



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 21st October 2014 at 7.30pm
in the Invershin Village Hall**

Present: Sandy Chalmers, Acting Chair (SC), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Russell Smith (RS), Ron Boothroyd (RB), Norman MacDonald (NM), Tommy Agnew (TA)

Also present: Gladys McCulloch

Apologies: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Brian Coghill (BC), John White (JW), Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Acting Chair Sandy Chalmers opened the meeting at 7.30pm. With no police representative present the meeting moved to Item 2.

Item 2. Minutes August meeting/matters arising (if not on agenda). The Minutes of the August meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Ron Boothroyd, seconded by Norman MacDonald. No matters arising were raised.

Rosehall Village Shop closure. Discussion on this point was brought forward from Item 4/vi to accommodate Mrs McCulloch who was thanked for her attendance and interest in this matter. Mrs McCulloch stated that there is interest and concern locally regarding the future of the Rosehall shop and Post Office which is due to close on December 24th if no purchaser is found. She is keen to avoid this situation and wished to hear if the CC had any ideas of action which could be taken. The suggestion of a community shop, run along the lines of that currently operating in Embo, has been put forward and Mrs McCulloch has spoken to the Embo shop committee to establish more information. The CC was surprised to hear that little advertising appears to have been done to seek out any parties interested in taking over the shop. The CC would be prepared to help fund such advertising if that would help. Mrs McCulloch was advised to seek a meeting with KOSDT who will be happy to advise on any possible actions which might enable the shop to continue. With the thanks of the members, Mrs McCulloch left at 7.55pm.

Item 3. Regular updates:

- (i) **Planning & licensing.** (RS). An application has been submitted to turn the Nurses Home at the old Migdale Hospital into residential accommodation. With regard to the old hospital building no-one is aware of the intentions of the current owners. SC commented that the section of THC Planning newsletter regarding statutory consultees is ambiguous.
- (ii) **TEC Services.** (SC) (1) RB advised that the newly placed waste bin at the Rosehall Trails entrance is now being emptied by THC. (2) Concerns raised again regarding the increase to be expected in road traffic at the main junction in Bonar Bridge once work gets underway on the new sub-station at Loch Buidhe. It appears that recently further damage has been sustained to the guttering on the corner shop and that the pavement, already exceedingly narrow, is being broken up by heavy vehicles. Although these conditions cannot be laid at the door of SSE, they do not bode well for the future. SC will flag the issue to TECS/SSE. The question of undergrounding of all electricity cables in the village will be brought to SSE's attention once again. TA confirmed that the Fire Service has had two call outs in the last nine months where transistors have been burning out. The dangers to the public, especially when the cables and poles are weather-damaged, cannot be underestimated. SC will make this case again to SSE seeking urgent attention. **SC Action.** (3) The state of the

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- road at the 'temporary' traffic lights at Ardchronie is seriously deteriorating and it is expected that as winter conditions set in the area will become a very dangerous hazard. With no barriers at the side of the road, icy conditions could be treacherous. SC will write to Neil Gillies, Head of TECs expressing deep concern. **SC Action.**
- (iii) **Financial report.** (RT) RT passed round copies of the report which shows a balance of £4,565.01 in the Treasurer's account. This includes receipt of THC annual grant of £1,221.19. The Rock-by-Sea account stands at £10,673.00. Retrospective recording of approval for the grant of £250 from this account to Tracy Campbell was noted. More publicity must be given to the availability of this fund which was tonight renamed as the Creich CC Training & Development Fund. RS advised that his daughter Eilidh, a recipient of an award from the Fund, had tried to have a small article published in the Northern Times but was asked to place an advertisement at the same time. The CC agreed to fund the advertising costs of around £30. **RS/RT Action.**
- (iv) **Police Matters.** (NM) Nothing to report.
- (v) **KOSDT.** A recent report from the Development Officer had been circulated to CC members, but owing to hacking of her email MG had not been able to circulate it to THCs. Copies of the report are available from the KOSDT office.
- (vi) **Rosehall.** (RB) RADAG is taking over the maintenance of the Rosehall Trails from the Forestry Commission which has confirmed that £15,000 has been allocated to be spent on the trails by spring 2015. A working party of volunteers has already begun work on path clearing, spraying preservative on the log cabin, etc. Invoice for preservative passed to RT for payment as CC has agreed to help with this funding. Further RADAG meeting will be held in November to discuss future plans. TA wondered if Inverness College, or others offering forestry training courses, might be interested in working with RADAG on future projects. **RB/RT Action.**
- (vii) **Invershin.** (SC) Cycle ramp – a meeting is scheduled with Matt Dent for 13th November at which the ramp will be laid on the steps to ascertain its fitness for purpose.
- (viii) **Highland Councillor's report.** (GF) None available due to holidays.
- (ix) **Broadband in Rosehall.** (RB) Much work evident locally by BT Openreach laying cabling for high speed Broadband between Bonar and Lairg along the main road but nothing diverging from it. Rosehall exchange is now designated as 'seeking other alternatives' but without any clarification. Pathfinder network's security remains a block to any access but the new SWAN network might allow for a local service access for community provision. SC has been advised that many sections of the road between Bonar and Lairg are not being laid with the new cabling due to the inability of the workforce to locate the inspection hatches. SC will liaise directly with Vicky Nairn. **SC Action.**
- (x) **SSE Loch Buidhe update.** One month into the project, it appears to be already falling behind schedule. The next meeting of the liaison group will be on 3rd November at 6pm in Bonar Hall. SC and TA both asked to be included in email updates. Newsletter will be available fortnightly in local shops.

