



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 7.30pm
in the Bonar Bridge Hall**

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Norman MacDonald (NM), Russell Smith (RS), John White (JW), Tommy Agnew (TA)

Also present: Tim Cockerill, FCS Forestry District Manager and Steve Jack, Stewardship Forester

Police representatives: PCs Dave Thompson and Steve MacKenzie

Apologies: Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Sandy Chalmers, Vice Chair (SC), Brian Coghill (BC), Ron Boothroyd (RB), Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/ Police report. Pete Campbell opened the meeting at 7.30pm. The Police officers arrived at around 8.20pm and gave this report. Nine incidents were recorded in the Bonar/Rosehall area in the last calendar month. Four relating to road traffic, two of these being collisions, two thefts and three miscellaneous. The stolen items included a ladder and four mini digger buckets. The public is advised to be extra vigilant and to report any suspicious activity or unknown pick-up vehicles. Bogus doorstep tradesmen have been encountered in the area again, often travelling in unmarked Transit vans. Anyone noticing any such behaviour should report it on the non-emergency 101 number. The CC advised of the large number of speeding motor cyclists using the Balblair straight around 4pm on Sunday afternoons. The increasing number of pedal cyclists, often riding in groups apparently unaware of other traffic, was also noted. Such groups should be made aware of good road use and sense. Concerns raised again regarding the parking issues at the Kyle Bakery corner in Bonar Bridge. 'No Parking' bollards have been delivered and are due to be in place on the hill this week. The police have no powers to enforce 'no parking' intimations unless the road is officially marked. However if obstructions occur they should be reported to the Dingwall Road Policing Unit. The officers left at 8.30pm.

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

Non-agenda item. Forestry Commission re Balblair woods and Raven's Rock, Rosehall.

Owing to some confusion it had been unclear that the Forestry representatives would be able to attend but they were made welcome and invited to update the meeting regarding these two important recreational features. Balblair has now re-opened after extensive work to clear and repair storm damage in both January and March. A new section of the mountain bike trail, 750m in length, has been added. This project has taken two years to complete due to the storm delays. Some areas will require further work to finish but the trails will remain open. The MTB trails are regarded as the prime site north of Inverness and it is hoped that they can be more widely marketed to promote use. An international level competition was suggested. A picnic area at the car park would also allow good views over the Kyle now the woodland area opposite has been cleared. Lower level of difficulty walking trails are also being considered to extend the use of the woodland. Footfall in Balblair is around 25,000. A feasibility study will be done at Balblair with a view to a long term project to increase the black routes and also the family friendly blue routes. Tree work is expected

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to start here in June, completing at the end of July. The picture at Raven's Rock is less encouraging. The storm damage has been extreme causing major slope instability where huge old trees came down causing both sides of the gorge to fail. Regular inspections have been carried out by both the Slope & Stability Officer and the H&S for Recreation Officer. The banking at the wooden walkway gave way just before Christmas and further damage has left it beyond repair. To get the heavy machinery required into the gorge would involve actually damaging it further and is also prohibitively expensive. The decision has been taken to close off that part of the trail completely and make two new walks which unfortunately cannot provide a loop. Two new viewpoints are to be created and a picnic area established at the site of the bear with interpretation panels. Work is expected to take place in June and July. The footfall on this trail is around 5,000 to 10,000 a year which does not sustain large expense. The FCS representatives were thanked for their attendance and the updating information.

Item 3. Regular updates:

(i) Planning & Licensing. (RS) A burger-type van is proposed for the Falls of Shin site during the summer season and will be placed within a small compound. There will be no toilet facilities at the site, the nearest being at the Invershin Village Hall which will be made available.

(ii) TEC Services. (SC) Report submitted by email. Two new bus shelters should be installed at the end of June, one outside the Post Office and the other at the Police Station. All TEC issues raised at last month's meeting have been efficiently dealt with by John Clark's team for which the CC offers its thanks. JW noted that the white lines at the war memorial junction in Rosehall are badly worn with many drivers left unaware as to who has right of way. It was suggested that if appropriate paint could be supplied, volunteers could be found to repaint the markings. Also in Rosehall the 'Narrow Bridge' signs at Rosehall Bridge have now been missing for many months and should be replaced.

