



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 19th November 2013 at 7.30pm
in the Achness Hotel, Rosehall**

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

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Also present: Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF), Colin Gilmour (CG), Robert Howden, Alan Archer and one other member of the public, PC Katy Hunter (KH)

Apologies: Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Brian Coghill (BC), and Elissa Steven

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Chair Pete Campbell opened the meeting, welcoming in particular the members of the public attending with regard to the Braemore windfarm proposals. Representatives of Wind Prospect Developments Ltd, who attended Ardgay & District Community Council's meeting the previous week, will attend the next Creich CC meeting in January. The deadline for submissions in the current consultation period is December 21st but the CC will write to Wind Prospect and The Highland Council requesting an extension as not enough time has been allowed for local bodies to understand and discuss the amended proposals. As witnessed by the public attendance tonight, many local opinions remain opposed to this development. An email received from SNH indicates that no revised ecological study has been carried out which, in its opinion, renders the addendum inadequate. CG has read the addendum and advised that none of the objections raised by THC, and others, to the first plan have been addressed, namely with regard to visual impact/cumulative effect/noise pollution. It was agreed to ask for an extension to the deadline until after the CC meeting on January 21st and to devote the main part of that meeting to this issue. Richard Fisher, Project Manager of Wind Prospect will be invited to attend. Intimation will be sent to THC Planning Department of the wish to submit a further objection after that meeting. **MG Action.**

Police report. PC Hunter reported incidents of speeding offences at the 20mph limit at the school and a road traffic accident at Invershin which resulted in one charge of careless driving. There was a disturbance in Bonar Bridge after the Halloween dance; this did not involve locals. One domestic incident was also recorded. Asked about the need for security of property, KH stressed that in general the public needs to be more security aware, locking up, not leaving ladders or valuable equipment in full view, etc. KH left at 8pm.

Item 2. Minutes of October meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Russell Smith; seconded by Norman MacDonald. (1) Seat opposite library. Repair and repainting will go ahead once the weather allows. (2) Endowment Fund. RS proposed the idea of combining the CCC endowment fund with that of A&DCC and appointing a body such as Foundation Scotland to administer it, perhaps to better effect as a combined fund. Costs would need to be evaluated. PC will raise the matter with David Hannah, Chair A&DCC, and report back. LB thanked the CC for the Beinn Tharsuinn award to the Rosehall T'ai Chi class allowing it to continue. The weekly payment by participants has been raised to £3 in line with the CC suggestions. (4) Royal Baton carriers. PC has passed this information to Hayley Bangs at the KOS Youth Group and a young person has been nominated.

Item 3. Regular updates:

(i) **Planning & Licensing.** Only one possibly contentious issue regarding an application for a permanent siting of a residential caravan at Rhenamain. As the owner is now going through the correct channels for legitimate approval it was felt that no CC objection was relevant.

Minutes approved 21/01/2014

(ii) **TEC Services.** Nothing this month.

(iii) **Financial report.** Treasurer's report circulated by email indicated that the balance in the Treasurer's account stands at £7472.79. The No.2 account is at £8,958. Approval was given to payment of £206 being the costs of repairing the Speed Indicator Device. **RT Action.** LB advised that the Rosehall Community Transport scheme is being well used with a weekly taxi run mainly taking people to doctor/dentist appointments. No taxi invoices have yet been received by RT. Figures of usage/uptake details should also be provided to him. JW asked about funds for small projects such as the current need for RADAG to repair signs on the Rosehall trails. Advised to apply to the Treasurer for an award from the BTWF environment fund. Details can be emailed to RT, copied to MG, and receipts provided in due course. Approval in principal of this funding was given tonight to enable action by the Treasurer. **JW/RT Action.**

(vi) **Health.** LB raised the issue of an elderly Rosehall resident who was taken by Patient Transport to Wick the day before a procedure was to be carried out but the following day when it became apparent that the operation could not proceed, no transport could be provided to return her to her home. The patient/her representative should write to both the Scottish Ambulance Service and the GP to complain, returning to the CC with their responses. The CC will also write if details can be provided to the Secretary. **LB/MG Action.**

(ix) **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** AGM was held in October. Development Officer has secured 70% funding from HIE for one year towards the costs of the Graduate Placement Scheme. Successful application has also been made to Beinn Tharsuinn. It is hoped to appoint a local person to the graduate post. Two surveys are ongoing at present and an HIE generated questionnaire. The Board is seeking two year funding for the continuation of the Development Officer post.