Item 4. CASPLAN. (RS) Having studied the plan CC does not feel it indicates anything in this area. Principal growth areas are not identified. Much about the East Coast and North West Corridors, especially with regard to tourism. Settlement Development Area mentioned for Cherry Grove, Bonar Bridge; no mention of Rosehall, Invershin or Culrain. RS will register that the CC's opinion is that this is not helpful for this area and that the plan is inaccurate and, in fact, uses out of date information. CC is very disappointed with the lack of zoned areas and the gross inaccuracy of the plan. **RS Action.**

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Item 5. Scottish Water. RS confirmed that Scottish Water is no longer involved in the infrastructure upgrading as part of the Loch Buidhe development. The CC is in the dark as to Scottish Water's future plans for the area, most especially with regard to new connections and developments. Information is required regarding the development of the old Migdale Hospital and its out-buildings. It was understood that the supply to the new hospital was dependent on the old hospital site no longer being supplied but now new developments are proposed there. Agreed to invite Joanna Peebles of Scottish Water to the November meeting. **MG Action.**

Item 6. Carbisdale Castle/ Falls of Shin update. Carbisdale. No news available. **Falls of Shin.** KOSDT meeting next week with interested parties. Report next month. **PC Action.**

Item 7. Windfarm updates. Airdens. RS was approached by the developers asking about what should be done regarding Community Benefit. He advised them to contact the CC direct with details of their offer.

Item 8. Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit/Rock by Sea Fund applications. BTWF. An application from Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club for £2,000 to buy a new verticutter was approved conditionally, subject to other funding being achieved. An application by KOSDT for £717 towards Learning & Development Training costs was transferred to the CC Training & Development Fund (previously Rock-by-Sea). Kyle of Sutherland Cinema Club was granted £310.40 towards its start-up costs with the new committee being encouraged to undertake fundraising for future costs. Bonar Bridge Children's Christmas Party was granted £400 in principal with the CC wishing to see a further breakdown of costs, numbers of children attending, etc. The application by Bonar Bridge OAP committee was not discussed as it had not yet been circulated to members. It was not submitted directly to Phil Tomalin which had caused delay. This will be circulated during the coming week. The CC members agreed to transfer a further £5,000 to the endowment fund in line with previous annual actions. With regard to the administration of the fund it was agreed that in the meantime the status quo with THC should be maintained. **Training & Development Fund (Rock-by-Sea)** The application by KOSDT for £717 for Learning & Development Training was deemed more appropriate to this fund. Each application to this fund is limited to £250. The £717 requested will be made up by awards of £248, £250 and £219. All applicants and Phil Tomalin will be advised of all of the above. **MG Action.**

Item 9. Community Council notice board. NM was advised today that the board will be in place with the next week.

Item 10 Correspondence. Nil of note.

Item 11. Any other competent business. (1) The phone box at Invershin Hotel was discovered to be still owned by BT. SC is investigating the purchase of it on behalf of the Invershin community with CC approval. **(2) Wreath laying at Remembrance Service.** TA will be attending as a member of the local volunteer Fire Service and offered to take on this duty this year on behalf of the CC. **TA Action.**

(3) New fire appliance. Great delight was recorded by the CC on the delivery of the new fire appliance to the Fire Service in Bonar Bridge. This is seen as a big commitment to the local service which is greatly appreciated. A letter of thanks will be sent to the Fire Service Senior Management. **MG Action.** There is still an urgent need for new members of the local team. Anyone interested should contact the station or any serving officer.

Item 12. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th November 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Bonar Bridge Village Hall. RS submitted his apologies. MG to book the room. **MGAction.**

Meeting closed 10pm.