



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 7.30pm
in the Bonar Bridge Hall**

Present: Sandy Chalmers, Acting Chair (SC), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Ron Boothroyd (RB), Norman MacDonald (NM), John White (JW)

Apologies: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Brian Coghill (BC), Russell Smith (RS), Tommy Agnew (TA)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Acting Chair Sandy Chalmers opened the meeting at 7.30pm. Once again no police representative was present. The lack of liaison between the CC and the police over the last year will be highlighted in a letter to Inspector Beeston urging that at the very least a report should be submitted to the CC prior to any meeting. The recent incidence of vandalism at the Bonar Bridge public toilets was unknown to CC members, only becoming known when THC advised of the early evening closure of the facility. **MG Action.** Strong feelings were also expressed at the lack of attendance by or communication with the local Highland Councillors.

Item 2. Minutes October meeting/matters arising (if not on agenda). The Minutes of the October meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Ron Boothroyd, seconded by John White. (1) It is understood that the underground cabling, prior to Broadband upgrading in some parts of the district, has been completed. (2) A reply is awaited from SSE with regard to undergrounding cables in various parts of the area, e.g. Bonar Bridge and Cassley Drive, Rosehall. SC will chase up response. **SC Action.** (3) Traffic lights at Ardchronie – it is believed that THC has drawn up plans to re-align the road and that negotiations are progressing with the land owners concerned.

Item 3. Regular updates:

- (i) **Planning & licensing.** (RS). Nothing relevant reported by RS prior to this meeting.
- (ii) **TEC Services.** (SC) (1) **Vandalism at Bonar Bridge toilets.** As stated in Item 1, no CC member was aware of this problem prior to THC action. No details of actual damage, suspects, action are available to the CC. This highlights the points raised in Item 1.
- (iii) **Financial report.** (RT) RT passed round copies of the report which shows a balance of £4,412.63 in the Treasurer's account. After outstanding transactions the balance will be £4,215.18. The Rock-By-Sea (Training & Development) account is unchanged from last month at £10,673. RT expressed concern regarding the actual value of the £30 per month fee to KOSDT for website maintenance. RB agreed to look at the site and consider taking on its upkeep. He will advise at next meeting. **RB Action.** Later in the meeting an award of £100 to Spinningdale Ladies was approved as a donation towards replacement Christmas lights. Also £50 donation was approved to the Friends of Sutherland Veterans Committee. **RT Action.**
- (iv) **Police Matters.** (NM) Nothing to report.
- (v) **KOSDT.** The AGM will be held on 19th November.
- (vi) **Rosehall.** (RB) (1)The RADAG committee will meet with Forestry Commission Scotland to finalise arrangements regarding handover of the Rosehall trails. A public meeting will be held thereafter. (2) A public meeting has been held

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regarding the future of the Rosehall shop and Post Office but finished without any real progress as to what will happen. Post Office Ltd has advised that it will close, temporarily it hopes, the office in the present shop premises at 11.30am on 5th January. Options for maintaining a provision of services are being considered; customer numbers and usage will be a key factor and an alternative type of service may be considered. (3) JW has heard of a possible bus service from Lochinver through Rosehall but has no details. He will investigate. **JW Action.**

- (vii) **Invershin.** (SC) (1) Cycle ramp. A positive meeting was held recently resulting in agreement to make slight adjustments to the ramp, at no cost to either CC as THC will assume costs and liability. (2) Phone box. SC has received copious paperwork with regard to the purchase of the box which has to be done by a public body, such as the CC, which can purchase it for £1. The hotel owners are keen to have the box retained. SC will liaise with Ardgay CC which has also purchased a phone box in this manner and now uses it as an information point. **SC Action.**
- (viii) **Highland Councillor's report.** (GF) None available. As already stated the CC is extremely disappointed by the current lack of support from the elected councillors.
- (ix) **Broadband in Rosehall.** (RB) Nil of note.
- (x) **SSE Loch Buidhe update.** (RS) It is understood that the project is currently around five weeks behind schedule. Concerns raised regarding the size of the proposed pylons. It was thought that previous upgrades of existing pylons/poles would be sufficient. Lisa Marchi, SSE, to be invited to attend the January meeting. **MG Action.**

Item 4. CASPLAN. (RS) There is to be a public exhibition in Lairg on 9th December and members are encouraged to attend to highlight the poor quality of the plan with regard to this area which appears to have been overlooked to a great extent. No mention is made of it with regard to the 'tourism corridor' on the east coast nor in the 'Sustainable Rural Development Corridor' which appears to refer only to the north and west coasts. Core Paths were mentioned at this time; Matt Dent is liaising with NM regarding signage at Achinduich. Further letters are due out from Matt Dent regarding the Core Paths Plan Review.

Item 5. Scottish Water. No reply has been received from Joanna Peebles of Scottish Water in response to the invitation to attend this meeting. She will be asked again if she or a representative will attend the January meeting. Failing that, at the very least a report should be submitted giving a full update on the current and future plans for the water supply. **MG Action.**

Item 6. Carbisdale Castle/ Falls of Shin update. Awaiting update re Falls of Shin. No news re Carbisdale.

Item 7. Windfarm updates. Dalchork. E.ON is holding a two day public exhibition and consultation in Lairg tonight and tomorrow, 18th and 19th November. **Sallachy.** It was agreed to take no action in support or otherwise. **Braemore.** Cllr Farlow had advised by email that this application is due to come before the Planning Committee in December, or more likely in January. A letter will be sent expressing once again the strong objections by a sizeable section of the local community; the objections previous given remain and will be emphasized. **MG Action.**

Item 8. Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit/Rock by Sea Fund applications. BTWF. The Bonar Bridge Community Hall Committee was commended for its diligence in highlighting their under use of funds previously awarded. Phil Tomalin will be advised to liaise with the committee regarding the repayment. Application by Bonar Bridge OAP Fund for £1,600 was discussed with £800 being approved to help with the Christmas Lunch costs with the request that the committee submit a complete breakdown of the costs. A similar breakdown should be submitted to allow consideration of what award can be made with regard to the summer outing. Both should indicate any amounts contributed by the participants. Phil Tomalin, Company Secretary will be advised accordingly. **MG Action.** **Rock-by-Sea.** Kirsty Mackay had made application for funding help with travel costs to be incurred by taking up an undergraduate research opportunity in Mexico. An award of £250 was approved. **RT/MG Action.**

Item 9. Community Council notice board. Despite the promise that the board would be in place within a week of the last meeting, no progress has been made. **NM Action.**

Item 10 Correspondence. (1) Highland Small Communities Housing Trust has invited the CC to join its membership. SC will follow up and report back. **SC Action.** (2) Parking/speeding issues at Bonar Bridge Primary School have been raised by the Parent Council. The speeding issues will be passed to the local police. As the Football Club is no longer operating the parents should be allowed to use that ground for parking. The road is too narrow to consider the construction of pavements. Parents and teachers must teach the children road safety and be particularly vigilant when taking children to and from school. (3) Brora Learning Centre is running a project, 'Action on Sectarianism' and enquired about coming to a CC meeting to make a presentation/discussion. SC will be visiting the Centre and will discuss this then. **SC Action.** (4) CC members completed a paper questionnaire for the Youth & Criminal Justice Survey. No serious issues noted here other than minor vandalism.

Item 11. Any other competent business. (1) **Christmas lights switch-on, Bonar Bridge.** RT has been asked to make the public announcements on 5th December but he has declined the position this year. Another CC representative is required to attend at 7pm that evening.

Item 12. Date, time and place of next meeting. There being no meeting in December, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th January 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Achness Hotel, Rosehall. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed 10pm.