(xi) **Invershin.** (1) Cycle Ramp. A further meeting at the bridge has failed to reach the satisfactory conclusion of the installation of the ramp. The CC fails to understand why obstacles are constantly being put in the way of what should be a simple procedure, examples of which are commonplace throughout the country. The ramp has been made to the standard approved by Sustrans and further delay is unacceptable. If a risk assessment is still required to trigger insurance cover by THC then it must be carried out forthwith. PC stated that KOSDT would help find a way to pay the fee for the risk assessment if necessary, through the two CCS and the Trust. Cllr Farlow was requested to take the matter forward with the utmost speed. **GF Action.**

(2) Balblair woods parking. The recently prepared parking area requires more scalplings. SC will liaise further with Ward Manager Andy Mackay. **SC Action.**

(xii) **Highland Councillor's report.** GF advised of restructuring taking place at THC, combining services, reducing meetings, and a reduction in number of directors. Ongoing work being done on the road network/roadside/verge maintenance (which must be carried out once each year) - CCs pointed out that this is better done in the spring.

(xiii) **Broadband in Rosehall.** RB hopes to have a questionnaire ready for the next meeting which can be circulated to all local residents to establish the need for high speed Broadband. It is confirmed that the Pathfinder network is not available for public use. After this meeting GF and RB viewed a presentation by HIE regarding rollout of Broadband in Highland Region. SSE is looking at possible actions it might take with BT to improve the Rosehall provision. RB will liaise with Ruth Liddicoat. **RB Action.**

Item 4. Caithness & Sutherland Local Development Plan. The first deadline for the call for sites and ideas has passed but the CC opinion is that this matter is too important to be rushed and requires a lot of time and community involvement. It is essential that the new plan continues from the previous one and that priorities are clear. It must ensure appropriate zoning of land, plans for affordable housing, improved communications, transport and economic growth. Future windfarm development areas must be appropriate. A public meeting with a planner in attendance should be held, as it was last time when it was very well attended, in Bonar Bridge in January. GF will submit this request to THC and liaise with RS. **GF/RS Action.**

Item 5. Carbisdale Castle. It is understood that the statues and paintings have been removed from the building and that this might affect the category of Listing. A caretaker is in place and it appears

Minutes approved 21/01/2014

that the castle remains fully heated with lights regularly on throughout. CEO Keith Legge, SYHA, to be asked for an update, enquiring as to the current whereabouts of the statues and paintings. **MG Action.**

Item 6. Falls of Shin update. A recent press release by Balnagown Estate indicated further discussion locally as to what might be done with the site. Play equipment has been removed. Fears expressed that no facility will be reinstated by the Estate in light of the announcement of development of a tourist attraction nearer the estate office.

Item 7. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea applications. NM reported that all receipts/reports are up to date with the exception of those from the Sutherland County Show. An application by Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust for £2,000 to support its Graduate Placement Scheme was approved. The application by the Bonar Bridge Primary School Parent Council, discussed last month, was approved in principal with £3,000 being allocated, payment conditional on securing the funding applied for from Awards for All. The outstanding amount required for the project, £712.80, should be sought from THC Ward Discretionary Budget on advice from Cllr Farlow. Both applicants and Phil Tomalin, Company Secretary, will be advised accordingly. **MG Action.**

NM put forward a suggestion that a pensioner support plan be put in place to help those eligible with electricity/heating costs, perhaps covering the standing charges. GF intimated that THC is also looking at trying to set up a discount scheme working with energy suppliers. JW said that such schemes should be operated by the companies themselves. It was agreed to make this an item for discussion on a future agenda with CC members bringing their ideas then. **Agenda item.**

Item 8. Windfarms. Braemore, see above (Item 1). Glenmorie Public Local Inquiry is complete. Dalnessie PLI due.

Item 9. Community Council notice board. RT had circulated an email in which he suggested that each CC member should call the contractor urging the erection of the board.

Item 10. Correspondence. Incoming mail included an invitation from SNH to attend an evening reception in the Bradbury Centre, THC dates for training sessions for Community Councillors, and plans from SSE regarding roads etc within the Loch Buidhe substation development.

Item 11. Any other competent business. None raised.

Item 12. Date, time and place of next meeting. There being no meeting in December the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 7.30pm in the Invershin Hotel. SC to book the room. **SC Action.**

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.