarms. Cllr Farlow will circulate an updated list of all windfarms. **GF Action.**
Dalchork. Marion Turner(A&DCC) will attend on behalf of both CCs a meeting to discuss the setting up of a liaison group. **Sallachy.** PC will attend a similar meeting at Sallachy. GF advised that both Glencassley and Braemore proposals will now require a Public Local Inquiry. (PLI). As

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local feeling against Braemore remains high, everyone is encouraged to make their objections known at that time.

Item 7. Community Council notice board. The board is now ready to be put in place.

Item 8. Correspondence. NM has studied the documents given to him last month with regard to HC's consultation on Managing Obstructions within the Adopted Road. A response will be sent indicating the CC's wish to maintain the status quo especially as existing legislation within the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 already covers much of what is now proposed. **MG Action.** Other incoming mail concerned the setting up of a Fair Trade town (given to LB), an invitation from the Lord Lieutenant's office to attend the annual flag raising in Golspie, advance information regarding the proposed Tressidy windfarm, further introductory information regarding Glenmorie windfarm and an acknowledgment from the Scottish Government Member Services of receipt of the CC letter last month to John Swinney. A very expensively produced report by the Highland Leader Project received an angry response with members feeling the organisation was totally inefficient, had been exceedingly costly while still some two years after conclusion some awards remain unpaid. An Archaeology in Communities in the Highlands project, funded by Heritage Lottery etc, could be of interest to both Creich and Ardgay CCs and also the various local history/archaeology groups. Helen Houston of KOSDT suggests liaison amongst all such groups. LB took the papers at this time.

Item 9. Any other competent business. (1) The CC has been approached regarding the Stephen Mouat memorial plaque which has been removed from the front entrance foyer of the new Migdale Hospital to be placed elsewhere in the building. Local feeling is that the plaque must be replaced in the foyer where there is ample wall space for it. Secretary will write to NHS Highland. **MG Action.** **(2)** The Chair restated the utmost importance of bringing younger people into the Community Council meetings with a view to further involvement in the future. Elissa Stevens is to be invited to attend the next meeting. A copy of this month's minutes will be sent to her. Membership is to be an agenda item in July. **Agenda item/MG Action.**

Item 10. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th July 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Rosehall Village Hall. Mary to book the room **MG Action.**

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.