



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 21st February 2017 at 7.30pm
in Bonar Bridge Hall**

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Ron Boothroyd, Vice Chair (RB), Russell Taylor, Treasurer (RT), Norman MacDonald (NM), Russell Smith (RS), Brian Coghill (BC)

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

Police Scotland: PC Angus Morrison at 7.55pm

Apologies: John White (JW)

Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Chair Pete Campbell opened the meeting at 7.30pm. Police officers were not present at the outset. Ahead of the first agenda item PC made a statement to those present. It has been noted that a rumour is circulating locally that this CC is not being run according to laid down protocols. Whoever is spreading this false information is asked to contact PC directly in person to discuss this immediately. If this does not happen before the next CC meeting this will be the first agenda item that evening at which point PC will name names with the matter being taken forward appropriately.

Item 2. Minutes of January meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as a true and accurate record after one amendment; proposed: Russell Taylor, seconded: Russell Smith. Matters arising; GF advised that the Sutherland Community Partnership is the appropriate agency to which the CC should submit its Priorities List. The Chair is Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland. CC should bring their suggestions for the list to the next meeting for discussion and subsequent submission. **Action All/agenda item.**

Item 3. Regular updates:

- (i) **Planning & licensing.** (RS) Nothing relevant this month.
- (ii) **TEC Services.** NM congratulated THC on prompt attention in fixing a deep hole in the road which he had reported after attempting to attend the last Sutherland Community Partnership meeting in Lairg.
- (iii) **Financial report.** (RT) Bank statements had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Treasurer's account shows a balance of £592.21 with the No.2 account (Rock by Sea) standing at £8,316.00. The set-up fee of £500 was paid to Foundation Scotland in respect of the Endowment Fund. This amount can now be transferred back from the BTWF account as the latest tranche of funding has been received. Alex MacManus, Company Secretary, will be so instructed. **MG Action.** RT confirmed that he has set up the same agreement this year as last with Calum Murray to maintain the floral tubs in Bonar Bridge. CC had applied to THC Ward Discretionary Budget for £200 to be used for the Rosehall Taxis scheme but has had no acknowledgement so far. It is understood that this might not be allocated until the start of the new fund in April. **GF Action.** The CC can cover any taxi costs until April.
- (iv) **Police Matters/report.** PC Morrison arrived at this point and gave the report which included five advice calls, three fixed penalties for road traffic offences, one theft, on child protection issue, and one dispute. The road policing department officers appear to be spending an amount of time in this area judging by the number of offences recorded. MG was congratulated on her efforts to move forward the traffic issues in Bonar Bridge which have resulted in Police Scotland taking action to look

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into the matter and report back at the March meeting. PC reported to the officer the regular excessive speeding of one particular vehicle on the Balblair straight most mornings and nights. Noted by PC Morrison who then left at 8.05pm.

- (v) **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** Falls of Shin and Ardgay Regeneration projects are both progressing on time. Funding secured for a feasibility study into the assisted living houses proposed next to Migdale Hospital. A new recruit is due to take up the Graduate Placement in the office. One volunteer post has been upgraded to a part-time job. It is understood that work progresses well on the Kyle of Sutherland Hub. Hayley Bangs to be asked what plans are in place regarding the now disused Youth Bus which has been vandalised. **MG Action.**
- (vi) **Rosehall.** (RB) The issue of the apparent ‘rolling’ planning permission for Rosehall House was highlighted although it seems little can be done to pressure the owners to begin any work on the house which is now in a very poor state of repair. GF will enquire of Historic Scotland if any action can be taken due to the Listing of the building. **GF Action.**
- (vii) **Invershin.** (PC) Nothing to report.
- (viii) **Highland Councillor’s report.** (GF) EE masts being erected are to improve signal coverage for emergency services but this should also improve provision for smartphone users. THC Budget was balanced last week. Head Teachers will be given more money to spend directly as required locally. More cash is to be allocated to the NHS Integrated Care service. The 3 – 18 years campus is going ahead in Dornoch.
- (ix) **Broadband in Kyle of Sutherland area.** (RB) BT is yet to provide an update. It is understood that a direct fibre optic cable will be installed in the new business centre when built as part of the Ardgay Regeneration Scheme.
- (x) **SSE Loch Buidhe update.** (RS) From May there will be a reduction in manpower; fewer lorries will be needed but there will still be a lot of site traffic. Verges and parapets will be repaired at the end of the project. Liaison meetings will be held less frequently. RS, and the group, was congratulated on a job well done throughout this period. In general it was felt that this had been good for the area and SSE was thanked for its quiet support of various groups and functions. The Loch Buidhe road has been improved as a result of the requirements of the project. Pylon line work will soon restart.

Item 4. Windfarm updates. Braemore. Still no decision made. **Caplich.** PLI will be held in Rosehall for a week commencing on 19th June at 2pm. **Braelangwell.** Scoping being carried out at present; no planning application made as yet. It is felt that this will be highly visible from much of Creich – Rosehall, Invershin and Bonar Bridge – therefore the CC will write to the developers asking to be included in any community benefit discussions. **MG Action.**

Item 5 Website update. (RB) Updating ongoing. RB hopes to take new photographs to upload and improve the overall appearance of the site.

Item 6. Correspondence. Any incoming emails had been circulated prior to the meeting. Nothing relevant arose.

Item 7. Any other competent business. BC voiced local complaints concerning substandard work carried out on both private and council housing. Complaints submitted to Sutherland Care and Repair have apparently been ignored. GF to look into this and inform the Ward Manager with regard to the council housing issues. **GF Action.**

Item 8. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting held on Tuesday, 21st March 2017 at 7.30 pm in Invershin Village Hall. MG to confirm the booking of the room. **MG Action.** An agenda item will be an update by Police Scotland on the traffic issues in Bonar Bridge.

Item 9. Private session. Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit/Rock by Sea Fund applications/SSE & E.ON Community Fund. RbS. An application by Sarah Forrest to the Rock by Sea Training and Development Fund was awarded £250. Application by Audrey Denoon also received

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£250. **MG/RT Action.** The Foundation Scotland invoice for £25,000 for the Endowment Fund has been received. It was confirmed that Alex MacManus had transferred the funds. The current balance in the BTWF Fund is £4,803.32 with the next tranche of funding expected in April at which time £5,000 will be ring-fenced to the Endowment Fund. The CC will also apply in April for £2,000 to refund its local Environment Fund, used for floral decorations, etc. At the April meeting guidelines for the Rock-by-Sea Training and Development Fund should be reviewed. **Agenda item.**

Meeting closed 9.15pm.