

Minutes approved 16/08/2016



## CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016 at 7.30pm in Bonar Bridge Hall

**Present:** Ron Boothroyd, Vice & Acting Chair (RB), Russell Taylor, Treasurer, (RT), Norman MacDonald (NM), Russell Smith (RS), John White

**Also present:** Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF), Jim Monaghan (JM), Norman Vincent (NV), and Michael Baird (MB) at 7.50pm.

**Police Scotland:** No representative – report submitted by email

**Apologies:** Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Brian Coghill (BC)      **Secretary:** Mary Goulder (MG)

**Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report.** This meeting followed immediately after the closure of the AGM. The police report, submitted earlier by email indicated fifteen reported incidents which included two domestic incidents, two road traffic, two fixed penalties, two calls of good intent, one assault, one neighbour dispute, one bogus caller, one straying animal and the others were of an advice request nature. Disappointment was expressed that there was no officer available to attend tonight. Mr Vincent had attended especially to raise with the CC and the police the issue of traffic management at the main road junction in Bonar Bridge where all four roads meet. He highlighted a chaotic incident which occurred at noon today when four vehicles and a six-wheeled lorry were all parked on the brae beside the Kyle Bakery. RB reported a similar problem at 10.30am today. This issue has been raised many times by the CC to both the police and THC. NM pointed out that the design of the junction has been a long-standing problem of over twenty years. THC did not own sufficient land area to redesign with, for instance, a roundabout; RT advised that before the Dornoch Bridge opened in 1973 there were traffic lights in place at the Bonar bridge. Other possible options to improve safety should be considered before a serious accident occurs. RS will discuss the matter again with BAM Nuttall to ensure their drivers do not park on or near the junction, even when making a swift visit to the shop. The speed of traffic through Spinningdale was also discussed, as it has been many times before. Previous attempts to have a speed limit placed there have resulted in the report that this road section encourages a 'natural' limit of 40mph though local information would indicate that many drivers travel much faster. GF said that the process of obtaining a Traffic Order and placing it before the Scottish Government is a lengthy and difficult procedure and if even only one objection is raised the matter must go to court resulting in huge cost implications. It was agreed that the police should be advised of tonight's discussion, and that both the Head of Roads, THC and the police should be invited to the August meeting. It could also be suggested that a meeting, separate from the CC regular one, might prove more suitable to the police. All options to improve both road situations could then be explored with relevant parties present. **MG Action.**

**Item 2. Minutes of May meeting/matters arising (if not on agenda).** The minutes of the May meeting were approved as a true and accurate record; proposed: John White, seconded: Russell Smith. (1) NM advised that the commemorative medals for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday have been distributed to the local primary schools. Ardgay & District Community Council kindly contributed to the costs.

#### **Item 3. Regular updates:**

- (i) **Planning & licensing.** (RS) Details of relevant applications have been circulated by RS. No issues raised. Application expected regarding the demolition of The Lady Ross building.

- (ii) **TEC Services.** JW questioned the recent closing of the Bonar Bridge toilet facility and the non-emptying of the rubbish bins at the parking area. GF indicated that in the long term the toilet facilities at either side of the bridge may well be locked permanently as part of THC budget cuts. Regular users would be eligible to apply for an access key. GF will check with John Clark regarding the recent closure. **GF Action.**
- (iii) **Financial report.** (RT). The Treasurer's account balance stands at £2,113.83 with the Rock by Sea account at £7,316.00. The monthly payment for secretarial services is now being made by BACS and appears as a Bill Payment on the statements.
- (iii) **Police Matters.** (NM) See above (Item 1).
- (v) **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** (RB) Falls of Shin development progresses with an anticipated opening of Easter next year. The Ardgay Regeneration Project will soon be submitted for Planning approval.
- (vi) **Rosehall.** (JW) (1) The desperately bad roadsides on single track roads do seem to be receiving some attention from THC though many problem areas remain. (2) (RB) Hard-core paths are now being established on some of the Rosehall Trails, extending wheelchair access.
- (vii) **Invershin.** (GF) Early grass cutting has started by the Invershin Hotel. White lining is planned for several areas including from Bonar Bridge, through Spinningdale to the A9.
- (viii) **Highland Councillor's report.** (GF) In light of the increase in all forms of transport on the route of the NC500 THC is producing new advice leaflets regarding good driving on single track roads. These will be distributed via local businesses throughout the area and along the route. NM reported that the Strathroy bridge on the Struie has still not been repaired; GF replied that THC is trying to access the police report regarding the damage with a view to invoicing those responsible. GF has been advised that the dilapidated caravan at Altas has been scheduled for removal on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Wind-blow damage in the north has resulted in an increase in the number of timber lorries although it is hoped that much of the timber will be transported by rail. The Business Gateway office is scheduled to be moved to Golspie from Bonar Bridge, a move which met with strong disapproval by CCs. Such a move would mean the loss of two jobs in the village and the removal of the local contact opportunity, while moving it to Golspie will not result in any savings. Once the Ardgay Regeneration Project is completed the Business Gateway office should be situated with that new complex. **GF Action.** Concerns were passed to GF regarding the new 'cluster' arrangements for the local primary schools which will come into effect after the summer holidays. It was stressed that it is critical to keep local schools open if there is to be any hope of encouraging new families into the area.
- (ix) **Broadband in Rosehall.** (RB) No progress. Still awaiting the results of the BT postcode survey.
- (x) **SSE Loch Buidhe update.** (RS) Huge increase in traffic, often at speed, noted especially by JM on Fairy Glen road. RS will contact BAM Nuttall and ask that drivers be encouraged to use the other road whenever possible. **RS Action.**

