

Minutes approved 18/08/2015



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 16th June 2015 at 7.30pm
in the Bonar Bridge Hall**

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Russell Smith (RS), John White (JW), Ron Boothroyd (RB)

Also present: Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF), Nigel Baird

Police representatives: PCs Ian Forbes and Steve MacKenzie

Apologies: Sandy Chalmers, Vice Chair (SC), Brian Coghill (BC), Norman MacDonald (NM)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/ Police report. This meeting followed immediately after the AGM. The Police report was given at the start of the AGM to allow the officers to leave quickly. Twenty-four incidents had been reported during the last month, mostly traffic related. In particular two speeding offences, two collisions and one breakdown were noted. Internet and cold calling frauds continue and the public was once again warned not to divulge any personal or banking details unless completely sure of the safety of so doing. Recent thefts have occurred, especially where equipment/vehicles have been left at the roadside. Owners should ensure the safety of their vehicles and property at all times. Any suspicious vehicles should be reported to the police on the 101 phone number. The use of the Balblair straight as a racetrack for motor cyclists was again reported. The police will act on any reports which include a registration number of vehicles breaking the speed limit but are unable to follow up reports without that information. The police officers left at 7.45pm with thanks from the CC for attending.

Item 2. Minutes of May meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the May meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record, proposed by Russell Smith; seconded by John White.

Item 3. Regular updates:

(i) Planning & Licensing. (RS) CC support for the Falls of Shin project has been registered on THC Planning website.

(ii) TEC Services. It was noted that SC was seriously ill in hospital and all good wishes for his recovery were recorded. Two TECS issues were highlighted: uneven, dangerous pavement to the west of the village hall on Lairg Road and loose kerbstones in many places but particularly noted outside The Haven, Dornoch Road. These issues will be passed to John Clark. **MG Action.** GF advised that a THC rolling priority list is expected to be established and that the CC should compile its own list of outstanding issues which should be sent to Campbell Stewart and copied to John Clark. Any currently outstanding problems could be prioritised after consultation with John Clark with the list updated following each CC meeting. **MG Action**

(iii) Financial report (RS) The financial report shows the Treasurer's Account balance stands at £3,134.73 with the Rock-by-Sea account standing at £8,810. Outstanding payments on Treasurer's account stand at approximately £330 with the first payment of £100 also now due to the floral contractor who has started work on the displays.

(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. The Trust is still working to ensure the ongoing viability of the Bonar Bridge Post Office.

(vi) Rosehall. (JW) At the recent Rosehall Village Hall committee meeting it was realised that the committee is struggling to meet costs, particularly in regard to hall cleaning and ground maintenance. It was suggested that an application could be made by the Hall Committee to Beinn Tharsuinn Fund for short term funding. A proposal was made that through the KOSDT windfarm funds could be accessed to provide a post, perhaps co-ordinated within the Greening Kyle Team, for a 'village officer' to work in all the areas covered by the Trust carrying out such jobs as grass cutting, tree and bush trimming, drainage ditch maintenance, cleaning of local public toilet facilities, etc. The project could be set up as a pilot scheme and could work in close contact with John Clark THC TECS. JW and RB agreed to follow up on this idea and discuss with Helen Houston. The sum of £10,000 was mooted as a start-up fund with GF indicating that a contribution could be made from THC Ward Discretionary Budget. **JW/RB Action.**

(vii) Invershin. (GF) Cycle ramp. GF confirmed that all approvals are in place and that the ramp is awaiting installation.

(viii) HC Councillor's report. (GF) A new administration is in place in THC with Independent councillors in control with the support of the SNP when appropriate to help maintain continuity. GF stated that the savings made on fuel expenses could be put to road repairs and maintenance. Some works are due to commence in and around Rosehall, at the Bailey bridge, Cassley Drive, Rosehall bridge and Invershin.

(ix) Broadband in Rosehall. (RB) BT Openreach indicate that high speed Broadband of up to 80mgb should be available in Lairg, Ardgay and Rogart by the end of this year. It may be possible for a spur to be taken from that to improve the appalling service in Rosehall. RB will write to the new Westminster MP, Paul Monaghan, copied to Scottish Government, to explain the current position, the difficulty in obtaining accurate information, etc. Scottish grant money for rural development might be accessed to improve the Rosehall situation. With the lack of mobile phone signal and poor Broadband dangerous situations are likely, as illustrated by a recent incident of medical emergency at the village hall where there is no signal or outward communications available. The area is losing residents as it is impossible to conduct businesses from home bases without reliable, fast communications. **RB Action.**

(x) SSE Loch Buidhe update. (RS) RS reported that things are not going well; difficulty with traffic situations and road works. The road works are due to be completed by the end of June but the timber extraction with the many log lorries that will require is due to start in July. It is understood that a convoy system of two lorries with an escort vehicle has been suggested. GF offered to contact Gavin Steele, SSE, and report back to RS. The next liaison meeting will be held on Monday 22nd June at 6pm. RS will chase up SSE with regard to the undergrounding of power lines in Bonar Bridge – an action which would demonstrate SSE's commitment to the local community. **GF/RS Action.**

Item 4. Carbisdale Castle/Shin Falls updates. RT and RB were invited by Culrain Village Hall Committee to attend their meeting in early June to hear an update. As reported previously in the Ardgay CC minutes the community has agreed with the 56 acre sale by FCS to the developer but changes reported to the overall plans are causing concerns. Doubts remain within the committee about the identity of the developer and his long term plans. The proposal to proceed with the Community Right to Buy action by the Culrain group received approval by those at the Culrain meeting.

Item 5. Street/development naming – Migdale House. There being no objections to this proposal, THC will be advised accordingly via the Ward Manager. **MG Action.**

Item 6. Windfarm updates. Braemore. Now set for PLI later in the year. PC has indicated his intention to attend on behalf of the CC. Nearer the time liaison with Ardgay and Lairg CCs can be undertaken. **Glencassley and Sallachy** are both understood to be going to PLI. The PLI procedure takes around two weeks to complete.

Item 7. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea fund applications. The award of £250, already approved by email, from the Rock by Sea/Training & Development grant, to Ben Blowers was formally approved. Mr Blowers has already been informed and the cheque issued.

Item 8. Website. RT has emailed Silvia Muras, Editor of the A&DCC excellent newsletter, suggesting that it could be expanded to take in Creich, rather than produce a second publication which would duplicate on many items. It was suggested that a joint CC website could also be

established saving costs for both CCs but with funding sourced by each. RT and RB agreed to arrange a meeting with Silvia Muras and Phil Olson, who maintains the A&DCC website, for further discussion. **Agenda item. RT/RB/MG Action.**

Item 9. Correspondence. A&DCC has supplied a copy of a letter which it will send to THC regarding the downgrading of the Bonar Bridge Service Point expressing dismay at the loss of this crucial service and also requesting evidence of the savings engendered by such an action in Bonar Bridge. It was agreed that CCC should send a letter in support of the A&DCC one also requesting the anticipated savings information. **MG Action. Third Sector Saltire Award.** Nominations for categories within the Saltire Award are being sought. MG/PC will liaise on submission of nomination form. **Highland Leader nomination. PC Action.**

Item 10. Any other competent business. None raised.

Item 12. Date, time and place of next meeting. There being no meeting in July the next meeting will at 7.30pm in Invershin Village Hall. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.