

Minutes approved 19/01/2016



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 24th November 2015 at 7.30pm
in Bradbury Centre, Bonar Bridge**

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

Also present: Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF), Colin Gilmour (CG), Michael Baird (MB), Barry MacKenzie, SSE (BM)

Police representative: None present

Apologies: None received

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

The first part of the evening's business was to conduct the Inaugural Meeting of Creich Community Council following the recent election. This part was chaired by Highland Councillor George Farlow.

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above). Cllr Farlow explained the procedure and congratulated all CC members on their re-election.

Item 2/3. Call for nominations for appointment of Chairperson/handover to Chairperson.

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by	Accepted/declined
Chair	Pete Campbell	Ron Boothroyd	John White	Accepted
Vice/Chair	Ron Boothroyd	Russell Taylor	John White	Accepted
Treasurer	Russell Taylor	Norman MacDonald	Russell Smith	Accepted
Secretary	Mary Goulder	Pete Campbell	Russell Taylor	Accepted

Associate members: Brian Coghill and Mary Goulder were confirmed as Associate Members.

There remain two vacancies for full CC members which can be filled by co-options.

GF advised that currently Ward Manager Andy Mackay is on indefinite sick leave with his position being covered by Garry Cameron.

Item 4. Set date, time and place of next meeting. In the year ahead the CC will continue to hold meetings on the third Tuesday of the month with allowances made for availability of members which may incur date changes occasionally. These will be indicated on the advance posters as usual

and in the Minutes of meetings. The next meeting will be on 19th January 2016 at 7.30pm in Invershin Hall.

This concluded the business of the inaugural meeting.

Prior to all other business Barry MacKenzie of SSE was invited to give his updating report regarding the progress with the Loch Buidhe sub-station project. BM is the Construction Site Manager for SSE. He advised that 99% of the public road improvements has been completed, a distance of 8km. White lines and verge markings will finish this. The diversion route has been resurfaced, patched and verged. Phase 1 of the timber extraction will be complete by Christmas. Haulage under escort has worked well with trucks limited to 20mph, travelling in twos. At the sub-station site 60% of peat stripping is completed. A pre-cast yard for the concrete foundations will minimise the number of trucks by half. The public road improvements include verges, head walls, culverts and some surfacing. Traffic is now reduced to a minimum. At Bonar Bridge Primary School a 'blind spot awareness day' has been held at which the children were made aware of how the trucks operate, how the drivers can use cameras mounted on the wheel arches to see along the sides of the trucks and the importance of the great care needed by the children when around/near these vehicles. SSE has helped fund a new Smart board at the school and also a resource room. The car park at the Golf Club has been resurfaced and defibrillator is now in place at the Club. An eighteen-month ahead plan has been produced which will prove helpful with awareness of heavy vehicle movements. Dykes and parapets damaged or removed along the routes will be restored. Discussions are ongoing with local residents and businesses regarding any recompense due following loss of access/inconvenience/etc. The liaison meetings will continue to be held approximately every two months with the next scheduled for 7th December. Mr MacKenzie was thanked for attending and left at 7.40pm. The meeting then followed the advertised agenda.

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above)/police report. Taking the Chair, PC opened the meeting with a restructuring of the responsibilities allocation amongst CC members with the following agreement:

TECS. Previously well covered for the full CC area by the late Sandy Chalmers it was agreed to split this into three. Rosehall issues including TECS will be taken by JW with PC taking Invershin issues and TECS. Bonar Bridge issues and TECS will be shared among RS/RT and NM. TECS issues will be passed to MG who in turn will pass them to John Clark or to the relevant THC TECS officer. RT will be responsible for the Speed Indicator Device and the CC noticeboard in addition to his role as Treasurer. He was commended especially for his work with the SID which entails a fair amount of his time and effort. RS will remain as the Planning & Licensing contact but with the added concern of the overhead electricity cabling in Bonar Bridge. RB continues with Broadband and adds the website and newsletter, co-ordinating with Ardgay CC as/if possible. NM will continue as the police matters contact and to head the Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit work, with the Rock by Sea Training Grant in conjunction with RT. PC remains as Chair and KOSDT rep, assisted by RB if required. RB was congratulated on his recent appointment to the Board of KOSDT. The issues of Health and Education are not covered at present. With one member vacancy still to fill it was suggested that perhaps the Primary School Parent Council might put forward a candidate who could take this responsibility.

Item 2. Minutes of September meeting/matters arising. The Minutes of the September meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Russell Smith; seconded by John White.

(1) Tapachy link road. Nothing heard back from Marcus Munro. The owner of Middlehill has established his access after discussions with FCS.

Item 3. Regular updates:

(i) Planning & Licensing. (RS) Details regarding a house at the back of Bonar Bridge School had been circulated prior to the meeting. No other relevant issues.

(ii) TEC Services. No issues raised.

(iii) Financial report (RT) The financial report shows the Treasurer's Account balance stands at £2871.33 with the Rock-by-Sea account balance at £10,810.00. RT reported that the flower tubs care and maintenance has been underspent with the Rosehall Community Transport taxi service being the highest outgoing in the last month. Steps are encouraged to see better use of the Rock-by-Sea Training Fund. Helen Houston at KOSDT will be asked to help promote uptake. **PC Action.**

It was agreed to transfer the BTWF application by Bonar Bridge Primary School Parent Council to this fund. (See Item 6 below.) GF advised there is a THC Youth Budget with £5,000 available per ward for relevant initiatives.

