



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 18th August 2015 at 7.30pm in the Invershin Hall

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Russell Smith (RS), Ron Boothroyd (RB), Norman MacDonald (NM), Brian Coghill (BC)

Also present: Marcus Munro

Police representatives: Sgt Ian Sutherland

Apologies: John White (JW), Tommy Agnew (TA)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/ Police report. Pete Campbell opened the meeting and recorded the Community Council's deep condolences to the family of the late Sandy Chalmers, Vice Chair. Sandy worked tirelessly for the benefit of the community and his loss is already widely felt throughout the area. He will be very greatly missed.

Sgt Sutherland gave the Police report which showed only a few incidents being reported in the last month. Three road accidents, three fixed penalties for speeding, one warning given, one disorder and one report of suspicious vehicle activity. The Police have been very involved in the recent searches for and enquiries about the missing young man from Embo which sadly so far have not revealed any information of note. It appears also that the recent Gala dances have passed without serious incident. PC noted that the numbers of speeding motor cyclists on the Balblair straight has dropped this summer and thanked the police for input in monitoring/taking action here.

Non-agenda item. Marcus Munro attended the meeting to ask the CC to make enquiries with regard to the linking road between Altas and the A839 Rosehall to Lairg road. Local knowledge holds that this is an established vehicular Right of Way and has been used by residents for many years. Recently Forestry Commission Scotland acquired ownership of the land around the road after which locked gates appeared across the road. The lock on one has since been removed but one remains padlocked. The route is access to several residential properties which lie to the sides of it and its use can save up to four miles on a trip to Lairg for any Altas resident. The two ends of the road have tarmac surfacing for some distance after which it becomes a track but this is still easily passable by normal two-wheel drive vehicles. The CC agreed to contact both THC and FCS to try to establish the status and ownership of the route and to encourage the removal of the lock. **MG**

Action.

Item 2. Minutes of June meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the June meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record, proposed by Russell Smith; seconded by Russell Taylor. Nothing so far has been done regarding the Village Officer idea mentioned at the May meeting. RB will liaise with JW and Helen Houston at KOSDT to see if this can be taken further. **RB/JW Action.**

Item 3. Regular updates:

(i) Planning & Licensing. (RS) Anemometer to be erected at Garvary Moor, Lairg. Nothing else of note.

(ii) TEC Services. It was agreed not to appoint a new TEC Services liaison representative at this time as CC elections are due in November after which new responsibilities may be delegated. RS is continuing to follow up on SC's work regarding undergrounding of electrical cabling in Bonar

Bridge. Issued raised included: Glen Cassley road – serious pothole which has already caused two punctured tyres, surface lifting here too; A837 sightlines obscured by overgrown verges not cut back this year so far; verges also causing serious narrowing and sightlines issues on the Fairy Glen road; deep pothole on Craigton Road (Achue-Achuan) where peat is eroding and will collapse without attention; Tapachy road sign in Altas is in need of repair. Verge at the bottom of road from Rosehall village hall to A837 has large boulders spaced out along it which residents fear could be a safety issue for vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and runners should they be required to pull to the side of road. It was questioned if the property owner owns this strip between his hedge and the roadside or if it is THC land. All points will be passed to John Clark, TECS in Bonar Bridge. **MG Action.**

(iii) Financial report (RT) The financial report shows the Treasurer's Account balance stands at £2,310.06 with the Rock-by-Sea account standing at £11,060. This balance reflects the recent incoming payment of £2,500. RT will write to Charlie Brooks to thank him and advise as to the use of the fund in the last year. Once again RT was thanked for his thorough accounting and reporting. RB reported that the CC cheque for £100 has been presented to Jackie Allison on the occasion of her retirement from Royal Mail at the end of this month. This payment was approved at July meeting but not recorded until presentation had taken place near to retirement date.

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

(v) Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust. ((PC) The Falls of Shin project remains on track.

(vi) Rosehall. Nothing to add to the TECS issues (above).

(vii) Invershin. Cycle ramp. It was noted from the A&DCC Minutes that the workshop has this installation work scheduled to be carried out in the next two to three weeks.

(viii) HC Councillor's report. (GF) Nothing in GF's absence.