SC Action. NM advised that he had reported to John Clark displaced gratings outside the Police Station in Bonar and was delighted to find them repaired the same day.

(iii) Financial report (RS) The financial report submitted prior to the meeting shows the Treasurer's Account balance stands at £3,337.48 with the Rock-by-Sea account standing at £8,810.

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

(v) Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust. ((PC) The recent exhibitions of the plans for the Falls of Shin site were excellent and very successful with good attendances. The April report covers nineteen points of activities; details available on request from KOSDT.

(vi) Rosehall. (JW) See TECS Item 3(ii)

(vii) Invershin. ((SC/GF) Cycle ramp. Nothing since 11/5/15 at which point the fabricator's method statement had been submitted to THC and was to be passed to Network Rail that week. Once approved it should only take a few days to process. SC and GF to continue to monitor and encourage. **SC/GF Action.** As no progress has occurred regarding the fate of the Invershin phone box no further action will be taken by CC meantime.

(viii) HC Councillor's report. (GF) Submitted by email GF advised that he will be meeting with the Director of Roads this Thursday and hopes to resolve the blockage with the Ardchronie and other issues.

(ix) Broadband in Rosehall. (RB) Nothing in RB's absence.

(x) SSE Loch Buidhe update. (RS) Monitoring of heavy vehicles has been noted. The road is now closed between the Manse and Migdale Cross and will be for eight weeks. Damage to road edges caused by the heavy vehicles is already noticeable. Damaged dykes will be re-instated as part of the

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contracts. SSE/BAM Nuttall have been making strenuous efforts to be helpful and supportive of the local community. It has sponsored football training sessions for the primary school children. Traffic alleviating measures see workers parking at the football ground and being bussed to the sites. Re-surfacing will be done at that car park. The next liaison meeting will be held next week.

Item 4. Carbisdale Castle/Shin Falls updates. The CC tonight drafted a statement in support of the proposed development at Carbisdale Castle. **Shin Falls.** The project continues to move forward. It is hoped that work can begin soon with a view to opening the new facility towards the end of this season or early next.

Item 5. Windfarm updates. Rock by Sea/Coire na Cloiche. As Chair PC signed new documents regarding the community benefit arrangements for these developments. Creich CC will continue to receive £2,500 per year into its Rock by Sea (Training & Development) account. £17,500 per annum would be the community benefit payment due to Creich once the Coire na Cloiche windfarm is in operation.

Item 6. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea fund applications. Application received from the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust for £2,000 towards the purchase of the land at the Falls of Shin site. This was approved. The application by the Bonar Bridge OAP Fund, first considered in November last year, was revisited with regard to the summer outing. Relevant receipts and quotes have now been received and an award of £700 was made. Application by SC to the Rock by Sea (Training & Development) Fund for assistance with costs to attend a Day Skipper course in Largs was approved with an award of £250. **MG/RT Action.**

Item 7. Floral displays in Bonar Bridge. Costings received for a contractor to take on stocking and maintaining the floral displays were approved at £100 per month through the season with a further £150 for the purchase of plants. These payments will be made from the CC's Environment Fund which, if necessary, may be topped up by a new application to the Beinn Tharsuinn fund. RT is to go ahead with liaison with the contractor. **RT Action.**

Item 8. Rock by Sea promotional ideas. No discussion due to the relatively small number of CC members present. **Agenda item. MG Action.**

Item 9. Correspondence. Nil of note.

Item 10. Any other competent business. Power lines in Bonar Bridge. The ongoing issue of undergrounding all power lines in the village should be discussed again with SSE. The community is being very reasonable and understanding during the upheaval caused by the Loch Buidhe and Inveran substations plus the various windfarm and pylon upgrade works and it would be an appreciated gesture in return if the power lines could be dealt with in this way. SC/RS could follow up on this as they liaise with SSE. PC will approach Ruth Liddicoat as SSE Community Liaison officer. **SC/RS/PC Action.**

Item 12. Date, time and place of next meeting. Tuesday 16th June at 7.30pm in Bonar Bridge. This will be the AGM which will precede the main meeting. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.