

Minutes approved 19/05/2015



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 21st April 2015 at 7.30pm
in the Achness Hotel, Rosehall**

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Sandy Chalmers, Vice Chair (SC), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Norman MacDonald (NM), Ron Boothroyd (RB)

Also present: Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF)

Apologies: Russell Smith (RS), John White (JW), Brian Coghil (BC)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/ Police report. Chair Pete Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting. The police report had been telephoned to him in the afternoon along with apologies. Only two items were noted in the report. 'No Parking' bollards were delivered today to the Kyle Bakery for use on the hill at the road junction especially during the coming months when a much heavier volume of traffic is expected due to timber extraction and construction work further up the road and out to the Loch Buidhe sub-station site. The second item referred to an increase in the number of bogus tradesmen in the area offering to mend guttering, tarmac, selling from vans, etc. The public is advised to be extremely cautious when approached by any such callers and encouraged to contact the police on 101 to advise of this activity.

Item 2. Minutes of March meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the March meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record, proposed by Norman MacDonald; seconded by Ron Boothroyd. No matters were raised from the minutes other than those on the agenda.

Item 3. Regular updates:

(i) Planning & Licensing. (RS) Nothing of note.

(ii) TEC Services. (SC) Deep potholes on the Durcha road in Rosehall with one vehicle already sustaining £200 worth of damage to its sump. Also excess gravel chips have been left on this road where some work has been carried out. Glencassley road is also seriously affected by potholes and road damage. SC will report to John Clark, TECS. **SC Action.** Community Service has agreed to sand down and paint the four seats by the Bonar bridge if the CC will provide the paint, preservative and brushes. This cost of around £77 was approved. **SC/RT Action.** Craggan Dhu is in the final stages of felling with a small burn now uncovered. Community Service will clear the site after which the brush will be burnt and the ground mounded for replanting. The Balblair cycle tracks and access are currently closed due to storm damage. SC is liaising with Forestry Commission as this closure is incurring a significant loss of income to the area. The issue of regular maintenance must be addressed with perhaps a local volunteer group formed to work on this with Forestry Commission support. Litter on all roadsides needs to be cleared, Balblair straight highlighted as being particularly bad. SC has arranged for five vouchers to be given out, for the volunteers who erect, maintain, and store the Christmas lights in the village. The vouchers will be redeemed when presented to the Butchers by our treasurer Russell at the end of June. It was noted, however, that last year many of the lights were in poor condition with a number not working at all, partly due to storm damage but the CC felt that increased maintenance is required. The committee should be encouraged to apply to the Beinn Tharsuinn Fund for funding to help them improve the lights for the next season. **SC Action.**

(iii) Financial report (RS) The financial report shows the Treasurer's Account balance stands at

£3,438.96 with the Rock-by-Sea account standing at £9,524.00. Payment of £714 has been made from this account to the Bradbury Centre towards their first aid training course. RT proposed an increase of £2 per hour in the Secretary's remuneration taking this to £13 p/hour. Seconded by SC this was agreed by all present. RT reminded the CC that he will be standing down as Treasurer at the AGM in June but by then the accounts will have been audited and submitted to THC.

(iv) Police Matters. (NM) Nothing to add to police report above.

(v) Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust ((PC) No report available. Two new employees taken on recently.

(vi) Rosehall. (JW) Nothing further in JW's absence.

(vii) Invershin. ((SC) Cycle ramp. Progress stalled and method statements delayed. SC will chase up with Network Raid, the ramp fabricator and Matt Dent. **SC Action.** Invershin phone box. Ownership of the land on which the box stands has to be established, also ongoing maintenance and type of use after purchase must be arranged to allow the project to proceed.

