

Minutes approved 19th April 2016



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at 7.30pm
in the Bradbury Centre, Bonar Bridge**

Present: Russell Taylor, Treasurer/Acting Chair (RT), Norman MacDonald (NM), John White (JW), Russell Smith (RS), Brian Coghill (BC)

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

Police Scotland: None present

Apologies: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Ron Boothroyd, Vice Chair (RB)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Acting Chair Russell Taylor welcomed everyone and in the absence of police officers moved directly to the agenda.

Item 2. Minutes of February meeting/matters arising (if not on agenda). After two minor amendments the minutes of the February meeting were approved as a true and accurate record; proposed: Norman MacDonald, seconded: John White. (1)TECS. Items raised last month have been dealt with (2) Litter on Struie. GF confirmed that there is no statutory duty for THC to clear litter however efforts should be made when possible to keep the roadside tidy. Specific stretches of roadsides should be highlighted, e.g. from the Struie road end to Bonar Bridge, the Ardgay-Bonar Bridge straight and the A836 from Bonar to the entrance to THC recycling (skip) site. **GF Action.** RS will ask the SSE/BAM Nuttall Liaison officer to remind drivers of the 'No Litter' policy on all roads. **RS Action.** (3) Bank of Scotland. MB advised that a date is still awaited for a multi-party consultation; MP Paul Monaghan is trying to arrange this. Much confusion is caused by the varied closing times at each of the 'neighbouring' branches.

Item 3. Regular updates:

- (i) Planning & licensing.** (RS). Details of relevant applications have been circulated. No issues raised.
- (ii) TEC Services.** See only at Item 3 (1) above.
- (iii) Financial report.** (RT) RT passed round copies of the report which shows a balance of £2,345.72 in the Treasurer's account and £8,066 in the Rock-by-Sea account. The figure for the next payment of THC annual grant was accepted, payable to the CC after submission of annual accounts. There is a slight reduction in the grant this year; the CC may need to seek supportive funding later in the year.
- (iiii) Police Matters.** (NM) Nothing to report.
- (v) Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** Nothing in PC's absence.
- (vi) Rosehall.** (NM) The road bridge at Tuiteam (Tutim) has been in a damaged condition for around two years and is now in desperate need of repair before further damage closes the road completely. GF will push for urgent repair. **GF Action.**
- (vii) Invershin.** (PC) Nothing in PC's absence.
- (viii) Highland Councillor's report.** (GF) UK/Scottish Government/THC City-Region deal is hoped to deliver a step change in digital connectivity, digital healthcare, skills, business

development and infrastructure. Questions were asked as to how far from Inverness the benefits will extend. County Committees are being set up in an attempt to devolve some matters from central control, some budgets will transfer to these county committees. NM expressed concern over the loss of many police houses in recent years fearing that soon none will be available for serving officers.

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

(x) SSE Loch Buidhe update. (RS) Liaison Group met last week, favourably impressed by works so far. An Open Day was suggested. At present road disruption should be negligible though more can be expected between April and September as the next stage of construction sees HGV transportation between Ardgay and Loch Buidhe site. At the end of the project in approximately two years' time, all roads/ditches/etc will be made good.

Item 4. CASPLAN/Local Plan. After due consideration no further comments were deemed necessary. This item will be deleted from future agendas. **MG Action.**

Item 5. Police Scotland questionnaire. NM undertook to compete and return. **NM Action.**

Item 6. Windfarm updates. GF advised that a three turbine development at Dunbeath has been turned down. No further decisions are expected until after the Scottish Parliament elections.

Item 7. Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit/Rock by Sea Fund applications. BTWF.

Application by SOAR Youth Projects was rejected as originating out with the relevant area. However as the application indicated that one young person attended the project from Creich it was suggested that he/she could apply to the Rock by Sea Training & Development Fund. Applicant will be so advised, also Company Secretary Alex MacManus. **Rock by Sea.** With regard to an award made last year, Mr Ben Blowers will be asked to submit a brief report on his use and the benefits of the grant. **MG Action.** Endowment Fund. Unable to meet Tom Black of Foundation Scotland recently, NM will now seek another opportunity. **NM Action.**

Item 8. Website. Nothing in RB's absence.

Item 9. Correspondence. (1) Queen's 90th Birthday Medal. Paperwork and medals taken by JW and NM who will pass them on to Bonar Bridge and Rosehall Primary Schools. (2) **SNH**

invitation. No-one available to attend event on 26th April in Golspie. (3) **Assynt Community Council Press Release.** GF advised that this letter had now been superseded by events and was no longer current. He will circulate an update regarding THC budget cuts. **GF Action.**

Item 10. Any other competent business. (1) Ward Discretionary Budget. GF stated this has been cut to £36,000. Scottish Government is to launch a £15,000 Participatory Budget Scheme with a public event to be held locally in Lairg in May. Groups will be encouraged to compete for available funding for amounts from £200 to £2,000. THC Ward Managers will con-ordinate.

(2) Bonar Bridge Post Office. BC asked if there was any news regarding the future of the Post Office in Bonar but no-one present had updating information.

Item 11. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th April at 7.30 pm in the Invershin Village Hall. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

