



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 14th July 2014 at 7.30pm
in the Bonar Bridge Hall**

Present: Sandy Chalmers, Vice Chair (SC), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Russell Smith (RS), John White (JW), Ron Boothroyd (RB)

Invited guests: Lisa Marchi, John Henderson (JH) and colleague from SSE; Russell Thompson and colleagues from Siemens Transmission & Distribution Ltd

Members of the public: 14 in number

Apologies: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Norman MacDonald (NM), Brian Coghill (BC) and Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF)

Police Scotland: No representative present

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Acting Chair SC opened the meeting welcoming CC members and members of the public attending with regard to Item 2 on the agenda – the update by SSE and Siemens regarding the proposals for traffic management through Bonar Bridge and on the Loch Buidhe road during the construction of the sub-station and its road network. There being no police representative present, SC invited SSE to address the meeting.

Item 2. SSE/Siemens update regarding forthcoming Loch Buidhe sub-station and infrastructure construction. JH led for SSE with the news that work is expected to start in early to mid-September, depending on the issuing of THC permits, and will continue until April or May 2015 at which time construction of the sub-station itself will begin. THC has approved the road improvements which have been put forward. Asked about the size of vehicles which will be travelling through Bonar Bridge, JH replied that small excavators and typical road working vehicles will be the initial wave with large transformers to follow in 2016-17. These will weigh around 125 – 135 tons with the load spread over many axles making the vehicles extremely large and long. Better copies of the traffic plan and diagrams will be sent. A park and ride system will be in place to minimise the number of vehicles using the route; mention of this gave rise to questions as to where the ‘park’ area will be as parking is at a premium in Bonar, often causing traffic problems without any further influx of vehicles to be parked each day. Between Bonar and Migdale Cross three bridges will require strengthening; these will be worked on one at a time to minimise disruption. Road widening also required and a diversion is planned running two miles east through Migdale. North of Migdale Cross three more bridges will need strengthening; a diversion is not practical here, short sections of road deviation will be established where possible. Some small section road closures are inevitable, mostly in the section between the Free Church and Migdale Cross but disruption will be kept to a minimum with the road clear at weekends. These works are expected to take around eighteen weeks to complete. Delays, outwith the control of SSE/Siemens, have pushed the start date back meaning that these works will run through the winter. Constraints within the Planning consent cover local consideration at all times, for example for school runs, access to business properties and farms and crofts. Access for emergency vehicles has to be maintained. CC members pushed for the establishment of a liaison group which should be set up by August with its first meeting no later than early September before work begins, and which should then meet regularly to keep the community informed of progress and upcoming works. THC and Police Scotland should also have representation in the liaison group. RS agreed to be the CC co-ordinator in the group. Concerns from the public included access for school buses and large deliveries to businesses along the route. Full communication regarding required access times will be essential.

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Constant monitoring of traffic and parking problems around the road junction in Bonar and in the village as a whole will also be required. SSE will be including such monitoring in their working schedule. Possible problems with winter weather and road gritting issues were highlighted. A number of new passing places will be required. Not all landowners have given permission for proposed works on their property but SSE is in discussion with all those along the route. A weekly bulletin should be made available by SSE/Siemens, posted in various outlets in Bonar Bridge to keep the public updated. This item will remain as a regular update on the CC agenda throughout the construction period. SSE/Siemens will be expected to report to the next CC meeting on 19th August. With the CC's thanks for taking the time to attend for this update, the SSE/Siemens representatives left the meeting as did the members of the public. **SSE/Siemens/RS Action.**

Item 3. Minutes June meeting/matters arising (if not on agenda). The Minutes of the June meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Sandy Chalmers, seconded by John White. **(1) Amendment.** The draft minutes will be amended to reflect the fact that the cattle grid at Craigton has only been temporarily repaired with a patch; a new cattle grid is to be installed. SC will chase this through TECS. **SC Action.** **(2) Village officers.** Cllr Farlow is to be reminded to make enquiries about establishing Village Officers in Sutherland as there are in Caithness. **GF Action.**

Item 4. Regular updates:

- (i) Planning & licensing.** (RS). Nothing relevant.
- (ii) TEC Services.** (SC) An anti-social behaviour problem is arising in Bonar in the pedestrian area between the café and bridge. Youths are now gathering at this point during the evenings and have been seen spitting, and leaving rubbish and broken glass. The area requires cleaning which is now the responsibility of THC Waste Management Services and SC is endeavouring to contact the manager of that department. The issue must be highlighted also to Police Scotland. **SC/ MG Action.** Although Scottish Water has completed some works at the bridge in Rosehall, water is once again pouring across the A837 just above West Lodge. TECs will be notified. Dog waste bins have not yet been sited at the Rosehall trails entrance. THC Waste Management will be reminded. **SC Action.**
- (iii) Financial report.** (RT) RT passed round copies of the report which shows a balance of £4,407.25 in the Treasurer's account and £8,708.00 in the Rock-by-Sea (No 2) account. Payment for the new seat at the War Memorial in Bonar was confirmed. The seat is now in place.
- (iv) Police Matters.** (NM) Nothing due to NM's absence and there being no police presence. Concerns regarding the lack of a representative or report since May will be passed to the local Inspector. **MG Action.**
- (v) KOSDT.** Nothing in PC's absence.
- (vi) Rosehall.** (JW) THC has carried out some road repairs on the Glencassley road using an experimental type of road surface. Now working on a second section; there appears to have been little disruption. There is still no postal delivery service at the far end of the glen. (RB) Rosehall & District Action Group (RADAG) is taking over the running/maintenance of the Rosehall Trails from The Forestry Commission in order to save the trails for public use. In addition to various works which the group will carry out along the trails it will be necessary to coat the log cabin at the entrance with preservative. Costs for this were previously approved by the CC and an application should now be expected. As brochures and maps must now not mention The Forestry Commission or the use of the area as a cycle trail these will have to be reprinted. Funding help with these costs will also be sought by RADAG.
- (vii) Invershin. Cycle ramp.** As last month – no update is available at present. Matt Dent to be asked to provide report in time for CC August meeting. **SC Action.**

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(viii) **Highland Councillor's report.** (GF) No report available due to Cllr Farlow's absence.

(ix) **Broadband in Rosehall.** (RB) Two emails to HIE seeking an update have gone unanswered. RB will continue to raise the issue. **RB Action.**

Item 5. CC website. KOSDT is in the process of updating the website with approved Minutes and CC members' contact information. Site is up and running once again.

Item 6. Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan (CASPLAN). (RS/GF) Still nothing following the meetings which were expected to take place last month. THC Director of Planning to be asked for an update. **Agenda item. MG Action.**

Item 7. Forest Design Plan Consultation. It was felt that this document was not relevant in this area therefore no reply or comment is required.

Item 8. Carbisdale Castle/ Falls of Shin update. Carbisdale. SC received a reply from SYHA CEO Keith Legge; SC will circulate to CC members prior to further discussion in August. **SC Action.**

Item 9. Windfarm updates. Caplich. Those who attended the recent public exhibitions by Muirhall Energy Ltd felt that the company representatives were ill-informed regarding their proposals, many local issues including the environmental effect on the river, the surrounding landscape, etc and also had no information in respect of possible community ownership schemes. The Memorandum of Understanding will require amending to be less specific when detailing which local groups may benefit. For further discussion next month prior to any agreement/signature. **PC Action.**

Item 10. Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit/Rock by Sea Fund applications. No applications this month.

Item 11. Community Council notice board. Nothing to report due to NM's absence. The noticeboard will prove particularly important when SSE traffic movements are to be notified locally. **NM Action.**

Item 12. Correspondence. Nil of note.

Item 13. Any other competent business. (1) Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week. The Gala Week will run from 2nd – 9th August with many events planned; programmes are available in local shops. A dry stone dyking workshop will be held on 3rd August when a stone bench will be built at the far end of path past the toilet block, beside the turning place. If the end result is deemed acceptable, the bench will be kept; if not, it will be dismantled. **(2) New prescription service.** Comments were made regarding the procedure for obtaining prescriptions from the newly opened pharmacy. Concern raised that it will now take longer between ordering and picking up medication, especially regarding particular or less common items. CC members felt that initial teething problems with the new system must be expected but good communication with the pharmacy should eliminate problems. Monitor over the coming months. **Agenda item.**

Item 14. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th August 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Rosehall Village Hall. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed 9.20pm.