(viii) HC Councillor's report. (GF) UK Government and THC working on a new City Regions Deal with a statement expected in May followed by a report in June. This should lead to innovative projects in Inverness and the surrounding Highland areas. Local groups should consider suggestions, money-saving initiatives as well as useful expenditure. Funding through this scheme will be eligible for match-funding through Highland Leader. GF will keep the CC informed. **GF Action.** Concerns were expressed regarding the current exorbitant parking charges in the Rose Street car park in Inverness. The new leaflet regarding the Geo Park was commended with the comment that a similar publication would be most beneficial in this region. GF agreed to speak to KOSDT. **GF Action.**

(ix) Broadband in Rosehall. (RB) No progress. Monitoring the HIE website shows the current status here as "Exploring options".

(x) SSE Loch Buidhe update. (RS) By email RS advised that the liaison committee is meeting regularly. Weekend working is about to start. Wood lorries will travel with an escort vehicle.

Item 4. Safer Routes to School/Parking at the Primary School. Email received from Lisa MacKellaich, THC Road Safety Officer, with details of the lining works aimed at alleviating school gate parking issues and encouraging active travel to and from the school. The CC approved these measures. It is also hoped that tarring of a nearby area will help provide increased parking spaces.

Item 5. Carbisdale Castle/Shin Falls updates. A public meeting has been arranged for April 29th in Bonar Bridge Hall at which the architects engaged by the prospective new owner will outline the plans for the development of the Castle. /Shin Falls - KOSDT is progressing its Stage 2 Big Lottery application.

Item 6. Windfarm updates. Braemore – nothing heard. Strathy – PLI postponed. Caplich – public meeting to be held in Assynt. Glencassley and Sallachy – at Scottish Government, may go to PLI. GF will send the link to THC website for further updates. **GF Action.**

Item 7. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea fund applications. Application received from the Bonar Bridge Provincial Mod Committee for £2,000 towards running the provincial Mod, taking over from Lairg where the event was scheduled but has been cancelled at short notice. Declaring an interest, NM indicated that the time frame was so short it might not be feasible to stage the event but that the local committee was keen to try. The award was conditionally approved but should the event not go ahead it must be repaid to the Fund minus reasonable expenses. **MG Action.**

The previously deferred application by the Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society was revisited in light of further information and text examples supplied by the applicant. An award of £940 was conditionally approved dependent on the same amount being awarded by Ardgay and Edderton CCs. **MG Action.**

Item 8. Floral displays in Bonar Bridge. The Youth Group has again volunteered to take on setting up and maintaining the floral tubs in the village at a cost of £500. It was felt that the ongoing maintenance of the flowers and tubs has not been completely satisfactory in the past and other volunteers may be willing to take this on; if so they should be given the opportunity. RT will seek local opinions over the next couple of days and email CCs by the weekend at which time an email vote will be taken as to what action is approved. Timing is critical due to planting season etc. CC

members will liaise as Secretary is on holiday from tomorrow. **Action All.**

Item 9. Rock by Sea promotional ideas. RT recently attended an event at Golspie High School and promoted the grant scheme there. More information will be displayed in the CC noticeboard.
RT Action.

Item 10. Correspondence. Nil of note.

Item 11. Any other competent business. RADAG requested the CC provide a further amount to purchase wood preservative for seats on the Rosehall Trails. Approved; RB will provide receipts to RT. **RB/RT Action.** Balblair cycle tracks are in a poor condition with access blocked due to storm damage. Raven's Rock near Rosehall has also been closed for several months. Neither of these appear to be making much progress towards re-opening and this leads to loss of footfall and income locally. Agreed to invite Forestry Commission to attend a CC meeting. **MG Action.** Faded and indistinct **white lines at the road junction in the centre of Bonar Bridge** at the Kyle Bakery corner leave motorists unclear as to who has right of way on this complicated junction. SC has tried raising the matter with THC but with no outcome. GF advised that a Road Safety Report by the police is sought which can be circulated to high ranking officials in both the police and THC.
SC Action.

Item 12. Date, time and place of next meeting. Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm in Bonar Bridge. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.