

CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2015 at 7.30pm in Bonar Bridge Hall

Present: Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Norman MacDonald (NM), Russell Smith (RS), Ron Boothroyd (RB)

Apologies: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Brian Coghill (BC), John White (JW)

Post meeting apologies received from Tommy Agnew (TA), Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF), and Sandy Chalmers, Vice Chair (SC)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. In the absence of other office bearers Russell Taylor assumed the chair. The police report had been submitted in the afternoon by phone by PC Dave Thompson with apologies for non-attendance tonight due to other duties. The report indicated seventeen incidents recorded in the last month from 17th February. This number was made up by two road traffic matters, one weather related incident, four assistance/advice calls, one missing person (later found), one labour dispute, one medically related call and seven miscellaneous duties/calls. Several CC members raised concerns regarding the accuracy of the statistics as it was understood that thefts of power tools have occurred recently but they are not mentioned in today's report. The fear that centralisation is indeed proving that the force is too wide spread and that officers have no local knowledge. The request was made for more detailed reporting to aid two way communication between the police and the CC. **MG Action.**

Item 2. Minutes February meeting/matters arising (if not on agenda). The Minutes of the February meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Russell Smith, seconded by Norman MacDonald. (1) **Parking at Bonar Bridge Primary School.** With no up to date information this item should be on the agenda next month. **Agenda item. GF/MG Action.**

Item 3. Regular updates:

- (i) **Planning & licensing.** (RS). An application has been submitted to divide the old Migdale Hospital into twelve houses. This is viewed as a positive development although it is not clear if the housing will be private or affordable. RS will discuss with TA to gauge local opinion.
- (ii) **TEC Services.** (SC) Nothing in SC's absence.
- (iii) **Financial report.** (RT) RT passed round copies of the report which shows a balance of £3,584.27 in the Treasurer's account. The Rock by Sea (Training & Development) account has £9,524.00.
- (iv) **KOSDT.** (PC) No report available
- (v) **Rosehall.** (JW) Nothing in JW's absence; nil of note from RB/MG.
- (vi) **Invershin.** (SC) Nothing in SC's absence.
- (vii) **Broadband in Rosehall.** (RB) No news this month.
- (viii) **SSE Loch Buidhe update.** (RS) Concerns expressed as timber extraction is due to commence in July with the log lorries using the route through Bonar Bridge, perhaps ten or more trucks per day. This, plus traffic for SSE and BAM Nuttall, will cause a huge increase in the traffic through the village with the main junction being seriously compromised. Parking issues at the Kyle Bakery and along the roadside up the hill will make it impossible for large vehicles to pass. The risk of serious accident must be considered. The police and THC will be asked if there are any plans in place to deal with the potential problems. Temporary parking restrictions

could ease congestion. **MG/SC Action.** It is understood that the Loch Buidhe end of the road is already in poor condition due to access for the sub-station project.

Item 4. Sutherland Transport Consultation. This is an online consultation and every member of the public should make their opinions known. The total lack of any public transport to Rosehall is appalling and should be addressed by THC when assessing new tenders. At present the only transport for Rosehall is subsidised by the CC through its Community Transport scheme. The online consultation appears to be aimed at individuals but it will be checked to find a way to submit the CC opinion. **MG Action.**

Item 5 CASPLAN. (RS) Following the CC submission, Rosehall and Invershin have now been designated as 'Growing Settlements'.

Item 6. Scottish Water. Joanna Peebles had replied to issues raised at the last meeting. Scottish Water is not aware of tanker activities being carried out on a regular basis but these can be necessary at times to ensure continuity of supply. The community should be aware that if tankering to Lairg is required these vehicles would probably go through Bonar Bridge. With regard to drought conditions it is thought that problems should not arise often but tankers would be used if they did.

Item 7. Carbisdale Castle/ Falls of Shin update. No further news available.

Item 8. Lairg Community Council. LCC asked CC to reconsider giving a possible donation to help pay for the landing lights it is purchasing to allow air ambulance helicopters to land in Lairg. It was agreed that if the applications currently being made by LCC to other sources failed to achieve the full funding amount, a donation of up to £1,000 will be considered by Creich CC.

Item 9. Windfarm updates. Caplich. A public meeting will be held in Rosehall Village Hall on April 1st from 5pm – 7pm. All those with an interest in this development should attend to make their views known. Peter Marshall and colleagues from Muirhall Energy will be on hand to answer questions, etc.

Item 10. Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit/Rock by Sea Fund applications. BTWF.

Application by Scottish Charity Air Ambulance was discussed but felt to be inappropriate and rejected. Application by Citizens Advice Bureau to help sustain outreach clinics received approval with a £225 award. The Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society's application with regard publishing costs of a new local history book was deferred pending further information. **Rock by Sea.** The Bradbury Centre applied for funding to run a First Aid Course at the centre in May. This fund supports individuals and has no facility at present to deal with group/organisation applications. If three local Creich residents are confirmed as participants on this course this fund can award up to £250 for each which will be put to the overall costs of the course. The Bradbury Centre management will be advised. On receipt of the appropriate information the Treasurer is authorised to make the payment. **MG/RT Action.**

Item 11. Rock by Sea promotional ideas. RT plans to attend a session at Golspie High School on March 26th 'Preparing Young People for Employment' at which he will promote the fund as a source for individual training costs. NM advised that the Business Gateway office in Bonar Bridge has information available to give out as appropriate. Awardees are always encouraged to publicise the award whenever possible. Keep on agenda for further discussion. **Agenda item. MG Action.**

Item 12. CC Noticeboard. Making its final appearance on the agenda – NM was congratulated on successfully overseeing the placing of the noticeboard in Bonar Bridge for public display of CC related information.

Item 13. Correspondence. Nothing other than already referred to in earlier items.

Item 14. Any other competent business. None raised.

Item 15. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st April 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Achness Hotel, Rosehall. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed 9.05pm.