(iv) Police Matters. (NM) Report received by NM today indicated thirty three incidents since the last CC meeting. These included one drink driving offence, one breach of the peace, one poaching offence, seven fixed penalties mainly for speeding, and one firework incident. It was agreed that the SID is helping to reduce speeding but it is not calibrated to be accurate enough for specific incidents to be worthy of reporting/following up.

(v) Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust. ((PC) The AGM was held this month but poorly attended. A full report is available from Helen Houston if required. Two directors stood down with RB accepting the nomination to become a director. The new board will hold its inaugural meeting next month. All Trust projects are running well with the Keep Active Together programme extended to the end of the year. A new Climate Change project will start in the New Year with a wider remit than that of Greening Kyle. Serious housing deficiencies have been highlighted throughout the area and it is hoped the new project will be able to make a difference, working with local contractors on improvements. The Ardgay Regeneration Project is on hold as another individual has come forward with an offer for the site. The annual accounts were signed off at the AGM; the Trust is now nearly self-sustaining.

(vi) Rosehall. (JW/RB) TECS to be asked to remove the redundant 20mph signs throughout the area, in particular between Rosehall and Tuiteam. The refuse bin at Rosehall Trails entrance is in urgent need of emptying. Pass both issues to TECs. **MG Action.**

(vii) Invershin. Cycle ramp. The ramp is in situ, fit for purpose and being well used. TA to be asked to update CC with regard to the memorial plaque for Sandy Chalmers. **MG/TA Action.**

(viii) HC Councillor's report. (GF) Verge cutting is being undertaken as per the once a year statutory requirement.

(ix) Broadband in Rosehall. (RB) RB attended a meeting at KOSDT with Trust representatives and Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) to discuss a possible community based scheme. A survey of 550 households is being carried out; a 50% response is sought so all those contacted are urged to return the completed survey forms as soon as possible. Anyone who has not received a survey questionnaire should contact RB or KOSDT. A microwave radio transmission scheme might be possible, linking from Lairg or Tain or perhaps a cabinet in Bonar Bridge. CBS now has funding for more than 90% of hardware costs leaving the community to find funding for the remainder. Site locations would need to be found for transmitters. Scoping is the next stage once evaluation of survey results has been carried out.

(x) SSE Loch Buidhe update. (RS) See at opening of these Minutes.

Item 4. Carbisdale Castle/Shin Falls updates. Carbisdale. It is understood nothing further will happen with this proposal until the outcome is known of the PLI of the Braemore windfarm. Falls of Shin. A large amount of the funding required has been secured. KOSDT now awaits the outcome of the application to the Big Lottery, expected in January/February. These items can be removed from the agenda meantime. **MG Action.**

Item 5. Windfarm updates. Nothing reported.

Item 6. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea fund applications. Application by North Highland Language Centre for funding towards its Get2Know project was rejected as it was deemed irrelevant to the Creich area which is already well served in this and similar fields by Lairg Learning Centre and the Bradbury Centre both of which are supported by this CC. Application by

Rosehall Youth Club seeking £1500 for ongoing operational support was approved. The applicant should be made aware of THC Youth Budget as mentioned earlier by GF. Bonar Bridge Primary School Parent Council applied for £1944 to help with costs of a new Smart board. This application was transferred to the CC's Training Fund (Rock by Sea) with the full award being paid from that account. **RT Action.** Creich, Croick and Kincardine District Day Care Association (Bradbury Centre) applied for funds to assist with cost of its Christmas activities programme and was awarded £350. This applicant will be advised to apply to the wider community within Beinn Tharsuinn and also to submit a clearer breakdown of details and costs. The question was asked as to whether participants pay anything towards the events. **MG Action.** NM advised that an application from the Bonar Bridge OAP Christmas Dinner administration is expected in January. NM also reminded CC that a transfer of some funds is due to the Endowment Fund in January. **Agenda item. MG Action.**

Item 7. Website. RB and RT have had some discussions with Phil Olson (Ardgay & District CC) and will set up a meeting with Silvia Muras, editor of their newsletter to see what options for collaboration are feasible. As A&DCC is in abeyance until early in 2016 ideas are unlikely to move forward much before then. RB will discuss the current website situation with Calum Couston at KOSDT with regard to posting Minutes etc meantime. **RB/RT Action.**

Item 8. Correspondence. (1) Bank of Scotland Bonar Bridge. MPs, MSPs, CCs and many others have written to the Bank deploring the proposed reduction of hours of service due to affect the branch in December. The CC will write a further letter outlining the ridiculous and illogical stance taken by the Bank's representatives in recent correspondence. **RS Action. (2)** Friends of Sutherland Veterans have requested a donation to their annual flag-raising event next year. A donation of £50 was approved. **RT Action. (3)** Letter of thanks received from Jackie Allison for the gift from the CC which marked her recent retiral as postwoman.

Item 9. Any other competent business. None raised.

Item 10. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 19th January at 7.30pm in the Invershin Hall. MG to book the room.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.