**Item 4. Bank of Scotland Bonar Bridge update.** (MB) The recent Open Day Forum in Bonar Bridge was organised by the office of MP Dr Paul Monaghan and attended by Bank of Scotland, Post Office, Police, HIE, Business Gateway, CAB amongst others. One suggestion, accepted by Bank of Scotland representatives, was for Internet Banking training to be made available to locals in the Bonar Bridge hall. It is hoped that this can happen after the summer. RT attended the Forum and found the Bank of Scotland representative 'aggressive and uncooperative' with no attempt made to satisfy the customers. At present the Bank of Scotland does not work with the Post Office to allow in-payments of cash but it is possible to take money out at the PO counter. MB pessimistic about the outcome of his dealings with the Financial Ombudsman although he still awaits feedback. MB will continue to keep the CC informed.

**Item 5. Windfarms. Braemore.** The Reporter's report was due in June but still not available. **Caplich.** It is understood that the rejection decision will go to appeal.

**Item 6. Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit/Rock by Sea Fund applications/ SSE & E.ON Community Fund. BTWF.** Application by Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust for £2,000 towards the purchase costs of the Falls of Shin site was approved. NM reminded the CCs that the Trust has benefitted well from the Fund, though it is appreciated that the work done by the Trust has greatly enhanced the work and life of the community. The saving made by the Kyle of Sutherland Angling Club was noted and approval given that the committee should retain the excess from the BTWF award and use it to upgrade equipment. THC and applicants will be advised. **MG Action.** Attempts to arrange a meeting with Tom Black of Foundation Scotland regarding investment opportunities for the Endowment Fund have so far failed to find a mutually convenient date with a new date still sought. The CC remains open to suggestions with regard to wise investment.

**Item 7. Website update.** (RB) With subscription paid the website is now advert free and the front page has been greatly improved. To make further changes RB seeks input from all CCs regarding the accuracy of the information posted. All asked to visit the site and bring ideas etc to next meeting. Domain registration fee is £18 per year. **All Action.**

**Item 8. Correspondence.** None other than any circulated by email during the past month.

**Item 9. Any other competent business.** (1) MB brought a serious problem facing the Invercharron Games Committee to the attention of the CC. The Games Secretary has been told to re-apply to THC for an Entertainment License, having already completed a twelve page form with H&S Risk Assessments and site plans. Further information has been requested concerning safety certificates for all electrical appliances, more details regarding stage platforms, safety/security of gas cylinders for catering tent, food hygiene certificates for food handlers/stall operators, and much more. In thirty years there has never been such a demand and it is understood that such information/certification is only demanded by THC with other councils not requesting anything like this amount. The Games Secretary has been stressed to the point of resignation over this issue. GF will look into this as a matter of urgency. The Games are scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> September. There is no problem with Bouncy Castle legislation as none will be provided at the event. **GF Action.** (2) JM attended at the invitation of PC to explain his proposals for Heart Start training and the siting of a defibrillator in Spinningdale. JM has many years of First Aid training and experience and currently is the volunteer warden for The Woodland Trust at Migdale Woods. Ten Spinningdale residents have indicated a wish to undertake the Heart Start training. Funding for this could be sought from the Rock by Sea Training & Development Fund via a letter of application for discussion at the next CC meeting in August. The most central position to site a defibrillator in Spinningdale would be within the BT phone box. It is understood that BT has approved such installations elsewhere and approval will be sought for Spinningdale. Defibrillator costs would be in the region of £2,000 plus the modification of the BT phone box, maintenance, etc. The Spinningdale Ladies Committee has agreed to make a contribution as have various individuals. CCs suggested the residents form a steering group to take the idea forward and submit an application for up to £2,000, to Beinn Tharsuinn Fund via the application form available on the CC website. The suggestion was made that a bigger plan might be made in the future to bring together First Responders/first aiders across a wider area around the Kyle of Sutherland with funding sought for such an initiative from the SSE/E.ON Rosehall Windfarm Panel. (3) NV wished to discuss the near epidemic proportions of fraudulent phone calls, now a national issue. Local advice has always been to report any such calls to the police and not to give out any personal/financial information. RB suggested he add relevant information and contacts to the website. GF recommended further reporting to MP and MSPs seeking government action. **RB Action.** (4) RT passed on a complaint from a lady resident in Migdale who was recently unable to book the Dial-a-Bus as, she was informed, it was fully used by the Bradbury Centre. The CC believes the Bradbury Centre has two buses of its own and so questioned the unavailability of the Dial-a-Bus. As Don Henderson of THC has been involved recently in emails regarding the Dial-a-Bus service the approval was given to his being included in the circulation of Minutes regarding this ongoing issue. **MG Action.**

**Item 9. Date, time and place of next meeting.** There being no meeting in July the next meeting held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30 pm in the Invershin Hall. MG to confirm the booking of the room. **MG Action.**