(ix) Broadband in Rosehall. (RB) RB is drafting a letter to the newly elected MP seeking his support in improving the Broadband provision. Lairg and Bonar Bridge are expected to receive access to faster Broadband by the end of September. A&DCC had heard that a solution to the 'exchange activate' problem may have been found and RB will liaise with Ardgay to try find out more. The ongoing lack of information from all involved in providing superfast Broadband remains a bone of contention. **RB Action.**

(x) SSE Loch Buidhe update. (RS) Four weekly liaison meetings continue but a lack of knowledge is sometimes displayed by the project managers. The condition of the road is generally very poor although some of the improvements are good. The diversion route surface is poor but all roads should be resurfaced at the end of the works. Between the Manse and Migdale Cross the road has already been closed for an eight week period and is now to close for a further five weeks. Residents, land users and especially businesses are suffering. Log lorries taking out timber are due to commence work at the end of September for a six week period adding further heavy traffic to the already compromised roads. Next year cement lorries will run with the whole project expected to take another two years. Structural damage has been caused to The Corner Shop in Bonar Bridge with a block of sandstone knocked out and guttering torn from the building. Action must be taken by SSE/BAM Nuttall to ensure this is rectified and prevented from recurring. Compensation must be paid to the shop owner. The 'No Parking' bollards which have been placed on the roadside at the Kyle Bakery junction have been driven over many times with many road users simply ignoring the instruction. Truck drivers are still parking lorries there while calling at the shop completely blocking the road. This should not be allowed, with all drivers instructed to only park on the other side of the bridge at the car park/industrial site areas. Three lorries have been seen driving straight out at this junction taking no regard of traffic or road regulations. Anyone witnessing inappropriate driving/parking should note truck registration numbers and report them to SSE/BAM Nuttall. All drivers should receive further clear instructions regarding this junction and the serious issues involved. **RS Action.**

Item 4. Carbisdale Castle/Shin Falls updates. Carbisdale development is apparently going ahead. Nothing further has been heard on this or the Culrain Community's Right to Buy application. At the Falls of Shin the catering van is doing well and has been providing a welcome service.

Item 5. Windfarm updates. Braemore. PLI is set for 28th September. A pre-enquiry meeting has been called for tomorrow in Invershin. RS agreed to attend for CC. **RS Action.** Liaison with Ardgay and Lairg CCs is still considered to be worthwhile with perhaps one representative being

appointed to state the local case at the PLI.

Item 6. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea fund applications. The email approved award of £1134 from the Beinn Tharsuinn Fund was noted. Also the Rock by Sea £50 to the same application noted as approved. Both Alex Macmanus and RT were advised of the email approval in July. The application by Bonar Bridge Christmas Lights Committee received approval for an award of £3,000 to purchase replacement lights for those damaged in last winter's storms. LED lights are now being used which require less maintenance. PC will speak to the group's secretary regarding improved maintenance for the coming season. **PC Action.** The application to the Rock by Sea Training & Development Fund by KOSDT for £250 towards costs of VAT advice training was approved. The Trust should be encouraged to make this 'community training,' inviting local businesses to take part and thus extend the local knowledge base. If businesses within Creich do participate each could be eligible for £250 towards the costs. MG will advise KOSDT. **MG/RT Action.**

Item 7. Website. RT and RB are still to meet with Silvia Muras, editor of A&DCC newsletter and with Phil Olson who maintains their website with a view to combining CCC with A&DCC information. **RB Action.**

Item 8. Correspondence. A letter of support for the Greening Kyle project was approved. A nomination will be submitted to THC with regard to their Quality Awards. Details of proposed nominee will be sought. **MG Action.** Letters of thanks received from KOSHS for recent BTWF award and from Munloch Animal Aid for the donation to the collection at Sandy Chalmers's funeral. The overall collection total was £956.11. Letter from Scottish Boundaries Commission shows no relevant changes to Creich.

Item 9. Any other competent business. The suggestion of a local project to commemorate the many good works of Sandy Chalmers resulted in several suggestions which will be passed to Angela, seeking the family's ideas and approval. **PC Action.** The CC was reminded of the deadline for submitting nomination forms to THC, 6th October 4pm, for the upcoming Community Council elections. All current CC members wishing seeking re-election must submit forms. Secretary will remind CCs by email one week before deadline. Election date is 18th November with all current CCs standing down at 23.59hrs on the 17th.

Item 10. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting will at 7.30pm in Rosehall Village Hall. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.